



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DEVOTION

KINGS 11:1-8

We cannot disobey God's law and expect a good outcome. Solomon did so many things right, but he disregarded God's wisdom concerning marriage. Perhaps there is some area of your life where you are following the world's wisdom. Despite your faithfulness elsewhere, that one area could become a snare—your undoing. It takes only one leak to sink a boat. Evaluate your life and follow God's Word in each area. It will always be worth it in the end.

IN WHAT AREA MIGHT YOU BE FOLLOWING THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD?

HOW MIGHT SIN IN ONE AREA BE AFFECTING OTHER AREAS?

WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TOWARD FULL SURRENDER TO GOD?

DAY 02

1 KINGS 11:9-13

HOW HAVE SEEMINGLY SMALL DECISIONS HAD A BIG IMPACT IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT IS SMALL NOW THAT COULD BECOME A BIGGER PROBLEM LATER?

HOW CAN YOU TURN AWAY FROM SIN BEFORE IT BECOMES A BIGGER ISSUE LATER?

What began as a passing footnote in Solomon's Kingship became the final chapter and legacy. Solomon's unbelieving wife was mentioned in passing earlier in the book (see 2:13). Obviously, Solomon had done so many great things for the Lord and for Israel that this issue was slowly growing in the background. What started small snowballed into a disaster. When the Lord confers you over something, act upon it with urgency. Do not let it grow and spiral out of control. What begins so small can have a big effect further down the road. Turn it over to God today.

DAY 03

1 KINGS 12:1-11

Rehoboam "rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and consulted with the young men who had grown up with him" (12:8). Your friends don't necessarily have the best advice just because they are your friends. In fact, your friends likely have many of the same limitations on their perspectives as you do. It is important to seek advice from those who can see things from a different angle or place in life. Don't despise the wisdom of elders. Learn from their experiences and avoid the potholes that you cannot miss without their help.

WHAT IS A TIME WHEN A FRIEND'S ADVICE LED YOU ASTRAY?

HOW CAN YOU SEEK THE COUNSEL OF THOSE WHO ARE OLDER THAN YOU?

HOW HAS THE WISDOM OF ELDERS POSITIVELY AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

KINGS 12:12-19

HOW HAVE HARSH WORDS HARMED YOUR RELATIONSHIPS?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SPEAK MORE CAREFULLY TO OTHERS?

WHAT EFFECT MIGHT KINDNESS HAVE IN A DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIP?

If you love people and you want them to listen to you, harshness is never the answer. It is possible to be truthful and bold without being harsh. Harshness is all about your tone, attitude, and body language. Think about the way you speak to others. Is it too harsh? Are you easy to listen to or hard to get along with? If we are going to be peacemakers and unifiers, then we must find ways to speak with kindness. Use your words to bring healing and not division today.

KINGS 12:20-24

The ten tribes of Israel had separated from the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. They rejected Rehoboam as king and started their own nation. But the Lord said to Rehoboam: "You are not to march up and fight against your brother." (v. 24) God's children should be peacemakers. They were angry and ready to fight, but God warned against war with their brothers. We would be wise to heed that warning, too. We need to fight against each other less and war against Satan and sin more. Start declaring war with sin by making peace with others.

WHO DO YOU NEED TO MAKE PEACE WITH?

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO MAKE PEACE?

HOW COULD IT BENEFIT YOU TO NOT TAKE REVENGE?