

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

“A good start is the mid-way to success,” so goes the saying. Once you have established a firm foundation, your next step will be easier. You have to finish high-school before you can move on to college. After you graduated, you have to begin your career from the entry level. However, even when you have a good start, you also have to finish well. A medium-cooked steak is a delicious piece of meat. But a half-done house is only a construction site. Once a missionary went to a foreign country. He was surprised to see a lot of partially-built houses everywhere. He asked a pastor about the phenomenon. The minister explained that inflation in the nation was very serious, so much so that money easily lost its value overnight. Therefore, local people converted currency to more stable assets. One common practice is to build houses when people had some extra money. They just gradually put additional structures when they had more cash at hand. Therefore, unfinished homes scattered around the country and they might sit around for a long time. In the book of 1 Kings, Solomon had a bright beginning. God hoped that Solomon would lead his nation to the right path, and his positive influence would stay after his departure. While people may fix their eyes on the accomplishments of a lifetime, God desires to pass down His blessings to many generations. As we study the experience of Solomon let us keep in mind one thing. A person’s success depends on and is measured by his/her relationship with God.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 隱藏的問題 Hidden Problems

God was not shy to reveal some hidden problems in Solomon’s life. Chapter 3 begins by telling us that Solomon made an alliance with Egypt and married its princess. I will call that an external problem. Historians tells us that by then Egypt was getting weaker. Therefore, Pharaoh wanted to establish friendship with a thriving nation like Israel. Once you married someone’s daughter, you have to maintain a good relationship with your in-laws. Peace treaty also paved the way to trade deals. The problem is that marrying a non-believer will very likely weaken one’s faith in God. Also, sin can be additive. After Solomon got one foreign wife, he proceeded to get more. Let me refer you to **1 Kings 11:3-4** – 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. A thousand wives are hard to imagine! Other nations copied the same model when they saw that it worked for Egypt. God might care little for Solomon to learn a different language or cuisines. But Solomon pleased his many wives by adopting their religions. Devotion to false gods and the true God cannot coexist. How crucial it is for our kids to marry Christians! Just think about it: is it easier to convert a Christian to a lousy Christian or to lead a non-believer to Christ? I had a recent conversation with my older son. I gave him three words to keep in mind when he looks for a girl in the future: Christian, character and charm. “Charm” includes some subjective factors that may be hard to quantify. But once you meet the person, you can confidently say: “this is the one!” You will be my witness if my boys actually follow my advice. Beside an external problem, Solomon also faced an internal problem. Let us look at **verse 3**:

Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places. When you hear the word “except” you know where the emphasis is. Imagine you meet your daughter’s boy-friend for the first time. Later you say to your spouse: “That young man seems knowledgeable and mild-mannered except that he is poor and bald.” You know which factors you see as more important. What were the “high places?” Those were the sites where the Canaanites worshipped their gods. They were “high” because some of them were erected on the top of a hill. God gave clear instructions on how to deal with the high places before the Israelites entered Canaan. Look at **Deuteronomy 12:2** – “Destroy completely all the places on the high mountains and on the hills and under every spreading tree where the nations you are dispossessing worship their gods.” The orders were quite specific: got rid of all the high places and related religious accessories. The Canaanites believed that their gods control the climate and the reproduction of animals and humans. They even sacrificed their children on the altar to please those deities. God commanded the Israelites to stay away such wicked practice. After Solomon was inaugurated, it took him seven years to build the temple. Therefore, it was excusable for people to offer sacrifices to Jehovah at high places for the time being. However, those worship sites were never completely removed. The statement “The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. (e.g., **2 Kings 12:3**)” became a recurring description of the spiritual status of the Israelites. Sins will be a constant stumbling block if they are not removed in a decisive fashion. In cancer treatment, chemotherapy often follows a surgery. If a tumor is not totally eradicated, it will grow back later. For those of you who worshipped idols before, you must cut all the ties with them. Any statue, painting or book, etc. has to be thrown away. Otherwise, Satan will use those images to snare you. Do not show pity to a lucky charm your mom got for you from a Buddhist temple before you left home, or a pricey artwork made by a famous artist. We have to draw a line with the fallen world. We should continue to make friends with non-believers to share the gospel with them. But we must stay on alert and not to follow any practice that may lead us away from God.

## 2. 謙卑的懇求 Humble Petition

After presenting the hidden problems of Solomon, the author shows us a commendable side of the king. Solomon brought a humble petition to God. He went to Gibeon to offer sacrifice to God. King David moved the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem years ago. However, the tabernacle, including the altar, was still in Gibeon. The passage says Solomon offered 1,000 animals. That was a lot! We can imagine that Solomon did not just ask his officials to take care of everything. Very likely he went there to worship God too. It is easy for us to drop our money in the offering box, but it takes time to worship the Lord. God wants our hearts more than anything. God appeared to Solomon in a dream that night. In the Old Testament world, dreams were considered a means for a deity to communicate with people. God showed Himself in a dream to Abraham, Jacob and many prophets. In that dream, God promised Solomon whatever he asked for. What would you request if you were Solomon? Most people may want to have health and wealth, or one hundred more wishes. I would love to have my youth and hair back. Solomon stated his humble petition in **verses 7-9**: 7 “Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your

people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” It was a huge task to be a king. Solomon admitted that he was only “a little child.” Scholars estimated that Solomon could be about 20 years old then. Apart from his age, he was inexperienced. Solomon needed wisdom to do two things. First, it would give him a discerning heart. A direct translation will be a listening heart. Solomon had a desire to listen to God’s commands and apply those principles to lead his people. Besides a listening heart, the second thing Solomon asked for was the ability to distinguish right from wrong. It means to exercise a fair judgment to punish the wrongdoers and protect the innocent people. Was that only a sweet dream? God gladly granted Solomon superior wisdom. His wisdom was soon demonstrated in a tough case. Two prostitutes living in the same house gave birth to their sons about the same time. One lady accidentally laid on her baby at night and killed him. She quietly swapped the dead body with the son of the other woman. The two persons now argued in court who the true mom of the living infant was. Solomon asked someone to bring him a sword to chop the baby into two halves so that each lady could keep an equal portion. The real mom begged the king not to do so. In contrast, the fake mom was indifferent to Solomon’s decision. Through this simple test, everyone knew clearly who the real mom was. The author adds a remark in **verse 28**: When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice. Everyone realized that such wisdom could only come from God. Not only were the Israelites amazed, even some foreign nations sent officials to learn from Solomon. God gladly gives us wisdom if we ask Him. **James 1:5** says: If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. I pray that every day, sometimes even multiple times a day. God never rejects me, saying: “How come it’s you again?” If God does not give me wisdom to understand His Word first, then I have nothing to say on Sunday. Thankfully, I have not skipped any Lord’s Day. Besides my preaching and teaching ministries, I also need wisdom to interact with coworkers, family members and even strangers. I encourage everyone to pray to God for wisdom too. There comes a time at work or at home when you feel that your talent or experience does not help much. What you need the most is God’s wisdom. It enables us to discern people’s motives. It also helps us respond with the right words and actions that please God and benefit others. The Lord never wants us to be smart; He wants us to be wise. People may evaluate your wealth by your material possessions. However, they have to interact with you to know that you are a person full of God’s wisdom.

### 3. 榮譽的職分 Honorable Position

Solomon had a sincere heart to serve God despite his hidden problems. God was pleased with Solomon’s humble petition. In His reply, He reminded Solomon once again that being a king was an honorable position. God promised to bless Solomon more than what he asked for. Read **verses 12-13**: 12 “I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. 13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for – both riches and honor – so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.” God promised to make Solomon the wisest person ever lived. He complimented Solomon’s noble desire. Such wisdom would enable Solomon to govern his nation more effectively. Solomon was to lead his people to follow his example to obey God. He should also use his wisdom to attract foreign nations to come to know God. In addition to wisdom, God would also bless Solomon with riches and honor that he did not ask for. God loves

to bless His children generously if we pray with a right motive. I have to say this carefully, lest I will be preaching a health and wealth gospel. We can look at [1 John 3:21-22](#) – 21 Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God 22 and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. John tells us the general conditions for an answered prayer. We have to obey God and to honor Him in what we do. What we receive from God should not be the final result. God intends to bless us first, so that we can in turn bless others. You may be praying for your next car, house or job. We naturally ask God to meet our needs in His time and manner. We can go a step further in our prayer and say: “Would you give me a heart to share your blessings with others, so that they will come to know You?” God’s heart will be pleased if we pray like that. Solomon got extra blessings in his prayer. Sometimes, God may give us a surprise in His answer too. You may get a car or house with extra fancy features beyond your expectation. God may put you in a new job in a city closer to your parents so that you can care for them. But God knows our heart, and we can never manipulate Him with a false promise! Therefore, do not ask God to bless you with a lottery jackpot so that you can offer more money to ministries after you have bought a huge mansion. God continued His response to Solomon in [verse 14](#): “And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” Now God added longevity as yet another blessing to Solomon. After all, it means little if Solomon did not have a long and healthy life to enjoy God’s gifts. Solomon would surely love to be on the throne if God kept him in that honorable position. Once again, God reiterated that Solomon’s reign was contingent upon his obedience to God. The same message was repeated over and over again later. In God’s eyes, being a king is not a privilege to hoard treasures for himself. Rather, he is God’s representative to minister His ruling and grace. We will never be kings or queens. But God gives us an honorable position to be a leader, whether at work, at home or in the church. Once I had a crazy thought. I am the man of the house. To a certain extent, I can do whatever I want. No one can stop me if I binge on potato chip and soda. Of course, I never put that into action. Sometimes, it is a scary thing to be a leader. Regardless of a good or bad outcome, your subordinates or your neighbors will identify you as the person in charge. You may not get the credit if things go well. But very likely people will blame you when things go wrong. A selfless leader always looks after the benefit of his/her team. A godly leader cares about God’s glory above anything else. God wants us to be His servants first before we can become people’s leaders. He wants us to listen to Him and learn from Him before we provide instructions to others. He wants us to exercise wise and fair judgment according to His Word instead of our preference.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

A person’s success depends on and is measured by his/her relationship with God. Solomon had a bright beginning. Unfortunately, he did not have a good finish. His hidden problems became real problems. Israelites quickly fell into idol worship. Solomon’s humility turned into indulgence when he had great wealth and many women. Therefore, God took away the honorable position from the next king after Solomon. As people look back, they will remember Solomon as a man of riches and wisdom. But what God looks for is faithfulness. In the 1968 Olympics, a marathon runner from Tanzania finished dead last. It was so late that only a few spectators were still in the stadium. His feet were bruised and wrapped. After he crossed the finish-line, a journalist asked the athlete why he continued to run. The man answered: “My country did not send me here to start, but to complete the race.” Likewise, God wants us to finish our life journey well.

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俗語說：「好的開始是成功的一半。」建立好穩固的基礎後，下一步將變得更加容易。年輕人必須先完成高中課程，然後才能上大學。畢業後，你必須從基層開始發展你的事業。但是，就算你有一個好的開頭，你也必須有好的結尾。五分熟的牛排是一塊美味的肉。但是蓋了一半的房子只是一個建築工地。有一位宣教士到了另一個國家。他很驚訝地看到周圍都是部分完成的房子。他向一位當地的牧師詢問這種現象的起因。那位傳道人解釋說，國家的通貨膨脹非常嚴重，以至於貨幣很容易在一夜之間失去價值。因此，當地人將金錢轉換成為比較穩定的資產。一種常見的做法就是蓋房子。當人們手頭有多餘的現金時，他們便在房子的骨架上加上了一些結構。因此，未完成的房屋散佈在各地，而且它們可能會長期擱置在那裡。在《列王記上》，所羅門有一個燦爛的開始。神希望所羅門帶領他的國家走上正確的道路，並且盼望他的積極影響能延續下去。一般人會把焦點放在今生的成就，但是神卻希望賜福予萬代。當我們看所羅門的經歷時，請記住一件事。一個人的成功取決於他與神的關係，並以此來作衡量的標準。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 隱藏的問題 Hidden Problems

神不會覺得不好意思顯明所羅門一些隱藏的問題。第三章一開始便告訴我們所羅門與埃及結盟並娶了它的公主。我把這個稱為外在的問題。歷史學家告訴我們，在那時埃及正在變得越來越弱。因此，法老希望與像以色列這樣的繁榮國家建立邦交。當你娶了別人的女兒後，你就必須與岳父岳母保持良好關係。和平條約也為貿易鋪路。問題是，與一個非基督徒結婚很可能會影響你和神的關係。同時，罪可以使人上癮。所羅門有了一位外國妻子後，他就會想得到更多。讓我們看列王紀上 11:3-4 - **3 所羅門有妃七百，都是公主；還有嬪三百。這些妃嬪誘惑他的心。4 所羅門年老的時候，他的妃嬪誘惑他的心去隨從別神，不效法他父親大衛誠誠實實地順服耶和華他的神。**一千個老婆是難以想像的事！其他國家看到埃及的策略管用，於是它們便照樣做。神可能並不在乎所羅門學習別國的語言或煮菜技術。但是所羅門為了取悅他許多的妻子，於是也接納她們的宗教。對假神和真神的敬奉是無法共存的。因此我們的孩子跟基督徒結婚是很關鍵的事！試想一下：一個基督徒變為一個不怎樣的基督徒容易或是帶領一個非信徒信主會更容易？我最近和大兒子談話。我說將來當他找女孩時，必須記住三個詞語：基督徒、品格和魅力。「魅力」可能是一些難以形容的主觀因素。但是一旦遇見這個人，你就可以肯定地說：「就是這個

人！」請你們做我的見證人，看看我的兩個孩子會不會聽從我的建議。除了外在的問題，所羅門還面對內部的問題。讓我們看第 3 節：**所羅門愛耶和華，遵行他父親大衛的律例，只是還在邱壇獻祭燒香。**當你聽到「只是」這個詞語時，你就會知道重點在哪裡。假設你是第一次見到女兒的男朋友。後來你跟配偶說：「那個年輕人看起來有一點學問，而且態度溫和，只是他又窮又禿。」你知道哪些因素你認為更重要。什麼是邱壇？那是迦南人敬拜神明的地方。它們一般是建立在山頂上。在以色列人進入迦南之前，神已經明確地告訴他們如何處理那些邱壇。請看申命記 12:2 - 「**你們要將所趕出的國民事奉神的各地方，無論是在高山，在小山，在各青翠樹下，都毀壞了。**」那些命令是非常具體的：拆掉所有的邱壇和相關的宗教設施。迦南人相信他們的神明控制氣候以及動物和人的生育。他們甚至在祭壇上獻上自己的孩子來取悅那些假神。神要求以色列人遠離那些邪惡的行為。所羅門就職之後，他花了七年的時間來建造聖殿。因此，人們暫時在邱壇向耶和華獻祭是情有可原的。但是之後，那些敬拜場所從未被完全拆除。於是，有一句話成為日後對以色列人的屬靈光景的反覆描述，例如在列王紀下 12:3：**只是邱壇還沒有廢去，百姓仍在那裡獻祭燒香。**如果不以果斷的方式除去罪，罪便會成為絆腳石。在癌症治療中，醫生在手術之後通常會安排化療。因為如果腫瘤沒有被完全根除，以後它可能會重新生長。如果你以前是崇拜偶像的，你必須切斷與假神的所有聯繫。任何雕像、畫或書籍等都必須扔掉。否則，撒旦將使用這些東西成為你的陷阱。不要珍惜媽媽在你出國前從寺廟求來的護身符，或是有名師創作的昂貴藝術品。我們必須與墮落的世界劃清界限。我們還是應該繼續與非信徒交朋友，向他們傳福音。但是我們必須保持警惕，不要學習任何可能使我們遠離神的做法。

## 2. 謙卑的懇求 Humble Petition

在揭露了所羅門隱藏的問題之後，作者讓我們看到王值得稱讚的一面。所羅門向神提出了一個謙卑的懇求。他去基遍獻祭給神。多年前大衛將約櫃搬回耶路撒冷。然而，會幕包括祭壇仍然留在基遍。經文說所羅門獻上一千隻動物。那是很多的祭品啊！我們可以想像，所羅門不只是吩咐官員把一切事情辦妥。他很可能也到現場敬拜神。我們把金錢投入奉獻箱可能是一件比較容易的事情，但是敬拜神需要付出時間。神最想要的是我們的心。那天晚上，神在夢中向所羅門顯現。在舊約世界中，夢被認為是神明與人交流的一種方式。神曾經在夢中向亞伯拉罕、雅各和許多先知顯現。在那個夢中，神樂意答應所羅門的任何要求。如果你是所羅門，你會要求什麼？大多數人可能希望得到健康和財富，或者是再要一百個願望。我一定想要回我的青春和頭髮。所羅門在第 7-9 節說出他謙卑的懇求：**7「耶和華我的神啊，如今你使僕人接續我父親大衛作王；但我是幼童，不知道應當怎樣出入。8 僕人住在你所揀選的民中，這民多得不可勝數。9 所以求你賜我智慧，可以判斷你的民，能辨別是非。不然，誰能判斷這眾多的民呢？」**要當王是一項艱鉅的任務。所羅門承認他只是個幼童。聖經學者估計所羅門那時可能只有 20 歲。除了年輕之外，他還缺

乏經驗。所羅門希望得到智慧去做兩件事情。首先，它希望能夠判斷神的百姓。判斷可以直接翻譯為傾聽。所羅門渴望聽到神的命令，並運用這些原則來領導他的子民。除了傾聽的心之外，所羅門要求的第二件事是能夠辨別是非。這意味著要執行公正的判決，懲罰犯罪的人和保護無辜者。那只是一個美夢嗎？神真的賜給所羅門卓越的智慧。不久他的智慧就在一宗困難的案件中顯明出來。住在同一間房子裡的兩名妓女大約在同一時間生了兒子。其中一人在晚上睡覺時不小心把嬰兒壓死。於是她悄悄地把屍體和另一個女人的兒子交換。現在這兩個人在法庭上爭論誰是活嬰兒的媽媽。所羅門要求僕人拿一把刀來，將嬰兒切成兩半，以便每位女士都可以等份。真媽媽懇求王不要那樣做。相反，假媽媽卻無所謂。通過這個簡單的測試，每個人都清楚地知道誰是真的媽媽。作者在第 28 節加上一句評語：**以色列眾人聽見王這樣判斷，就都敬畏他；因為見他心裡有神的智慧，能以斷案。**所有人都意識到這種智慧只能來自神。不僅以色列人感到驚訝，甚至一些外國都派官員來向所羅門學習。如果我們向神求，祂就樂意賜給我們智慧。雅各書 1:5 說：**你們中間若有缺少智慧的，應當求那厚賜與眾人、也不斥責人的神，主就必賜給他。**我每天都為此禱告，有時甚至一天多次向神求智慧。神從不拒絕我，說：「怎麼搞的，你又來了？」如果神沒有給我智慧先理解祂的話，那麼我在主日就沒有東西可以講了。感謝主，到目前為止我還沒有試過主日逃課。除了我的講道和教導事工之外，我還需要智慧與同工、家人甚至陌生人交流。我鼓勵大家也向神求智慧。有時候，你會發現在工作場所或家裡感到自己的才幹或經驗無濟於事。你最需要的是神的智慧。它使我們能夠洞察別人的動機。它還可以幫助我們以合宜的言語和行動來回應，使神喜悅並造福他人。主從來沒有要求我們變得聰明；祂乃是希望我們更有智慧。人們可以通過你擁有的東西來評估你的財富。但是，他們必須與你相處才能知道你是個充滿神智慧的人。

### 3. 榮譽的職分 Honorable Position

儘管所羅門有一些隱藏的問題，但是他有一顆真誠服事神的心。所羅門謙卑的懇求也令神感到高興。神在祂的回應中再次提醒所羅門，成為王是一個榮譽的職分。神願意賜給所羅門的祝福是超過他所要求的。閱讀第 12-13 節：**12 我就應允你所求的，賜你聰明智慧，甚至在你以前沒有像你的，在你以後也沒有像你的。13 你所沒有求的，我也賜給你，就是富足、尊榮，使你在世的日子，列王中沒有一個能比你的。」**神應許使所羅門成為有史以來最有智慧的人。祂稱讚所羅門的崇高願望。神所賜的智慧使所羅門能夠更有效地治理他的國家。所羅門要帶領他的子民效法他的榜樣跟從神。他還可以藉著自己的智慧吸引外邦人來認識神。除了智慧之外，神還會把所羅門沒有要求的財富和尊榮賜給他。如果我們以正確的動機禱告，神就會大大地祝福我們。我必須小心地說這句話，以免我在傳講健康和財富的福音。我們可以看約翰一書 3:21-22 - **21 親愛的弟兄啊，我們的心若不責備我們，就可以向神坦然無懼了。22 並且我們一切所求的，就從他得著；因為我們遵守他的命令，行**

**他所喜悅的事。**約翰告訴我們禱告蒙神應允的一般條件。就是我們必須順服神，並在我們做的事情上榮耀祂。我們從神那裡得到的回應不應該是最終的結果。神打算先祝福我們，然後使我們成為別人的祝福。你也許正在為下一輛車子、房子或工作禱告。我們通常是請求神按照祂的時間和方式供應我們的需要。但是你可以考慮進一步的禱告說：「求祢給我一顆心與他人分享祢的祝福，使他們藉此認識祢。」如果我們這樣禱告，神的心會感到高興。所羅門得到了額外的祝福。有時候，神也可能給我們一個驚喜。例如你獲得的車子或房子的配備超出你的期望。神為你安排的新工作可能離你的父母不遠，以便你可以照顧他們。但是神知道我們的心，我們不可能跟祂討價還價來操縱祂！因此，不要祈求神給你中彩票，讓你買完豪宅後可以奉獻多一點的錢支持教會的事工。神在第 14 節繼續對所羅門回應：「**你若效法你父親大衛，遵行我的道，謹守我的律例、誠命，我必使你長壽。**」現在，神還加上長壽這個祝福給所羅門。畢竟，所羅門如果沒有長壽和健康，他便無法享受神的賞賜。只要神允許，所羅門肯定會願意繼續留在這個榮譽的職分之中。神再次重申所羅門的王位取決於他對神的忠誠。往後神也一再重複相同的消息。在神眼中，成為王不是為自己累積財富的特權。王是神的代表，他要以神的恩典來統治人民。我們永遠不會成為國王或皇后。但是無論是在工作中、在家裡還是在教會，神都給我們擔任領袖的榮譽的職分。有一次我有個瘋狂的想法。我是家裡的主人。在某種程度上，我可以隨心所欲地做任何事情。如果我猛吃薯片和猛喝汽水，沒人能阻止我。當然，我從來沒有那樣做。有時候，成為領袖是一件令人心驚膽跳的事情。無論結果是好與壞，你的下屬或鄰居都會認定你是總負責人。如果一切平安無事，你不一定會得到稱讚。但是當事情出錯時，人們很可能會責怪你。但是無私的領袖總是以他團隊的利益為優先考慮。而一位敬虔的領袖最看重的是神的榮耀。神希望我們在成為別人的領袖之前首先成為祂的僕人。在我們向他人提供指示之前，神希望我們先傾聽祂的聲音並學習祂的樣式。祂希望我們按照祂的話語做出明智而公正的判斷，而不是根據我們的愛好。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

一個人的成功取決於他與神的關係，並以此來作衡量的標準。所羅門有一個燦爛的開始。可惜的是，他缺乏美好的結束。他隱藏的問題後來變成了真正的問題。以色列人很快陷入偶像崇拜。當所羅門擁有大量財富和許多太太時，他的謙卑變成了放縱。因此，神從所羅門之後下一任王的手中拿回這個榮譽的職分。當人們回想所羅門時，他們會記得他是一個有財富和智慧的人。但是神要尋找的是忠誠的心。在 1968 年的奧運會上，最後完成馬拉松比賽的是一位來自坦桑尼亞的運動員。當他回到體育場的時候，只剩下很少的觀眾在裡頭。他拖著受傷而被包起來的腳。他越過終點線後，一名記者問他為何繼續跑。他回答說：「我的國家不是派我來開始這個比賽，而是要完成比賽。」同樣，神希望我們順利完成人生的旅程。