

Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

2 Chronicles 9:1-31

- We've seen Solomon go from the pinnacle of spirituality once he finished the building of the Temple and the Shekinah Glory appears with fire from heaven, a thick cloud of smoke causing all activities to cease, and the people sacrifices in hand bowing their hearts in humility and reverence, recognizing that God Himself has come into their presence and is pleased. Solomon in response lifted up his arms and bowed his knees thanking the Lord for the privilege of being a part of His work and plan and pledging to always follow His lead in everything that he does.
- Last chapter we saw that Solomon was an entrepreneur, for where David his father expanded Israel's borders for protection against their enemies, Solomon expanded its borders for financial profit and lucrative business ventures. Getting into the import- export business, and controlling what is brought into and what is going out of his region, this prompted him to make allegiances with foreign representatives of both neighboring and far away nations to keep business flowing.

V1-31

- **V1-4** just as God said Solomon's fame has spread and people from all over began to hear about the wise man from Jerusalem who could discern both good and evil, this caused people to want to see all this for themselves so many from different parts of the world came to tiny Jerusalem just to get an audience with Solomon. The Queen of Sheba (modern day Yemen or Southwest Arabia) some **1,500** miles away has made the long trek through the desert to put him to the test
- Were told that she's brought with her a large royal procession, with many gifts and goods for trade, as wise as Solomon was he should have seen this trap a mile off, but he continues to play on. She tests his wisdom and he reveals all that was in her heart, and I dare says that was in his as well. Once she heard him speak, and observed the temple, his palace, the abundance of food, even how the Kings servants served her and how they dressed left her speechless. Here is a person being a Queen that is accustomed to luxury, she's seen it all until now, she is completely overwhelmed by both the Wisdom of Solomon and the glory of his Kingdom.
- **V5-8** once she did speak she spoke glowingly of everything that she saw, telling him that before coming here she'd heard some wonderful things about Solomon and his Kingdom, but after seeing it with her own eyes it was far greater than what anyone said. Also she takes note again of those who served the King, remarking how happy his servants seemed, I couldn't help but think if they were that happy to serve Solomon a wise, rich King, to make a queen notice, how much more happier should we be to serve the King of Kings, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
- This is an example of what God wanted to do for Israel under the promises of the Old Covenant, if Israel obeyed God then He'd bless them so tremendously that the world would notice and give glory to the Lord God of Israel > **Ex 19:5-6, Is 49:6**- Israel were to be God's priests and light.

- With all that the Queen said we don't know if she became a true believer in Jehovah, we know she believed that He blessed Israel, and Solomon, but many believe in God, but have not surrendered to Him. What we can say is she is an example of what someone looks like that is seeking truth as Jesus used her for an example to those who don't take His gift of salvation > **Matt. 12:42** - **1st** there is no distance too far that they won't come from, **2nd** there is no gift that they own they won't offer, **3rd** they will ask an abundance of questions, **4th** they will bring a transparent heart, **5th** they will stay for an extended amount of time to get what their after.
- **V9-12 Jer 6:20** speaks of the spices that Sheba was known for and she apparently gave this to Solomon in abundance as both Solomon and the queen exchanged gifts. But it's also said that Solomon's generosity was far greater than her generosity, as he gave to her far more than what she gave to him, isn't this a description of the measure of God's generosity towards us, as we can never out give Him no matter what we offer. Also it should be this way for believers dealing with unbelievers, that anytime an unbeliever has some dealings with us for any length of time that they should be able to say that they received much more back than what they gave to us.
- **V13-14** today this would be a net worth of around **300** million this is what came to him yearly, this goes back to what **Deut 17:17**- as it can and will turn your heart away from the Lord. Also Solomon would later write in **Eccl 1:2**- all was vanity of vanities even what the Queen of Sheba said about him and his Kingdom, also **Prov 15:16**- this is what makes anything worth it, having alongside of it the fear of the Lord, **Ps 39:6**- Solomon would later say exactly the same thing after he'd wasted many years trying to fulfill the lust of the flesh > **Eccl 1:16-18**.
- **V15-16** these shields today were worth **120,000**, and the smaller ones **30,000** each, when you add this up they invested **33** million in gold shields. Interestingly these shields were of no use on the battle field, as the gold was too heavy to carry and so it was for display only, this proves Solomon wanted the image of a warrior King like his father David but without the substance. **V17-19** Solomon was all about the appearance of greatness by now instead of being great, this would be one of his many downfalls, as he began to forget what was real and what was counterfeit, and that bled directly into his character and ultimately his decision making.
- **V20-25** Solomon's wealth made silver which was extremely valuable everywhere else in the world worthless in Jerusalem, and it caused him and the people to take things for granted. This is what happens when you lose perspective and get bored, you start to dabble in things you have no business getting into, as Solomon had the navy to bring exotic animals into the Kingdom that had no reason being there as its away from their natural habitat. **V26-31** scripture warned him not to accumulate horses yet he is, like Samson doing everything God told him not to and because God didn't correct him immediately he thought he got away with it > **Eccl 8:11**.