

**Articles and Sermons :: A Strong Warning From The Backsliding Of Solomon -poonen****A Strong Warning From The Backsliding Of Solomon -poonen - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2007/6/2 20:06****A Strong Warning From The Backsliding Of Solomon***by Zac Poonen*

Solomon took seven years to build the Lord's temple (1 Kings 6:38), and thirteen years to build his own house (1 Kings 7:1). So we know which he valued more!! That is a fairly good description of many people who are doing Christian work to day. They do "Christian" work all right. But their primary interest is in their own house and the comfort of their own family. God's work and God's house are secondary. Preaching the gospel has made them rich. Solomon's backsliding was gradual – as all backsliding is. He started off his rule by killing people. He could have easily disagreed with his father David and refused to kill Shimei and Joab. He could have forgiven Adonijah and not killed him. Once he had started sliding down, the gradient became steeper. Next, he married Pharaoh's daughter – obviously for her wealth. Then he spent thirteen years building his own house. All this, in spite of the fact that God had given him such wisdom. Many a time, I have seen in Christian workers, a drift towards the world right from the beginning of their lives. They start seeking their own right from the time they begin their ministry. When you see them years later, they have become experts in seeking their own. But God still loved His people, in spite of the backsliding of their king. So He filled the temple with His glory when it was completed (1 Kings 8:10). It was just like the day when Moses had completed the tabernacle. The temple was built in the same pattern as the tabernacle, but on a much bigger and grander scale.

Solomon prayed a beautiful prayer of dedication (1 Kings 8:22-61). The Lord then appeared to him a second time and told him that He had heard his prayer and again urged him to walk in integrity of heart and uprightness, so that his kingdom would be established. He also warned Solomon that if he turned away from following the Lord, Israel would be removed from the land and the temple would become a heap of ruins (1 Kings 9:3-9). That was exactly what happened when the Babylonians came and captured Judah and destroyed the temple. God had warned them, "Don't think you can live as you like and that I will just keep on blessing you." The Lord warns us long before we start going astray. In 1 Kings 10 we read of the Queen of Sheba coming and meeting Solomon because she had heard of his wonderful wisdom. But despite all his worldwide reputation for wisdom, Solomon was a mixed-up man. He could pray beautiful prayers to the Lord in public, like most Christians. But in his private life, he was as godless as anyone – again like many Christians. He rivalled Samson in lust – for he married 700 wives and as if that were not enough, he kept 300 concubines as well – mostly from the heathen nations around him (1 Kings 11:1-3). He must have seen each of them just once in three years! Those wives finally turned him away from the Lord, to the worship of idols.

When you plan to get married, don't just look for a pretty face. See whether the girl has a desire to live a godly life. That is far more important in the long run. A woman who has only a pretty face can ruin your life and destroy it. A godly woman will however do you good all the days of your life. There are many warnings in Scripture. But I don't know whether you will take heed to them when the time comes. Many nod their heads when they hear such things in the meetings. But when the time comes for their marriage, they still choose a worldly girl, just because she is good-looking. And sisters, let me urge you also, pray that God will lead you to a godly man to be your husband. Don't yield to the suggestions of your parents, if they suggest an unconverted person. Your partner can lead you astray to the worship of idols - the idols of money, pleasure and godless entertainment etc.,

When Solomon went astray God was angry with him and told him that He would divide his kingdom into two (1 Kings 11:9). But because David was a godly man, God did not do it in Solomon's lifetime (1 Kings 11:12). We see there how much children are blessed, because of the godliness of their father! God raised up enemies to trouble Solomon, but he still did not repent (1 Kings 11:14). When Solomon feared that Jeroboam was going to rebel against him, he tried to put Jeroboam to death (1 Kings 11:26). Jeroboam later became king of the divided kingdom. Thus Solomon died (1 Kings 11:43).

Solomon wrote three books in Scripture in his lifetime – two of them - Proverbs and Song of Solomon - are like new covenant books in the Old Testament. Proverbs is the finest book in the Old Testament. All young people should read it regularly and frequently. It has 31 chapters. Read a chapter a day and it can preserve you from much evil. Song of Solomon is a wonderful picture of our devotion to Jesus Christ as His bride. Ecclesiastes was written after Solomon had drifted. In it, he warns us about the dangers of worldly wisdom. This man who wrote three wonderful books of the Bible finally went to hell! Don't imagine that everyone who stands up and preaches wonderful sermons will go to heaven.

How do we know that Solomon went to hell? Is it possible that the Holy Spirit would write two biographies of Solomon (1 Kings and 2 Chronicles), and not mention in either of them that he repented towards the end of his life, if he had actually done so. Such silence is very eloquent. It tells us that Solomon died unrepentant. Manasseh was a king who did much greater evil than Solomon, and for a much longer period of time. But at the end of his life he repented, and the Holy Spirit mentions it in Scripture. It is unthinkable that the Holy Spirit would not have mentioned it, if Solomon had repented.

Why are many Christians so keen on "sending Solomon to heaven"? It's because they imagine that anyone who serves the Lord will definitely go to heaven. No matter how they live. Jesus said that many would come to Him on the last day and say, "Lord, we prophesied in Your Name, we cast out demons in Your Name, we did miracles in Your Name." But the Lord will say to them, "Depart from me, you who lived in sin." Solomon will come before the Lord in that day too and say, "Lord, I wrote three books of Scripture that blessed millions of people." And the Lord will tell him also exactly what He tells the others, "Depart from me, you who lived in sin." Let Solomon's life be a warning to all of us. Paul said, "I can preach to others, but be disqualified myself finally" (1Cor.9:27).

**Re: A Strong Warning From The Backsliding Of Solomon -poonen - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/2 20:22**

A powerful, bold message. King Solomon went to *hell*? Poonen is pulling out all the stops. I subscribe to Poonen's email ministry where these short messages come frequently, and I highly suggest anyone who isn't subscribed to get signed up. They are all made of pure meat as this fine example shows.

Brother Paul

**Re:, on: 2007/6/2 20:35**

Do you think Solomon went to hell Paul?

I think Zac is misusing Matt 7 when Jesus says "Depart from me". Zac did not mention the part where Jesus says "I never knew you". God knew Solomon.

I don't know if anyone can say for sure on Solomon. I guess it would depend on when Eccl. was written as the last verses in it could be taken as repentance. Either way seems like any conclusion is only speculation.

**Re: A Strong Warning From The Backsliding Of Solomon -poonen - posted by Nile (), on: 2007/6/2 20:40**

Wow this is an amazing teaching. Praise God!

**Re: A Strong Warning From The Backsliding Of Solomon -poonen - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/6/2 20:41**

Quote:  
-----Why are many Christians so keen on "sending Solomon to heaven"? It's because they imagine that anyone who serves the Lord will definitely go to heaven. No matter how they live. Jesus said that many would come to Him on the last day and say, "Lord, we prophesied in Your Name, we cast out demons in Your Name, we did miracles in Your Name." But the Lord will say to them, "Depart from me, you who lived in sin." Solomon will come before the Lord in that day too and say, "Lord, I wrote three books of Scripture that blessed millions of people." And the Lord will tell him also exactly what He tells the others, "Depart from me, you who lived in sin." Let Solomon's life be a warning to all of us. Paul said, "I can preach to others, but be disqualified myself finally"  
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It is interesting how that folk who walk close to God at last have a hard time asking for mercy. Case in point- Judas. I think also of Eli that upon hearing his fate essentially said, "Let the Lord do what seems right to Him." Why did these men not repent? Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes read almost like a lamentation. I have to wonder- where was the 'Nathan' in Solomon's life? Where was the Prophet that would point his finger without fear or favor and declare, "Thou art the man!"

As for his salvation? Can we enter into behind the veil and answer this doubting question? Is there any hope? Many have not hesitated to debate that question. Some have even ventured themselves upon the Judgment Seat. Yet, I think it worth noting, and I admit to my surprise, Adam Clarke actually held out hope for Judas Iscariot. Why? He makes a good case. But who would dare to repeat it? Folk want to hate Judas and see him die the death. I admit I don't have the answer; but if God sees fit to save Judas and Solomon I will rejoice forever more. Maybe it's because I have looked in the mirror one too many times and went away straight way *remembering* what manor of man I was. *Why are many Christians so k*

een on "sending Solomon to heaven"? Probably because they find no pleasure in sending him to Hell.

1 Cor 10:12

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

If God appeared to Solomon twice and he fell and if Judas can kiss the door of heaven and fall... how much more ought we to tread carefully and humbly.

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/2 20:49**

Quote:

-----Do you think Solomon went to hell Paul?  
-----

Truthfully, I've never thought much about it. Whether he went or didn't has no bearing on my walk, but what Poonen say s strikes a chord in me. It very well *could be* that Solomon, unlike Mannaseh, never repented. Do you believe Saul is in h ell? Here is another example of a man God knew but died in disgrace. I don't think Poonen misused Matt 7 if you take S aul into consideration.

Brother Paul

**Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2007/6/2 20:53**

Quote:

-----If God appeared to Solomon twice and he fell and if Judas can kiss the door of heaven and fall... how much more ought we to tread carefully and humbly.  
-----

Yes, brother. Yes indeed.

**Re: Only God knows - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/6/2 21:55**

Quote:

-----How do we know that Solomon went to hell? Is it possible that the Holy Spirit would write two biographies of Solomon (1 Kings and 2 Chronicles), and not mention in either of them that he repented towards the end of his life, if he had actually done so. Such silence is very eloquent.  
-----

That same silence also makes it very difficult to state so emphatically what *could* have happened as Paul points out here

Quote:

-----As for his salvation? Can we enter into behind the veil and answer this doubting question? Is there any hope? Many have not hesita ted to debate that question. Some have even ventured themselves upon the Judgment Seat. Yet, I think it worth noting, and I admit to my surprise, Ad am Clarke actually held out hope for Judas Iscariot. Why? He makes a good case. But who would dare to repeat it? Folk want to hate Judas and see h im die the death. I admit I don't have the answers; but if God sees fit to save Judas and Solomon I will rejoice forever more. Maybe it's because I have looked in the mirror one too many times and went away strait way remembering what manor of man I was.  
-----

Amen to this brother.

Quote:

-----Why are many Christians so keen on "sending Solomon to heaven"? Probably because they find no pleasure in sending him to Hell.  
-----

"because they imagine that anyone who serves the Lord will definitely go to heaven. No matter how they live."

Can see both sides of this certainly and think you succinctly summed it up with one of those 'life verses' 1 Cor 10:12. But I don't know about the usage of Mat 7 either there in this context.

What really, strangely enough did dawn on me was;

Quote:  
-----He rivalled Samson in lust -- for he married 700 wives and as if that were not enough, he kept 300 concubines as well -- mostly from the heathen nations around him (1 Kings 11:1-3). He must have seen each of them just once in three years! Those wives finally turned him away from the Lord, to the worship of idols.  
-----

For all the statements and discussions about this elsewhere ... I guess I am thinking along the lines of a "statement of fact" rather than one of "approval" 'because he is God's man' which alludes back to what Zac is stating. Again, for all this though there is something a bit more difficult in ... narrowing everything done in the course of the life of Solomon it seems into such clean shades of black and white. I do understand the premise that has been latched on to by and large in the realms of Christendom that thinks along these easy lines and discounts or pragmatizes .. better, *explains* away all the warts and lessens the *possibilities*...

Maybe it is in just not knowing that ought to serve the warning and be enough in itself.

**Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/6/2 23:45**

Quote:  
-----If God appeared to Solomon twice and he fell and if Judas can kiss the door of heaven and fall... how much more ought we to tread carefully and humbly.  
-----

Amen. I learned a valuable lesson early on in my walk with Christ. I had read the account of Solomon asking God for wisdom in leading the nation of Israel and of how God blessed Solomon greatly and I began to pray for wisdom very earnestly. Solomon became a great Bible hero for me, someone to be emulated.

Then came the understanding of his slide and the book of Ecclesiastes. I was crushed and astounded. I remember being on my face before God crying out that if Solomon fell so badly with all that wisdom he had been given, what chance did I have? I knew I was no better than he. Suddenly I wasn't praying for wisdom any more, just crying out for mercy.

Definitely a crisis point in my life. Crucifixion is a long and painful process. After yielding mentally to the crucifixion of my old self with Christ and accepting the principles of the Christian life, there is a period of tortured, struggling life. God must bring it to an end by causing us to know ourselves as we truly are.

Don't know where Solomon is now but I do know his story was given to us as an example and written for our admonition.

In Christ,

Ron

**Re:, on: 2007/6/3 8:59**

Would someone who wrote books in the Bible, God's Word, be in Hell?

**Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/6/3 10:27**

Quote:

-----Would someone who wrote books in the Bible, God's Word, be in Hell?  
-----

Hear you brother but ...

Joh 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

I am inclined towards finding it difficult to believe it could be such, but not knowing either way ... seems even more difficult to state so. I find these kinds of final judgments very ... speculative and wonder why sometimes we want to do so. Zac's warning is just that, a warning, I don't agree with his *conclusion* on this matter though.

**Re: - posted by Here4Him (), on: 2007/6/7 8:39**

I have been thinking about whether Solomon is in heaven or hell. I have been grieved to think that one who once seemed to show the signs of spiritual life as Solomon did could possibly be in hell.

Zaz Poonen, said that the Holy Spirit would have told us in one of the two accounts if Solomon had repented. I can see his argument, but i am not sure. Perhaps in His infinite wisdom the Holy Spirit did not include in Holy Scripture an account of Solomon's repentance in his old age because he didnt want Christians to have any encouragement toward backsliding thinking they too like Solomon could just repent in there old age and all would be ok. What do you think?

I had always been taught that tradion says that Solomon did repent and wrote Ecclessiaties at the end of his life. Brethren i have a question- do you think Ecclessiaties is a repentant book? I mean do you think it is a book written from a repentant heart, or just a regretful heart?

One scripture that i think is important is

2 Sam 12:24

"Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him,"

I am no Hebrew expert, what type of love was this love? It always seemed to me that God's love to Solomon was discriminating, electing love and i dont like to think that God'r electing love could be frustrated even by a mans years of unfaithfulness.

I guess with all these thoughts, the Holy Spirit has not made it clear to us to warn us of the danger of backsliding. May the Lord keep us from this evil and may we watch over our own hearts diligently.

I would be interested to know your thoughts on some of my questions though. Thanks

**Re: - posted by elected (), on: 2007/6/7 9:52**

Quote:

-----I am no Hebrew expert, what type of love was this love? It always seemed to me that God's love to Solomon was discriminating, electing love and i dont like to think that God'r electing love could be frustrated even by a mans years of unfaithfulness.  
-----

It was not just a matter of unfaithfulness with Solomon but of idolatry and immorality. The question is, "did Solomon repent like david of his sins or did he go to the grave a hardened and unrepented sinner?" The bible is not clear on this matter,

it seems like the scriptures are silent about the 'fate' of Solomon.

May be Ecclesiastic was the last book Solomon wrote before he died, may be at the end of his life he realized the vanities of life and regreted and repented of his sins. We dont know for sure where Solomon is now?

I read few days ago the article of Zac Poonen in the webside of his church it almost convinced me but i still have questions and uncertainties about the matter. His arguments are very convincing but there is something inside me that makes me not pronounce a "judgement" whether he went to hell or heaven. I prefer to keep silent and wait that GEAT DAY where God will unveil such mysteries and reveal the truth about Solomon.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/6/7 14:39**

Wonderful discussion and very soul searching. Greg, thank you for posting that article.

My prayer is that in the future, no one has this type of discussion about me!

**Re: - posted by Here4Him (), on: 2007/6/8 5:48**

Well does anyone have any insight about the verse i quoted?

"2 Sam 12:24

"Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him,"

What type of love is this? Is it an electing saving love? Im very interested by this scripture

**Re: - posted by Koheleth, on: 2007/6/8 9:36**

Quote:

-----Would someone who wrote books in the Bible, God's Word, be in Hell?  
-----

This doesn't seem at all out of the question to me, since God is using the devil to write history and uses the ungodly to speak into the lives of the godly all the time. However, I can think of no other potential author of Scripture who is not considered a holy man, a saint whose home is in heaven. Still, wisdom literature is a whole different genre from prophetic texts and revelations of the spirit.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/6/8 10:58**

2 Sam 12:24-25

24 Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him, 25 and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

Jedidiah literally means Beloved of the Lord

Scripture clearly teaches that the Lord loved Solomon.

Was Solomon elected by God to salvation or to task? I believe the latter, because Solomon did not repent.

Re: - posted by Here4Him (), on: 2007/6/8 11:36

Quote:

-----Was Solomon elected by God to salvation or to task? I believe the latter, because Solomon did not repent.  
-----

So did Solomon write Ecclesiastes as a bitter, regretful but unrepentant man?

We dont know that he did not repent from scripture, do we? Ok, so we dont know that He did repent either, but doesnt church tradition teach that he did turn back to the Lord in repentance and write ecclesiastes?

And are we to conclude that God's love failed on Solomon? How can one 'beloved of the Lord' (a very intimate term and named so i add from his birth, before he could possibly have done anything to earn or merit this love) end up in hell?

I know this could open up a discussion on the does the Lord love everyone topic which i know has already been discussed on here a few times. I personally believe that God does love everyone, i think the Bible teaches that (whilst still hating workers of iniquity simultanesouly) yet i believe scripture also teaches that God has a special love for His elect, a saving love. Surely these ones are the Jedidiah's? Surely it is only the elect who could be called 'beloved of the Lord?'

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/6/8 15:15

Concerning Solomon:

1 Kings 11

1Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, 2from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. 3He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. 5For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. 7Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

9And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice 10and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded.

What does Nehemiah say?

Nehemiah 13

23In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but the language of each people. 25 And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. 26Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. 27Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?"

Solomon's marrying of foreign women was a great evil and a treacherous act against God. Did Solomon repent? Did God overlook this sin?

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/6/8 16:03**

Quote:  
-----Solomon's marrying of foreign women was a great evil and a treacherous act against God. Did Solomon repent? Did God overlook t  
his sin?  
-----

I think the key here is to understand that by 'foreign women' we are talking about women that refused to assimilate into t  
he Jews Religion and on the contrary proselyted the people of God towards heathen gods. There are several accounts o  
f non-Jewish women who did cleave unto the One True God.

**Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/6/8 18:29**

Thanks Robert for clarifying that point. Ruth and Rahab are great examples.

But, the foreign women that married Solomon did not assimilate into the Jewish religion. They in fact turned Solomon's  
heart away from God.

**Re: - posted by Here4Him (), on: 2007/6/9 7:45**

Quote:  
-----But, the foreign women that married Solomon did not assimilate into the Jewish religion. They in fact turned Solomon's heart away f  
rom God.  
-----

Yes, it is clear that this was tradgically so, we know of Solomon's terrible backsliding or whatever we want to call it, but t  
he question we are asking is did He turn back to the Lord? I remind you of my last post in which i posed some questions  
that have not been answered or commented on yet:

Quote:  
-----And are we to conclude that God's love failed on Solomon? How can one 'beloved of the Lord' (a very intimate term and named so i  
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Quote:  
-----Surely it is only the elect who could be called 'beloved of the Lord?'  
-----

**Re: A strong warning from the backsliding of Solomon - poonen, on: 2007/6/9 13:48**

Here4Him said

Quote:  
-----I remind you of my last post in which i posed some questions that have not been answered or commented on yet:  
-----

First, I haven't listened to Poonen's thoughts on this matter, but, the thing that strikes me, H4H, is that we are accustome  
d to thinking in the terms of New Covenant mercy. Not that this did not exist in the Old Testament. But, it was by no me  
ans a dependable rule. God meted out punishment and expected His people to mete it out to those who did not trust Hi  
m fully.

Remember, only TWO people who left Egypt, walked into the (promised) land forty years later. The things those people  
fell through, were various, and the same picture persists after they enter the land. From a priesthood who were largely tr  
ustworthy (we believe) in its early days, by the time of Samuel, there is idolatry (sexual immorality) in the practices of the  
sons of Eli, and Samuel's sons were tempted by dishonestly dealing for money. As I 'see' it, all this merely backs up ho



w desperately a permanent salvation was always being needed.... but, was not found until Jesus Christ became the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.

This universal mercy is set towards all who will ask for and seek it. A lot of Christians are unsettled by unhappy endings, but the truth is, there will be many unhappy endings, if what Jesus taught comes true.... 'few there be that find it'.

**Re: - posted by Here4Him (), on: 2007/6/11 6:29**

Interesting thoughts sister Dorcas. I see what you are saying, and agree in part. But i still see God as a covenant keeping faithful God in the Old Testament, if not with the whole nation of Israel because of their disobedience (He did cast them off for a while but has not finished with them in His covenant purposes), but with individuals.

I still see God's discriminatroy electing love in the Old Testament- "Jacob have i loved and Esau have i hated" etc with in individuals. And it remains to be seen for me whether God had this sort of electing unfailing love for Solomon, which i believe He possibly did.

I am not trying to make light of sin or Solomon's terrible backsliding but i am trying to see God's prevailing and unfailing love which cannot be defeated and which will see that His elect endure to the end.

Does anyone else have any thoughts on the type of love God had for Solomon, or have people lost interest with this thread?

No worries either way! Love in Christ to you all brethren!

**Re: - posted by BrokenOne (), on: 2007/6/11 7:00**

This scripture came to mind this morning as a similar happening in the New Testament regarding the rich young ruler. I thought I'd share it.

Mark 10:21-22 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Blessings

**Re: - posted by Here4Him (), on: 2007/6/11 7:07**

Thanks you, interesting though BrokenOne.

But was that love Jesus had for the rich young ruler, the general love that He has for all men, for the whole world? The thing i am trying to find out is whether the love He had for Solomon was different, the electing saving love He has for His own which cannot be defeated. Would it not have to be this type of love for the Bible to mention that the Lord loved Him from His birth, with a special love?