

Solomon's Pen

By Ada Brownell

Read Ecclesiastes 11

"We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work" (John 9:3-5NLT).

When God gave Solomon wisdom, part of that special gift was a significant work ethic. The Book of Kings says Solomon, David's son, authored 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.¹ He wrote three books in our Bible—Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon.

He probably scratched the words in longhand with a reed on a roll of animal skins in a noisy palace with 700 wives, 300 concubines, and all his children.

As king, Solomon ruled Israel, designed and built the first Jewish temple, and as a judge settled disputes such as the two hysterical women shrieking and crying about a baby. Despite these duties, we know Solomon made time to write.

Solomon lived almost 3,000 years ago, yet his words impact the 21st Century.

He wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, but the songs and books didn't appear by themselves. A human hand clutched the reed to write the words and a body with aching shoulders sat or stood many hours over the manuscripts.

Solomon's advice: Don't wait for an ideal time to work, and work even if the outcome is unknown.² --Ada Nicholson Brownell

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. – Phillips Brooks³

¹ 1 Kings 4:32

² Ecclesiastes 11:6

³ John Bartlett, Familiar Quotations, page 613