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The Queen of Sheba Was Mesmerized
2Chron. 9:1-12

Solomon has been on the throne reigning for over twenty years as he basked in his opulent life-style of wisdom, wealth and world fame.

Any one of these three can be a source of a person's destruction, let alone all three, if the person does not acknowledge God is over their life, stay obedient to the word and keep in constant fellowship with God

There is a new liberal archeology that has been raised up in the mid 90's that has infiltrated the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

1. They refute the Bible to be divine revelation, a credible and reliable source.
2. They deny and reject the verified Biblical archeological sites and reinterpret them to earlier dates, such as Megiddo.
3. They say there is no evidence to substantiate the kingdom of David, the existence of Solomon or the Temple.

Yet Jesus believed and mentioned David, Solomon and the temple as having existed in the past, including the queen of Sheba..

* The parallel passage of the visit of the Queen of Sheba. 1Kings 10:1-13

We want to examine the visit of the queen of Sheba to Solomon to verify his fame unfolds in three movements. 2Chron. 9:1-12

- I. The queen of Sheba's long journey to test the wisdom of Solomon. vs. 1-4
- II. The queen of Sheba's true words about Solomon. vs. 5-8
- III. The queen of Sheba's doubts were removed by Solomon. vs. 9-12

I. The queen of Sheba's long journey to test the wisdom of Solomon. vs. 1-4

- A. The reason for the inquisitive visit of the queen of Sheba. vs. 1-2
 1. She had heard difficult things to believe regarding King Solomon, "Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon." vs. 1a
 - * "Now when the queen of Sheba **heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD**, she came to test him with hard questions." 1Kings 10:1
 - a. The journey was from the area of the Hadramout that had several states, present day Yemen, the area of southern Arabia.
 - 1) The distance to Jerusalem was about 1500 miles, 20 miles a day average would have taken 75 days travel.

- 2) The fleet of ships of Hiram had just made a trip there, this could have been the way the queen of Sheba heard? 1Kings. 9:28
- b. It was a trade depot for traffic from Africa, India and the Mediterranean countries.
 - 1) Sheba of southern Arabia controlled trade routes out of the Hadramount northward to Syria and Mesopotamia, also known as Sabeans.
 - 2) Solomon controlled Ezion-geber and of the outlying states; as Edom, Moab, Ammon, Zobah, up to Damascus and meant he could control caravan trade between Arabia and the north.
 - 3) Their fame was in perfumes, incense, gold and gem stones. Job 6:19; Is. 60:6; Jer. 6:20; Ezk, 27:22
2. She came to test Solomon in view of his famed wisdom, “she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions. vs. 1b
 - a. The word test “nacah”, means to prove for the purpose of verifying something true and genuine.
 - b. The method was with hard questions “chiydah”, which means riddles or enigmatic sayings of word plays.

- 1) The word is derived from Aramaic “ahad”, hold fast or cover. (Theol. Wordbook O.T.)
 - 2) The word appears 17 times in the Old Testament and is the word for the riddle of Samson to his groomsmen. Judges 14:12
 - 3) The word is translated “dark saying” in proverbs and “dark sentences” in Daniel. Prov. 1:6; Dan. 8:23
3. She came to Jerusalem in great opulence, “having a very great retinue, camels that bore spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones.” vs. 1c-f
 - a. The phrase great retinue “kated chayil” refers to a massive display of wealth, including an armed guards. vs. 1c
 - 1) A display of her authority and importance.
 - 2) A display of her incredible wealth.
 - b. The list of her wealth is listed. vs. 1d-f
 - 1) Camels that bore spices. Arabian balm. vs. 1d
 - 2) Gold in abundance. vs. 1e
 - 3) Precious stones. vs. 1f
 4. She came to Jerusalem to verify his fame, “and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.” vs. 1g-h

- a. Without any doubt she had greatly anticipated the moment.
 - 1) Sometimes people are impressed with people they do not know personally.
 - 2) Then they meet them and it is a great disappointment.
 - b. The things she spoke to Solomon about are, “all that was in her herat”.
 - 1) The expression indicates all the perplexing things of life and concerns.
 - 2) From politics to ruling and dealing with so many wives, 1,000.
- B.** The personal experience of the queen of Sheba was not disappointing. vs. 2
- 1. King Solomon varified the fame of his wisdom, “So Solomon answered all her questions.” vs. 2a
 - a. He passed the test of her disbelief.
 - b. He confirmed what she had heard about his fame.
 - 2. King Solomon surpassed her expectations, “there was nothing so difficult for Solomon that he could not explain it to her.” vs. 2
 - a. He breezed through them, not one riddle stumped him, “there was nothing so difficult”
 - 1) The word difficult “alam”, means concealed or hidden.
 - 2) He had full comprehension and understanding of the subject at hand.

- b. He communicated the answers concise and easy to understand.
 - 1) Sometimes intellectual people have a difficulty explaining things in a simple way.
 - 2) They speak above the heads of people.
- C.** The result of the evidence of the wisdom and luxury of Solomon. vs. 3-4
- 1. The wueen was dumbfounded at the construction of the temple, “And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built.” vs. 3
 - a. The temple with all its gold, silver, bronze, gems and cedars.
 - b. The altar, courts and all the buildings.
 - c. The kings palace, residence for his family and many wives.
 - 2. The queen was left speechless at the luxury displayed and service, “the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.” vs. 4
 - a. The house that he had built. vs.
 - b. The food on his table. vs. 4a
 - c. The seating of his servants. vs. 4b
 - d. The service of his waiters and their apparel. vs. 4c
 - e. The cupbearers and their apparel. vs. 4d

- d. The entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD. vs. 4e
- f. There was no more spirit in her. vs. 5e
* She was breathless and in awe!

Illustration

“For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a **doorkeeper** in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” Ps. 84:10

Application

1. The believer is to be an example by living out the wisdom of God, being different from those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

- a. They come with their moral or ethical excellence.
- b. They present their accomplishments in life.
- c. They come with all their fame and wealth.
- d. But none of these should ever impress us or make us think they are alright with God.

* “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human **wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the **wisdom** of men but in the power of God.”
1Cor. 2:4-5

2. The times when God brings people to us and they attempt to prove or test us by the questions they ask, do we give them the answers of the Bible or are we intimidated or embarrassed?

- a. When they ask you about the cultural relativity of our day of gender-neutral, homosexuality. judging people’s conduct or the traditional marriage, do you give them God’s word?
- b. When they ask about evolution versus creation?
 - 1) “The words of the **wise** are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.” Eccl. 12:11
 - 2) “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. “And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” 1Pet. 3:14-15

The queen of Sheba’s long journey to test the wisdom Solomon did not disappoint her!

II. The queen of Sheba’s true words about Solomon. vs. 5-8

- A. The queen of Sheba confessed her initial disbelief about Solomon. vs. 5-6
 - 1. Sheba acknowledged that her skepticism was proven to be wrong. vs. 5
 - a. She confirmed what she heard had not been false, “Then she said to the king: “It was a true report which I heard in my

own land about your words and your wisdom.” vs. 5

- 1) The word true “emeth”, means reliable, she had verified it.
 - 2) The report had not been an exaggeration or embellishment.
- b.** She indicated to him the specifics of the reliable report of his words and wisdom.
- 1) Sheba had proved Solomon with all her riddles and sayings.
 - 2) Sheba had seen the product of his wisdom by the buildings, the extravagance, the order of his servants and kingdom.
- 2.** Sheba acknowledged that her anticipation far exceeded her expectations. vs. 6
- a.** Seeing made her a believer, “However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes.” vs. 6a
 - b.** Seeing and hearing made what she heard a modest report, “and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me.” vs. 6b
 - c.** Seeing and hearing commended his fame to be greater, “You exceed the fame of which I heard.” vs. 6
 - * The parallel passage says, “Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.” 1Kings 10:7c

- B.** The queen of Sheba confessed all was due to God. vs. 7-8
- 1.** The queen of Sheba declared the privilege of those in the service of Solomon. vs. 7a
 - a.** This was a check and warning to Solomon about the high privilege bestowed on him by God, “Happy are your men and happy are these your servants.” vs. 7a
 - 1) The word happy “esher”, means blessed, used in many of the Psalms.
 - 2) Solomon would come to the place to not think anything of the wealth and extravagant life he lived, taking it for granted, not considering how much he had been blessed by God.
 - 3) Solomon outwardly looked all together but was not in heart and in the future would no longer be a blessing to the people of God.
 - 2.** The queen of Sheba commended the benefit of his servants, “who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!” vs. 7b
 - a.** This was another check and warning to Solomon about his responsibility and accountability to God for all people under him continually.
 - 1) That they would make right decisions for life and their families.
 - 2) They would follow God.

- b. Wisdom is the best end result of comprehension of the interrelation of facts, but this is Divine wisdom that enhances our nature abilities.
 - 1) Years later they would stand before him and hear his foolishness, as he turned his back on God.
 - 2) They would stand before him and come under the heavy burden of over-taxation by his out of control spending and building projects.
- 3. The queen of Sheba acknowledged to Solomon that God was the source of the blessings. vs. 8
 - a. This was another check and warning to Solomon on his present position as King, “Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you.” vs. 8a
 - 1) She acknowledged that all he had obtained was given to him.
 - 2) God simply took pleasure in bestowing on him all things, after his prayer for wisdom at Gibeon.
 - 3) Solomon had been compromising for twenty years, slowly deviating from God more and more.
 - b. This was another check and warning to Solomon on his inheriting the throne, “setting you on His throne to be king for the LORD your God! Because your God has loved Israel, to establish them

forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness.”

vs. 8b-e

- 1) Sheba reminded Solomon God put him on God’s throne to represent God, “setting you on His throne to be king for the LORD your God!” vs. 8b
- 2) Sheba reminded Solomon the reason, “Because your God has loved Israel, to establish them forever.” vs. 8c-d
- 3) Sheba reminded Solomon God made him king to rule in a godly manner, “therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness.” vs. 8d-f
 - * Justice and righteousness are words found often together, for social, civil and spiritual justice in God’s word!
- 4) Solomon would get caught up in his wisdom, wealth and world fame, losing perspective, but knew it not!
- 5) Liberation Theology perverts the Word of God for social justice!

Illustration

* “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had **been** with **Jesus**.” Acts 4:13

Application

1. Jesus would have us to put on His mind and be filled with the Spirit to benefit our lives, then others.
 - a. That we speak in the wisdom of God.
 - b. That we conduct ourselves as children of God.
 - c. That we glorify God in everything.
 - * “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” 2Cor. 4:6-7
2. The danger to the believer is always deception that comes through false teachers.
 - a. The majority of the epistles are polemic, defending the faith.
 - b. If there is no possibility of a believer being deceived why warn or write them?
 - c. The only one that can be deceive spiritually is the one who is spiritually alive by God’s truth, the unbeliever is deceived completely.
 - * “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.” 2Pet. 2:20-21

3. The danger of going through the motions with a half-heart is to walk toward greater compromise and taking the credit, forgetting that it is God.
 - a. Many have abuse and misused the gifts of God and their position for their own recognition.
 - b. Some begin to trust in their own abilities to continue what God had begun.
 - c. Other deceive themselves and rationalize their compromise and evil, as a service to and by God because He has not stopped them.
 - * “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are **naked** and **open** to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Heb. 4:13

The queen of Sheba’s true words about Solomon were a reminder that God had chosen him!

III. The queen of Sheba’s douts were removed by Solomon. vs. 9-12

- A. The queen of Sheba affirmed her respect and honor by the gift she gave to Solomon. vs. 9
 1. She gave Solomon a large amount of gold, “And she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold.” vs. 9a
 - a. Gold was and is the ultimate precious metal, calculations differ, 4 1/2 tons.
 - b. Gold was the preferable metal of Solomon, it wasn’t as if he needed it.

- * “All King Solomon’s drinking vessels were **gold**, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure **gold**. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.” 1Kings 10:21
2. She gave Solomon a large quantity of spices, “spices in great abundance.” vs. 9b
 - a. She gave to Solomon an excessive amounts.
 - a. Without doubt the queen of Sheba came to secure trade agreements to sell her spices and other merchandise.
 - c. Taxes and revenues for allowing her to used the trade routes.
 3. She gave Solomon gems, “and precious stones.” vs. 9c
 - a. Precious stones.
 - b. Rare jewels.
 - c. Splendid gems.
 4. The priority of the wealth was placed on the spices by the commentary, “there never were any spices such as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.” vs. 9d
 - a. She gave him an incredible amount, for this business afforded her the gold and precious stones.
 - b. She tried to act on Solomon’s level of extravagant life-style and wealth.
 - c. The magies brought to Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matt. 2:11

- B. The queen of Sheba witnessed over and over again the great wealth of Solomon. vs. 10-11
 1. The partnership of Hiram and Solomon provided wealth to Solomon. vs. 10
 - a. The constant wealth of gold, “Also the servants of Hiram and the servant of Solomon, who brought gold from Ophir.” vs. 10a-b
 - 1) The expert mariners were from Tyre, the servants of Solomon assisted and learned the way of the sea.
 - 2) The gold came from the area of Ophir, southern Arabia.
 - b. The wealth enabled Solomon to purchase high quality wood, “brought alium wood and precious stones.” vs. 10c
 - 1) This wood is believed to have come from southern Arabia, sandalwood.
 - 2) It is mentioned in the Alalakh tablets as being used for fine furniture.
 - c. The wealth also enabled Solomon to buy costly gems, “and precious stones” from Ophir. vs. 10c
 2. The luxurious life-style of Solomon was evident everywhere and in every way. vs. 11
 - a. He used this precious wood in the buildings, “And the king made walkways of the alium wood for the house of the LORD and for the king’s house.” vs. 11a
 - 1) Wood of royalty for God and king.

- 2) Solomon made steps of the almug wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house. 1Kings 10:12a-b
- b. He used the wood for musical instruments, "also harps and stringed instruments for singers." vs. 11b
 - 1) For the finest of sound and pitch.
 - 2) For the worship of God.
- c. The proper name of God is indicated by LORD, in all capital letters, Yahweh, the covenant name of God.
 - 1) The proper name of God "Y@hweh", is called the Tatragramaton, the four consonants YHWH, no vowels were written, pronounced Yahweh.
 - 2) The word is based on the same verb "to be" I AM Who I AM that God revealed to Moses, when He sent him to the children of Israel in Egypt, which means continuing, unfinished action, "I am being that I am being", active presence. Ex. 3:14
 - 3) I will be that I will be, expressing a perfect, unconditional and independent existence to meet their seeming impossible situation for the present. Pulpit
 - 4) This was to be His name forever, a memorial to all generations. Ex. 3:14-15

- d. The commentary on the almug wood, "and there were none such as these seen before in the land of Judah." vs. 11c
 - * "There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day." 1Kings 10:12d-e
- C. The queen of Sheba returned home unable to outgive Solomon. vs. 12
 - 1. Solomon denied the queen of Sheba nothing, "Now King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked." vs. 12a-b
 - a. As a policial guest all her needs and wants were cared for without question.
 - b. Some believe that the phrase "all she desired", means that she became pregnant by him and carried back the descendent of Solomon.
 - c. In fact the Ethiopians claim that Hali Salasis was the direct descendent of Solomon, but it is doubtful.
 - 2. Solomon lavished the queen of Sheba with many gifts, "much more than she had brought to the king." vs. 12b
 - a. The book of Kings says, "besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. 1Kings 10:13c
 - b. He had to get one up on her, to outdo her.
 - c. Yet Jesus was not impressed with the wealth of Solomon as He said, "I say to

you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of the lilies of the field.”
Matt. 6:29

3. Solomon saw the queen of Sheba depart on her long journey back home, “So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.” vs. 12c-d
 - a. Sheba is not mentioned again in the Old Testament.
 - b. Jesus gave witness to the queen of Sheba, as His judgment on his generation, “The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here.” Matt. 12:42; Lk. 11:31
* The Jew refuse to listen to Jesus!

Illustration

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matt. 16:26

Application

1. Material wealth is amoral, it is our attitude that is important.
 - a. Paul warns the believer, not the unbeliever, “For the love of **money** is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith

- in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1Tim. 6:10
- b. Paul commanded Timothy that he was to withdraw himself from those who suppose godliness is a means of gain. 1Tim. 6:5b-c
 - c. Paul told Timothy that godliness with contentment is great gain. 1Tim. 6:6
2. God through Moses warned the people about three perils when they went into the promised land.
 - a. First, the perils of prosperity. Duet. 6:11-15
 - 1) Causing us not to depend on God.
 - 2) Taking us away from God.
 - 3) Luring us to a corrupt life, displeasing God.
 - 4) Making us indifferent to the needs of others.
 - b. Second, the perils of adversity. Deut. 6:16-19
 - 1) Adversities reveals what we are made of, who we really are.
 - 2) Adversities reveals we can not handle everything on our own strength.
 - 3) Adversities will make us humble and dependent on the Lord.
 - c. Third, the perils of communicating our faith to our children, the next generation. Deut. 6:20-25
 - 1) Failure to communicate our faith to our children will hold us guilty before God.
 - 2) Failure to communicate our faith to our children will destroy their lives and send them to hell.
 - 3) Failure to communicate our faith to our children will damn the next generation, not hearing and knowing Christ.

* The perils of prosperity was the first of the three perils!

The queen of Sheba's doubts were removed by Solomon and returned home!

Conclusion

We have examined the visit of the queen of Sheba to Solomon to verify his fame in three movements.

- I.** The queen of Sheba's long journey to test the wisdom of Solomon did not disappoint her!
- II.** The queen of Sheba's true words about Solomon were a reminder that God had chosen him!
- III.** The queen of Sheba's doubts were removed by Solomon and returned home!