

Discerning the Community II

Discernment is the ability to sift and sort and determine what is operating. Discernment is ability to see behind and beyond the seen. Discernment is the ability to sense and see God, angelic, human, satanic or demonic activity.

The city is the abode and battle ground of God and Satan.

1 Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and Thessalonica were the most important cities of their respective Roman provinces.

- Rome, of course, dominated the world.

Cities and nations take on the character and model of its leader.

Every city has a “spirit”, dominate characteristic and presence.

Consider **Colossians 1:14-16**

A case study of Solomon gives us an example of national decline.

I

Solomon was properly instructed.

God’s standards are clear for His national leaders.

Consider **Deuteronomy 17:14-17**

A leader must be of the family of God. **Vs 15**

A leader must not trust in His armies. **Vs 16**

A leader must show marital faithfulness. **Vs 17a**

A leader must not multiply or trust in his wealth. **Vs 17b**

II

Solomon’s practice was inconsistent.

Solomon went away from the way of the Lord.

Consider **1Kings 4:22-28**

- **I Kings 10:10-25** (gold)
Solomon multiplied personal riches.

- **I Kings 10: 26-29** (horses/silver),
Solomon multiplied armies and silver.

- **I Kings 11:1-8** (wives) *Solomon's Many Wives*
Solomon multiplied wives who turned his heart from God.

Solomon was disobedient to the instruction of the Lord. Vs 2

Solomon's impact was he modeled compromise. Vs 4 - 5

Solomon did not maintain what he obtained. Vs 8

III

Solomon's pattern of disobedience made a negative impact.

Consider **Hosea 4:9**

KJV Hosea 4:9 **And there shall be, like people, like priest:** And I will punish them for their ways, And †reward them their doings.

NLT Hosea 4:9 **And what the priests do, the people also do.'** So now I will punish both priests and people for their wicked deeds.

Like priest like people means what leaders do the people do.

Leaders set the standard for the nation. **1 Kings 11:5**

The thrones and dominions are the seen realm.

The principalities and powers are the unseen realm.

You can know what's in the invisible realm by what you see.

- What is seen is empowered by what is the unseen realm.

Discernment is the ability to see behind the seen.