

# “How to How to Bring a Good Man Down... and Back Again” // 1 Kings 11:1–14 // *The Man Who Had It All* #4

## Apex Campus

**Summit Church, could we put our hands together at all campuses and welcome (for the 1<sup>st</sup> time) the Apex Campus to the Summit Church?**

(This is one of many things your MULTIPLY giving has enabled us to do.)

**We are one church that meets in 11 locations each weekend.**

- **One church**—we gather as one covenant body, we hear the same message, experience the same ministries and pursue the same mission.
- **Here’s what is amazing:** Every weekend, more than 60% of our people experience the preaching via livestream rather than in person.

**We have pursued this strategy because we believe it best enables us to reach people,** which is at the core of our calling.

- Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and so we, as his followers, believe that means that we should pursue any church growth in ways that best enable us to engage those outside of Christ.

Works Consulted:

“When Wisdom Was Not Enough,” David Jeremiah

“The Wise Fool,” Tony Merida

“What Kind of Fool Are You?” Tim Keller

“Five Features of Foolishness,” James MacDonald

**And we have found that multiplying smaller campuses across the Triangle is more effective than raising \$100 million to build one gargantuan six-flags-over-Jesus kind of building at one location.**

**We think church is best when it is local.**

- We don’t think church should be an event you drive 45 minutes to one time a week.
- We believe church is a community you belong to, and communities only work when they are local.
- And, we also know that having a worship place close by is better for reaching out to people. You may be willing to drive 45 min to a church you are committed to, but that person you just met at Starbucks you started sharing the gospel with is likely not willing to drive 45 minutes to a church they have no exposure to.
- So, we say, **“Stay where you are, serve where you live,** let’s be the church in your community.”

**It has never been, and never will be** about buildings—it is about reaching people. **Buildings are just tools to help us do that.**

**So here we are, 1 church, 11 campuses:** 2 in the prisons and 1 in Spanish, but one church: The Summit Church.

**Could we again put our hands together** in thanks to God for what he has allowed us to be a part of? **THE BEST IS YET TO COME**

Introduction:

**1 Kings 11... Final week of part 1 of a series on Solomon, ‘The Man Who Had It All.’**

Every time I am flipping through the channels and come across one of those “Where Are They Now?” shows—about some star that was the cat’s meow for a while and then just disappeared’ I just have to stop and watch. It often feels like watching a train wreck—you can’t look away!

Here’s someone who had it all—and then just fell apart. And usually I didn’t realize this person had gone off the radar until they tell me. But then I’m like, “Well, now that you mention it, where is Meg Ryan and I haven’t seen Emilio Estevez in any movies recently. *Are they still alive?*”

One of my favorites is Daniel LaRusso, the hero of the second greatest movie in our nation’s history, *The Karate Kid*, right behind *National Treasure*.

- Seriously, I’ve been **waiting for years to let my kids** in on the magic that was Karate Kid, and so we finally watched it over Spring Break this year.
- And, **at first, my kids were like**, “What... why the old movie, dad? Old movies are all dumb and boring.”
- But I said, “I’m your dad and God put me in your life because I know what is best for you,” and **as we pressed on they fell underneath the spell**, and they were like, “Dad. This is awesome! And they were doing the “Wax on, wax off” And then they saw on Amazon the recommendation, “Because you liked... we suggest” there was a Karate Kid 2, they said, “Dad, we HAVE to watch that” (which is not as good as the 1<sup>st</sup> but still good, so we did).
- And then one day Allie came home and said, “Dad did you know there is a Karate Kid 3? Dad, we have to watch Karate Kid 3.” And I said, **“Sweetheart, I’d have to hate a person pretty bad to inflict on them Karate Kid 3.** Karate Kid 3 was one of the worst disappointments of my life, right behind the Left Behind movies, Cam Newton’s 2016 Super Bowl performance and Justin Bieber’s adult singing career.

‘Daniel Larusso’ was actually the character’s name. The actor’s name is apparently Ralph Macchio, which still doesn’t sound right to me. **In fact, that was his issue:** his role as Daniel LaRusso was so iconic that the actor couldn’t get future acting gigs because everybody could only see him as “the karate kid.”

Interestingly, his nemesis in the movie, Johnny Lawrence, had the same problem, but he just rolled with it. He got plenty of further acting spots, but it was always as a cameo of his former tough guy self.

Well, whenever we hear about these “Where Are They Now?” stories, we always want to ask: What happened? How did they go from having it all 1 minute to it all coming unraveled?

That’s what **happened in the life of Solomon**, and **chapter 11 is his story** of where it all went wrong.

## 1 Kings 11:1–14

King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh’s daughter: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women **2** from the nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, (Deut 17:17) “You must not intermarry with them, and they must not intermarry with you, because they will turn your heart away to follow their gods.” To these women Solomon was deeply attached in love. **3** He had seven hundred wives who were princesses and three hundred who were concubines, and... **4** when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away to follow other gods... **6** Solomon did what was evil in the Lord’s sight, and unlike his father David, he did not remain loyal to the Lord.

**7** At that time, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the abhorrent idol of Moab... **8** He did the same for all his foreign wives, who were burning incense and offering sacrifices to their gods.

9 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.

**This chapter seems to come out of nowhere.** You are going through the story of Solomon and reading about glory, success, wisdom, devotion to God, and then suddenly, chapter 11, *disaster*.

- We used to have our old offices in a small office park with some other businesses, and I was there early alone one morning... “We’re here for Chapter 11.” And I was like, “Of which book?” But Jesus loves you. He has a great plan even for this...
- That’s what this is like—where did that come from?

And you are like, “**1000 wives?** I thought this guy was the wisest man who ever lived? I am not smart and I know that is a good idea.”

**We tend to think of Solomon** as the man who fell because he was a sex addict.

- I mean, if you have 1000 wives that is some **serious libido**.
- I’m not even sure how that is **physiologically possible**.
- How do you keep up with the **anniversaries and birthdays?**
- Can you even **remember all of their names?** Sometimes I meet people in the community who will say, “Pastor J.D.!” And I will say, “*I’m sorry. Do you go to our church?*” and **I’m embarrassed that I don’t know them** but they usually understand that that’s what happens when you are part of a large church. Solomon was that way with his wives. “I’m sorry. You look familiar. Am I married to you? Are you one of my wives?”

But there is **a lot more going on here** than a lust for exotic women.

- In ancient times kings would marry daughters of other kings as a way of guaranteeing peace between the two countries.
  - The idea is that **if your daughter is married to me you are much less** likely to attack me.

- Did **you see how in vs. 3 the writer clarifies** that of Solomon’s 1000 wives 700 were “princesses?” These were daughters of the kings of surrounding nations.

- **They were more about security than sex.**

**The problem was that God had explicitly told Israel** in Deut 17 *not* to do this. Because they didn’t need treaties with other nations for security—God would be their security.

But Solomon wasn’t satisfied with just the promises of God, he needed a little extra insurance.

**And here’s what happened: Gradually Solomon grew attached** to these women and they turned his heart away. For most of these wives, Solomon built them their own palace, and in that palace, they would build an altar to whatever god they had worshipped in their home country. Over time Solomon went from merely tolerating the existence of these idols to actively participating in worship of them.

So, I want to use this story to **highlight for you the things that bring a good man—even the world’s wisest man—down.**

- One of my favorite country groups, Alabama, used to have a song, “You can’t bring a good man down.” 1 Kings would beg to differ.
- Some of the best men in history—men greater than you and I could ever hope to be—including the wisest one ever to live, have been brought down.

(And **ladies, don’t let the phrasing of my points** throw you—they are as applicable to you as they are to men.)

1. A good man is brought down by disbelief in God’s promises (11:1)

- Like I pointed out, Solomon’s **FIRST problem was not out-of-control sexual lust. His core problem** was that he didn’t trust God enough to rely full on him.

- In fact, if you want to think of it this way, **70% of his problem** was unbelief and only 30% was lust, because **700 of his 1000 marriages** were politically rather than sexually motivated.
- **His core problem** was unbelief.
- **That's almost always the case with our sin.** The **root core of all sin is unbelief.** Peel back the layers of any sin and you will find the seed of unbelief.
  - **When I talk to a high school student** who won't offer up their life fully to Jesus I always tell them it's really a belief problem. They think following Jesus will make them miserable.
  - That's **the real question** you have to deal with: **is he trustworthy?**
- **In whatever area of your life you are not fully obeying God,** it's because that is an area where you are afraid of being let down and you don't really trust him.
  - **There's a story that I often tell high school students** to illustrate this, and it's the story of the first time I went rock-climbing...
  - **Of course, what my friend was doing** was not repelling. He was climbing, using the rope only as a safety net. When you repel, you lean your weight back fully on the rope.
  - **Inverted wall.**
  - **He got to a point where he couldn't go on any farther** is that he never really trusted the rope to begin with.
  - In the same way, **there comes a place** in the Christian life where you can't go on any farther unless you trust the rope enough to lean your full weight back on it.
  - If the rope is only a safety net, you'll never be able to repel.
  - *You'll never press on to full obedience, until you trust God enough to lean the full weight of your life on him.*
- So, here's my question for you: **Where do you not trust the promises of God?** Where are you hedging your bet?
- **Let me suggest some** of the most common offenders:
  - I see a lot of people falter in obedience specifically in the area of **romance**: dating someone you shouldn't date, not trusting God's timing. You believe if you get this one wrong, your life will be miserable so you have to keep control of this one.
  - Another big one is **money**: the majority of church-going people do not obey God in the area of finances. **Give the first and the best—the Bible suggests we start with 10%.** Again, for most, it's not because they are defiant, or even stingy, but because they are afraid—**what if I can't pay my bills?** What if I get hit with a **rainy day?** Or, can I really live a happy or fulfilled life with a 10% or 20% reduction in disposable income?
    - And you hear the promises of God about how he will bless and multiply you when you give him the first and the best, but you don't really trust those promises...
  - Sometimes I see this lack of trust when people refuse to **extend forgiveness to someone**. They say, "Well, if I forgive this person, they are just going to take advantage of me, and never realize how much they hurt me." And so, you nurse bitterness in your heart because you can't trust God to take care of you.
  - One more: Some **people can't trust God** when life throws a curve ball at them. **Something hits you** that you are not expecting. You lose your job. Get passed over for promotion. You don't get into the school or get cut from the squad. Get an unexpected medical diagnosis. And your 1<sup>st</sup> impulse is, "**God, you don't have a plan, or if you do it's not a good one**" so you take the weight of life back on yourself and live mad at God.
- The root cause of Solomon's downfall was that he felt a need for securities that God had told him he didn't need.

- **So, question for you: *Where are you hedging your bet?*** Where do you not trust God enough to let go of the rope?

*Closely tied to this is #2...*

## 2. A good man is brought down by disregard of God's word (11:2)

- **1 Kings 11:2** tells us that God had clearly said **not** to multiply wives (Deut 17:17).
- In the rest of the chapter the writer of Kings is going to show us a number of other biblical things that Solomon ignored, too.
  - For example, Deuteronomy 17 also prohibits the king from **multiplying gold in his house**.
  - **Yet 1 Kings** tells us that every year Solomon collected about 25 tons of gold for himself and that he had only gold articles in his house<sup>1</sup>.
  - **That sounds like multiplying gold to me.**
  - And remember a couple of weeks ago I explained how it look **150,000 laborers 7 years** to build Israel's Temple?<sup>2</sup> Well, Solomon spent 13 years building his palace (1 Kings 7:1).
- **Solomon probably thought these commands were not that important.**
  - He was probably like, "Hey, so I **enjoy a few moneys and honeys...** it's not like I'm breaking one of the 10 commandments. These didn't even make God's top 10!"
- But the **danger of sin** is not in how wicked or immoral the act is, but in the presence of the God you drive out through your sin.
- **When you reject God's commands**, no matter how small, you put yourself outside of his protection, and that one area becomes the area through which the Enemy injects poison into your life.
- **Imagine** you bought a **5000-square foot house**, in beautiful condition, with all the upgrades, and the previous owner said he'd give it to you for a great price and give you control over all of it

*except for 1 small nail in the front foyer.* You get the whole thing, he just got 1 small nail, and he could do anything he wanted on that nail. Not a bad deal, huh? But he hangs a diseased dead deer carcass from that nail. It would spoil the whole house.

- **That's what the Enemy did with these small areas** Solomon didn't yield to God.
  - Through his lack of submission to God with his wives and his gold he smuggled in spiritual death.
- **Where is that for you?** Your relationships, your money, your friendships, your music—where is he bringing spiritual death into you?

## 3. A good man is brought down by disobedient friends (11:2–3)

*("To these women Solomon was deeply attached in love... and they turned his heart away." (2–3))*

- **Vs. 2** tells us that when Solomon grew attached to his wives that "they turned his heart away."
- **Probably the single-most important factor** in your life in determining whether you will make it all the way with Jesus is whom you surround yourself with.
- **I feel like I haven't talked about this enough in my ministry...**
- **Ironically, the one who talks about this the best in the Bible is Solomon** (who toward the end of his life did not heed his own advice) **Prov 13:20**, "*He who walks with the wise will become wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.*"
  - I've heard it said that: **Your friends are the future you.**
  - Which means, "*You show me your friends; and I'll show you your future.*"
- **Or: You will become the average of your 5 closest friends.**
  - **The most determining influence on your shape in the future is the companions you choose in the present.**

<sup>1</sup> 10:14

<sup>2</sup> 6:38

- This is one of those **practical things that people overlook**. They get really motivated to become something great for God but **because that decision never affects their friendships their intentions never become reality**.
  - **One of my mentors** in college told me, *“For most things in your life, it is not the big dreams you dream, but the small decisions you make.”*
  - There is probably **no better application** of that than friendships.
  - It’s not the big dreams you dream about great things for God that determine your future, but the friendships you choose in the present.
- And, of course, there is probably no more important and influential friend than your **spouse**.
  - When I see a Christian intentionally pursuing a romantic relationship with someone who is not a Christian, I wonder, “Do you **know what you are doing** to your future?”
  - They say, **“Oh, I’m the exception.”** And you really like this person and you’re confident you can change them.
  - **But Scripture is clear: “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” (2 Cor 6:14)** and that believers should only marry “in the Lord.”<sup>3</sup>
  - **Just as with Solomon**, if you disobey this you are likely to bring down destruction on yourself.
  - **You say**, “But I know people where it is worked.”
    - Yes, God’s grace is amazing.
    - But you **can’t willfully flout God’s rules** and then look to him to fix everything. That is mocking him, and God will not be mocked.
- And **just on a practical level**, do you really want to gamble like that with the rest of your life?
  - **As a dad now I will tell you that the single most important thing** in my life is my kids, and the single biggest influence on them is my wife. **Why would you intentionally put your future kids** under the influence of someone who will take them the opposite direction of the most important thing in your life?
  - **Now, if you are already married**, and you became a believer after you were married, that’s different. You can **trust God’s timing, and look to him** to work in the lives of your kids despite being alone in your pursuit.
  - But **don’t mock God** by saying, “I’ll intentionally do it my way and then expect you to fix it.” God will not be mocked.
- **And, really quick...** let me say something because I know we have several people in here who are not Christians but are dating a Christian and **I just made things really uncomfortable...**
  - **I’m not trying to insult or demean you—on a practical level for you, I’d advise you that if you’re not a Christian**, you shouldn’t date one **unless you plan to become one**.
  - **Because the Christian you are dating right now really wants to convert you**.
  - **LET ME PROVE IT: THEY BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY.**
    - This wasn’t your idea to come, it was theirs.
    - And that’s why they keep looking at you during the service to see if I’m connecting, to see if there’s any reaction, maybe you get a little tear in your eye
  - **The point: They don’t accept you as you are.** THEY WANT YOU TO CHANGE.
  - I’ll tell you something else: **Their mom and dad don’t like you as you are, either. They really want you to become a Christian.** Their whole family is praying for you right now (they know you’re here), and nobody in the family is ever going to be really happy until you become a Christian.

---

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor 6–7



- I'm just being honest with you; I've observed this for many years.
- So, my advice to you: **If you don't plan on becoming a Christian**, I'd advise you not to date one.<sup>4</sup>

Back to the point: *A good man is brought down by disobedient friends.*

So, **Solomon counsels us** (in counsel he disobeyed and destroyed himself by) **Proverbs 12:26**, "The righteous man is cautious with his friendships. Especially his marriage.

- **Your most intimate acquaintances ought to be believers** because you will inevitably become like them.
- Now, you say, "Pastor J.D., are you saying that we shouldn't have Christian friends?"
- Great question! **Circles**

#### 4. A good man is brought down by degrees, not all at once

- **Chapter 11 feels like it comes out of nowhere, but it really doesn't.**
- If we go back to chapter 3, at the beginning of Solomon's life (the 1<sup>st</sup> passage we looked at in our series, right before God gives Solomon the dream where he tells him to ask him anything) we find this: **3:1** Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon brought her to the city of David until he finished building his palace and the Lord's temple... and **then God gives Solomon his dream** where he says, "Ask me anything, and I'll give it to you."
  - **From the beginning, Solomon had sowed the seeds** of this destruction in small compromises.

- **Now, in one sense, this is encouraging to me.** Because it means that God chose Solomon even though he was a compromiser. God was inviting him to depart from these ways and follow him.
- **And that's encouraging to me**, because that means God can choose and bless me even though I'm messed up, too.
- **But it also shows me that just because God blesses me** doesn't mean I can ignore small sins in my life.
- **Solomon probably thought**, 'It's not a big deal; these things haven't hurt me yet. I'm fine.'
- **Nothing is more dangerous in the Christian life than sleeper cells** of sin that you haven't dealt with. You think they are fine, but it's **just a matter of time!**
  - **Spurgeon** describes them like a spider web. "At first...they can scarcely be seen; and they seem as though you could break from them in a moment. Then they become silken bonds: then firmer still, until a man seems to be enveloped in a tangle of cables, and every cable hardens and becomes as iron or triple steel until at last there is no escaping.... the greatest moral catastrophes happen not all of a sudden, but by slow degrees."
  - And **C.S. Lewis** described sin like a **cancer** that never stops growing in the background until you suddenly realize that it has eaten away all your desire for God.
- **Maybe it is the sin of exaggeration.** Small lies that get you out of jam. Fear of man. Temper flare-ups. Lust.
- **James 1:15 says, "Be warned. Sin starts** in you as a wayward desire—a fantasy—then turns into a guilty pleasure; then into something you crave and can't live without and finally something that destroys you."
- It's **like a fire** that starts small but left unchecked eventually burns the whole house down.
- **You have to take sin seriously in your life.** John Owen: You have to be actively killing it or it will be killing you!<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> I owe this application to Andy Stanley from his series, "The New Rules of Love and Dating."

<sup>5</sup> John Owen, *On the Mortification of Sin*

**Where are you letting it ride?** It's a ticking time bomb.

*That ties very closely to the last insight here...*

#### 5. A good man is brought down by deceptive overconfidence

- Solomon had had a life of **nearly unbroken successes**.
- He had **unmistakable, world-renowned spiritual gifts**. He had accomplished more than any other king in Israel ever had.
- He **had these incredible spiritual high points: He met with God twice** (BTW, we're not talking about the person in your SG that is like, "Oh, I got a warm fuzzy feeling in church and really met with God. No, this is full-on, legit, I saw 'the glory of God and heard his voice' kind of meeting.)
- And that **made him lower his guard**.
- Solomon bought into his own hype, and assumed that his role as God's chosen one meant that he was unique.

Few things destroy you faster than success, especially spiritual success, because success makes you forget how desperately you need grace.

- **Illus.** Paul Tripp on why most pastors fall: you forget that you are made of the same stuff as the people you preach to. And you forget to be on guard against the indwelling sin in you. If you ever cease to be a participant in grace, and only a preacher of grace, you are headed for disaster!
- **John Newton:** Growth in grace primarily means growth in the realization of your need for grace and in your dependence on it.<sup>6</sup>

**You show me a Christian whose dependence on grace is not greater than when we started**, and I'll show you a Christian whose growth is artificial and fragile.

Solomon was the man who had it all; the king who gave Israel a taste of the blessing God wanted to pour out through them; the wisest, most successful man who ever lived—but a MAN whose wisdom and success could not keep him from destroying himself.

*So, I want to **end PART 1 of this series with a couple of reflections on Solomon that show us the bigger lesson Solomon teaches us.***

#### Lesson 1: Solomon shows us that we need something more than wisdom

- The **primary lesson Solomon's life**, and every Old Testament character, is not "be wise and successful like Solomon."
- Solomon had **more wisdom here (head)** than all of us!
- The **problem with Solomon was not here (head)**; the problem is here (heart). His heart turned away from what his head knew to be right.
- The problem with most of us is not that **we don't know what to do**, it is that we lack the will to do it.
- God's laws, God's wisdom are like the railroad tracks that can only point us in the direction to go, they are powerless to move the freight along the tracks.
- **We don't need mere education for our minds, we need resurrection for our hearts.**

*This leads to lesson 2...*

#### Lesson 2: Solomon's wisdom is fulfilled through a Suffering Savior, not a Teaching King

God had **promised to David a Son** who would bring in a glorious, eternal kingdom, build a temple where the people could meet with God and rule with such wisdom that the whole world would recognize

---

<sup>6</sup> *The Letters of John Newton*



God was at work there. *Israel naturally assumed that PROMISED SON was Solomon.*

**YET clearly, he wasn't.** And that's where the **beauty of the OT** kicks in.

Centuries later, another descendant of David—another Son—would show up. And **that Son possessed all the same wisdom that Solomon had**, and even more. People came from **far and near** to hear him.

But the **center point of this Son's** life was not wise teaching, or a glitzy temple, it was his **dying in shame for sinners**.

That's because the mission of his life was **not to educate, but to save**.

**He suffered for our foolishness** so that he could forgive us for it and then put his Spirit of wisdom within us so that we would not only understand the wise thing to do but desire to do it.

**And because he died in our place**, he can restore wisdom to those of us who, like Solomon, have messed up our lives with foolishness.

**Look at what God says to Solomon in 1 Kings 11 after rebuking him for the foolishness of his sin:** 11 "Since you have done this and did not keep my covenant and my statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. (I'm going to tear the kingdom away from you, because there is a consequence for your sin.) 12 However, I will not do it during your lifetime for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of your son's hand. 13 Yet I will not tear the entire kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David (for the sake of my promise to David—who was an adulterer and murderer by the way—I am **going to leave one tribe—Judah. and for the sake of Jerusalem that I chose.**") And you know what is going to come out of that one tribe? Something greater than all the

wisdom of Solomon and the riches of Egypt: Jesus, the wisdom of God, the glory of God, the riches of God.

**And that King will restore what you have lost through your foolishness.**

MUSIC

**When you mess up your life** in foolishness, which you inevitably will, **HOPE IN HIM.**

I think the whole point of Solomon's life is summed up in **Hebrews 12:1–2**, Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us,

- **Don't be like Solomon!** Don't start well and then let foolishness and lack of trust and small areas of compromise destroy your life.

But, <sup>2</sup> let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith... "Author and finisher" means that he's already won the race for you. **Jesus ran the race in your place** and won it for you.

...who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of God."

- **He sat down at the right hand of God**, which means the race is over!
- The victory has been won; the crown in yours.
- The verdict has been declared. You are an overcomer. You are a beloved, accepted son. You are a victor, sitting there in the winner's circle with Jesus.

**When you believe that**—that Jesus ran and won the race in your place, and that his victory and place of acceptance before the Father has been given to you as a gift of grace—then God gives you the **power to run victoriously in a way Solomon could not.**

- **It is ironic**, but the only ones who get better in the Christian life are those who realize that their acceptance by God is not dependent on their getting better!

The point of Solomon's life is not get wiser than Solomon and you'll succeed. Solomon had more wisdom than you ever will and he failed.

The **point is you need something more than wisdom**, you need Jesus. And when you realize he ran the race for you, lived perfectly for you and you receive him, he'll give you the strength to become wise.

This is the point of all OT stories... Dare to be a Daniel. The point is "hope in Jesus and you'll become all these things."

Which strategy are you pursuing?

