

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
THE QUEEN OF SHEBA
1 KINGS 10:1-13

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Introduction

The fame of Solomon was spreading all across the world by word of mouth of traders and travelers. The Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's splendor, his grandeur, his power and his wisdom. Her curiosity was sparked and her thirst for his wisdom motivated her to see for herself if what she had heard was true.

In her visit and relationship with Solomon we can find some insights into our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ!

I. WE SEE THE QUEEN'S VISIT! (10:1-2)

We find here that **the Queen of Sheba traveled to visit Solomon at Jerusalem**. She arrived in a long caravan ("a very great train") with camels that bare spices, gold, and precious stones. So we can understand that this took a great amount of effort on effort!

Sheba is in southwest Arabia near Yemen. It is known for its gold, gems, and spices. The Queen's journey to Solomon would have been about a 1200 mile journey or some two months in length.

No doubt the trip was a grueling one. It would have been characterized by a hot, blazing sun, burning sand, a boring, monotonous desert, and the threat of Bedouin raiders!

This Queen must have considered this to be an important trip, seeing as how she had to endure so much hardship to get where Solomon was.

She came with a purpose. She came to **prove or test** Solomon with hard questions or riddles to see if he was as wise as people claimed. **She was in search of true wisdom.** All that was on her heart she shared with Solomon. She hungered for God's wisdom. Doesn't it makes you wonder what kind of questions she asked!

Jesus referred to her desire for wisdom and used her as a rebuke to the Jews who did not have to travel 1200 miles. *Matthew 12:42—The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*

Solomon was great, but one greater than Solomon was in the midst of the Jews. Solomon was one of the wisest of men, but **Christ is the very wisdom of God!** Solomon was a great king early in his reign, but **Christ is the King of all kings!** The Queen of Sheba went to Solomon, but **Christ came to us and gave His life for us!**

The Queen of Sheba is a challenge to us to have a hunger and thirst for God's wisdom in our life!

Proverbs 4:5,7—5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

We all need wisdom in our life! God will give it to us if we ask for it! *Proverbs 2:6—For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

James 1:5—If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

God's wisdom is more important than gold and silver!

Proverbs 16:16—How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

God's wisdom gives joy!

Proverbs 3:13—Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Getting God's wisdom begins with having a fear of the Lord!

Proverbs 1:7—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Just as this Queen opened her heart to Solomon, **God wants us to open our hearts to Him!**

WE SEE THE QUEENS VISIT...

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II. WE SEE THE RESPONSE OF SOLOMON! (10:3)

Solomon answered all the questions of the Queen! Nothing that she asked him about was beyond the wisdom that he received from God!

Nothing is beyond Jesus Christ either, because He is the wisdom of God! *1 Corinthians 1:24 "...Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."*

*1 Corinthians 1:30 "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, **who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:**"*

Jesus knows the hearts of all men! He knows all things! He is omniscient God!

John 16:30 "Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God."

The LORD God Jehovah, Who is the LORD Jesus Christ before He was manifested in the flesh said in *Jeremiah 16:17—For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.*

Hebrews 4:13 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Because our Lord knows everything, it makes Him the perfect judge! And we are ALL going to stand before Him one day to give an account of our lives as Believers! Are you ready for the Judgment Seat of Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:10—For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

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III. WE SEE THE CONFIRMATION! (10:4-8)

The queen is left nearly breathless and speechless after she hears his wisdom and then sees Solomon's great kingdom and his opulent lifestyle!

Solomon was filthy rich. His navy brought him gold from Ophir. In a 1977 U.S. Geological Survey, Ophir was said to be in Saudi Arabia between Mecca and Medina.

His navy had brought him 420 talents of gold which would be about 32,000 pounds (i.e. 16 Tons) **(9:26-28)**.

Solomon used some of this gold to overlay his ivory throne, his drinking vessels, and 300 shields for his soldiers. It is said that Solomon accumulated great wealth by opening new trade routes to new and unfamiliar lands. His ships were sent to faraway countries loaded with copper and they returned with millions of dollars worth of gold.

The central location of Israel benefitted the nation too. Numerous trade routes passed through Israel. He charged huge taxes for goods that were coming through the land.

Nations that were defeated by David also paid tribute to avoid further conflict with Israel. On top of that, heavy taxes were levied upon the people of Israel too. They had to work one month out of every three to pay these taxes.

In verse seven, the Queen states that the reports were true. She did not believe the reports until she had seen it with her own eyes and heard it with her own ears. **She stated that the half was not told to her.** Solomon's wisdom and prosperity exceeded his fame!

This leads us to some valuable insights.

1. Many people will not believe unless they see!

If one wants to spend eternity in Heaven, then **by faith** they must trust Christ as their Savior.

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If we as Believers are going to keep our sanity during times of trouble, then by faith we must trust the Lord to lead the way.
We don't have to see to believe! We are to live by faith!

2. The half was not told to the Queen of Sheba.

Listen to me, the splendors of Heaven are beyond our comprehension too. The half has not been told! The same holds true for the Lord Jesus Christ and all that we share in Him!

1 Corinthians 2:9-10—10 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

*Ephesians 3:8—Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ;***

In Heaven, I believe that we will see how our life affected others! We will find out about the people won to Christ because of our testimony and/or influence! The seeds planted, watered, and God giving the increase!

IV. WE SEE THE GLORY GIVEN TO GOD! (10:9)

Understand that this was a pagan Queen! But she could tell that Solomon had been blessed greatly by His God! No doubt Solomon told her the story of Israel all the way up until his time! **God's hand has always been obvious in His dealings with Israel whether they were obedient or disobedient!**

V. WE SEE THE ROYAL GIFTS GIVEN! (10:10-13)

The Queen gives Solomon 120 talents of gold which is about 41/2 tons.

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The spices are from the Balsaam tree. Diodorus was a spice that could be smelled out at sea.

Almug trees were brought too. I read where Almug wood was a very antiseptic wood. No insects could live in it. It contained tannin. Mixed with sap it makes a red dye for wool or silk. It had a very sweet, perfume smell. This wood was very fine and durable. It was black on the outside and had a ruby red center. It was used for making musical instruments, support beams, and stairs. It compares to red sandalwood.

Solomon gave the Queen all her desires. Whatever she asked she received of him.

God does the same for those of us that are His children!
Ephesians 3:20—Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Philippians 4:19—But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 7:7—Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: