

2/27/11

**Solomon Amazed The Queen of Sheba**  
**1Kings 10:1-13**

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 persons 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

The three wisdom, wealth and world fame have the potential to be slow gradual poisons, apart from God.

1. Wisdom has the potential to make you proud, exalting yourself above others, not being able to understand why other people can't think like you.
2. Wealth has the potential of being disconnected with the real world of the average person and losing the appreciation and value of things.
3. World fame has the potential of isolating you and making you a loner, having no real friends, being surrounded by favorites, flatterers and "yes people".

All three of these are breaking Solomon down in his personal relationship with God because he has a half-heart towards God.

It is interesting that the wisdom that God gave to Solomon is what led to the world fame of Solomon, and of all the accounts God saw fit to record, only two specific cases are chosen to display the wisdom of Solomon.

1. The first account of the two prostitutes, who claimed to be the true mother of a living child, at the beginning of his reign. 1Kings 3:16-28
2. The second account is before us, that of the visit of the Queen of Sheba, due to hearing his fame of wisdom, in order to test him. 1Kings 10:1-10

Solomon began hearing the common people, even prostitutes, to do them justice, but now Solomon, due to his fame, has no time to judge the common person, he is busied with those of political prominence and wealth.

We want to look at the visit of the queen of Sheba to Solomon to verify his fame, characterized by three things: 1Kings 10:1-13

- I. The witness of the queen of Sheba. vs. 1-5
- II. The words of the queen of Sheba . vs. 6-9
- III. The wealthy gift of the queen of Sheba. vs. 10-13

## I. The witness of the queen of Sheba. vs. 1-5

\* 2Chron. 9:1-12

### A. The purpose of the visit of the queen of Sheba. vs. 1-2

#### 1. She had heard of the fame of Solomon. vs. 1

- a. There were several states of the Hadramout, present day Yemen, the area of southern Arabia.
  - 1) About 1500 miles, 20 miles a day would take 75 days travel.
  - 2) The ships of Hiram had just made a trip there. 1Kings. 9:28
- b. A trade depot for traffic from Africa, India and the Mediterranean countries.
- c. Sheba of southern Arabia controlled trade routes out of the Hadramount northward to Syria and Mesopotamia. Also know as Sabeans.
- d. Solomon controlled Ezion-geber and of the outlying states such as Edom, Moab, Ammon, Zobah, up to Damascus and meant he could control caravan trade between Arabia and the north.
- e. Their fame was in perfumes, incense, gold and gem stones. Job 6:19, Is. 60:6, Jer, 6:20, Eek, 27:22

## 2. She had heard from others about Solomon, in view of the name of the LORD. vs. 1a

- a. The witness of Solomon had been a commendable witness.
  - 1) The word concerning “shem” in reputation or fame of the name of his God.
  - 2) The proper name of God is indicated by LORD, in all capital letters, Yahweh.
- b. The proper name of God “Y@hovah”, is what is called the Tatragramaton, the four consonants YHWH, no vowels were written, believed to be pronounced Yahweh.
  - 1) 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
  - 2) I will be that I will be, expressing a perfect, unconditional and independent existence to meet their seeming impossible situation for the present. Pulpit

- 3) This was to be His name forever, a memorial to all generations. Ex. 3:14-15
- 3. She came with the intent of testing Solomon regarding his famed wisdom. vs. 1b
  - a. The word test “nacah”, means to prove for the purpose of verifying some true.
  - b. The method was with hard questions “chiydah”, which means riddles or enigmatic sayings of word plays.
    - 1) The word is believed to be derived from the Aramaic “ahad”, hold fast or cover. (Theol. Wordbook O.T.)
    - 2) The word appears 17 times in the Old Testament and is used 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
- 4. She came to Jerusalem in all her pomp and glory. vs. 2
  - a. The phrase great retinue “kabel chayil” means a massive display of wealth and armed guards. vs. 2a
    - 1) A display of her authority and importance.
    - 2) A display of her incredible wealth.

- b. The specifics are her wealth are listed. vs. 2b
    - 1) Camels that bore spices. Arabian balm. vs. 2b
    - 2) Very much gold. vs. 2c
    - 3) Precious stones. vs. 2d
  - c. The eventual meeting with Solomon resulted in her speaking to him about all that was in her hear. vs. 2e-f
- B.** The personal experience of the queen of Sheba. vs. 3-5
- 1. Solomon passed the proving by the queen of Sheba. vs. 3
    - a. Solomon did not disappoint her by answering all her questions, one by one. vs. 3a
    - b. Solomon breezed through them, not one riddle stumped him, “there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. vs. 3b
  - 2. Solomon dumbfounded the queen of Sheba with all the evidence of his wisdom. vs. 4-5
    - a. The house that he had built. vs. 4a
    - b. The food on his table. vs. 5a
    - c. The seating of his servants. vs. 5b
    - d. The service of his waiters and their apparel. vs. 5c
    - e. The cupbearers. vs. 5d

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

### Illustration

An old Arab proverb states;

- 1. He that knows not and know not the he knows not; He is a fool—shun him!
- 2. He that knows not and knows that he knows not; He is simple—teach him!
- 3. He that knows and knows not the he knows; He is asleep—wake him!
- 4. He that knows and knows that he knows; He is a wise man—follow him! #7371

### Application

- 1. God will bring people into our lives, who have heard how Jesus has changed our lives and that through His wisdom our lives are blessed.
  - a. They will come with all their pomp to impress you.
    - 1) Their accomplishments.
    - 2) Their real-estate holdings.
    - 3) Their financial success and debt-free.
    - 4) Their accolades and degrees.
  - b. But we must never be impressed or intimidated.

- 1) We are wealthy in Christ, beyond imagination to enjoy all things. 1Tim. 6:17
  - 2) We have access to all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ Jesus. Col. 2:3
  - 3) We can come before the throne of grace, at any time we have a need. Heb. 4:16
  - 4) We have eternal life in Jesus Christ. Jn. 3:16  
\* “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
2. The question for each of us is, when God brings people into our lives to prove or test us, do we pass the test or disappoint them?
- a. When they see our conduct and hear our speech that it is not immoral, vulgar boastful.  
\* Though they will not know that it is in conformity to God’s word, they notice the difference from those of the world!
  - b. When they see how you run your home, as a husband or wife, the priorities, the confidence of what you know to be right or wrong.
  - c. When they see the way you deal with your children in instruction and discipline.

- d. When they hear the way you handle your finance, living within your means, not neglecting the Lord, yet being benevolent to others and content with what you have.  
 \* “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

*The witness of the queen of Sheba of Solomon’s wisdom left her speechless!*

## II. The words of the queen of Sheba. vs. 6-9

- A. The queen of Sheba confessed her initial unbelief about Solomon. vs. 6-7
1. She acknowledge that her skepticism was proven to be wrong. vs. 6
    - a. She said to the king that the report she had heard in her land was true.
      - 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 the king the specifics of the reliable report about his words and his wisdom.
      - 1) She had proved Solomon with all her riddles and sayings.
      - 2) She had seen the product of his wisdom in the buildings, the

- extravagance, the order of his servants and kingdom.
2. She acknowledged that her anticipation far exceeded her expectations. vs. 7
    - a. Seeing and hearing made her a believer, “However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes.” vs. 7a
    - b. Seeing and hearing made what she heard a modest report, “and indeed the half was not told me.” vs. 7b
    - c. Seeing and hearing commended his fame to be greater, “Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.” vs. 7c
- B. The queen of Sheba confessed all was due to God. vs. 8-9
1. She commended the subjects of Solomon for living under such a wise man. vs. 8
    - a. This was a warning and check on Solomon about his high privilege bestowed on him by God, “Happy are your men and happy are these your servants.” vs. 8a
      - 1) The word happy “esher”, means blessed and used in many of the Psalms.
      - 2) Solomon had come to the place where he did 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.
  - 4) Solomon outwardly in the very near future would no longer be a blessing to the people of God.
- b.** This was also another warning and check on Solomon about his responsibility and accountability to God for all people under him, “who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!” vs. 8b
- 1) 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.
- 2.** She communicated to Solomon that God was the source of the blessings. vs. 9
- a.** This was another warning and check to Solomon on his present position as King, “Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you.” vs. 9a
- 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 warning and check to Solomon on his inheriting the throne, “setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” vs. 9b-e
- 1) He sat as King because David was obedient and faithful to the covenant. vs. 9b
  - 2) He was the recipient of the love of God for Israel. vs. 9c
  - 3) He was made King by God to rule in a godly manner, vs. 9d-e  
\* Justice and righteousness are words that are found often together, for social, civil and spiritual justice, according to the word of God!
  - 4) Solomon was getting all caught up in his wisdom, wealth and world fame, losing perspective, but he did not know it!

It is much like a parent warning a teen-ager that clueless about the danger he or she is headed for, as an ox to the slaughter.

### **Application**

**1.** Jesus would have us be vessels of honor, as people speak to us and spend time with us.

- a.** Be it in seeking council for a particular situation in their lives.
- b.** Be it in the benefit they receive through the council for their lives.
- c.** Be it for exceeding their expectations, after spending time with us.
- d.** Be it to just spend time in fellowship with one another.

\* “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 in the last days is deception that is to come from vessel of dishonor, false teacher. 2Pet. 2:1-3

- a.** False teachers will be in the church, among us. vs. 1a-b
- b.** False teachers will be affective in the church, having great followings. vs. 1c-2

**c.** False teachers will be greedy for gain in the church, for which they will be judged. vs. 3

**3.** The danger of going through the motions, with a half heart walking toward greater compromise is to crave the admiration of people and take the credit, forgetting that it is God.

- a.** I can abuse and misuse the gifts of God and position for my own recognition.
- b.** I can begin to trust my own abilities to continue what God has begun.
- c.** I can deceive myself and reach a point where the compromise and evil I practice, I rationalize as acceptable service by God because He has not stopped me.

\* “Also on your skirts is found The blood of the lives of the poor innocents. I have not found it by secret search, But plainly on all these things. Yet you say, ‘Because I am innocent, Surely His anger shall turn from me.’ Behold, I will plead My case against you, Because you say, ‘I have not sinned.” Jer. 2:34-35

*The words of the queen of Sheba reminded Solomon he was a clueless!*

### **III. The wealthy gift of the queen of Sheba. vs. 10-13**

- A.** The gift of the queen of Sheba was impressive. vs. 10

1. She gave to King Solomon one hundred and twenty talents of gold. vs. 10a
  - a. Gold was and is the ultimate precious metal, calculations differ, 4 1/2 tons.
  - b. Gold was the preferable metal of Solomon.
    - \* “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 to King Solomon, spices in great quantity. vs. 10b
  - 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 King Solomon precious stones. vs. 10c
  - a. Precious stones.
  - b. Rare jewels.
  - c. Splendid gems.
4. The priority of the wealth was placed on the spices, indicative of the commentary on the spices, “There never again came

- such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.” vs. 10d
- a. She gave him an incredible amount, for this business afforded her the gold and precious stones.
  - b. She attempted to act on the same level of Solomon’s extravagant life-style and wealth.
- B.** The gift of the queen of Sheba was in addition to the great wealth of Solomon. vs. 11-12
1. King Hiram’s mariners brought on their ships great wealth to Solomon. vs. 11
    - a. They brought gold from Ophir, southern Arabia. vs. 11a-c
    - b. They brought great quantities of almug wood. vs. 11d
      - 1) This wood is believed to of come from southern Arabia.
      - 2) Though it is not know what wood it was, it is believed to be sandalwood.
      - 3) It is mentioned in the Alalakh tablets as being used for fine furniture.
    - c. They also brought precious stones from Ophir. vs. 11e
  2. King Solomon spared no expense to live a luxurious life. vs. 12



- a. Solomon made steps of the almug wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house. vs. 12a-b
  - b. Solomon also made harps and stringed instruments for singers from the almug wood. vs. 12c
  - c. The commentary on the almug wood, "There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day." vs. 12d-e
- C. The gift of the queen of Sheba was returned in kind by Solomon. vs. 13
- 1. Solomon denied the queen of Sheba nothing, "Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked." vs. 13a-b
    - a. All of her needs and wants were taken care of without question, as a political guest.
    - 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.
  - 2. Solomon lavished the queen of Sheba with many gifts, "besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. vs. 13c

- a. He had to get one up on her.
  - b. He had to outdo her in what she gave to him, responding in kind.
  - 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 he field." Matt. 6:29
3. Solomon saw her depart, "So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants." vs. 13d-e
- a. She is not mentioned again in the Old Testament.
  - b. Jesus gave witness to the queen of Sheba, as He 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
    - \* 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. There is nothing wrong with material wealth in and of itself, it is legitimate.
  - a. Paul says, “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. Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1Tim. 6:6
  - d. “So are the ways of everyone who is **greedy** for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.” Prov. 1:19
2. God through Moses warned the people about three perils when they went into the promised land.
  - a. The first was the perils of prosperity. Deut. 6:11-15
    - 1) Prosperity can cause us not to depend on God.
    - 2) Prosperity can take us away from God.
    - 3) Prosperity can lure us into a corrupt life, displeasing God.
    - 4) Prosperity can cause us to be indifferent to the needs of others in life.
  - b. The second was the perils of adversity. Deut. 6:16-19
    - 1) Adversities show us what we are made of, who we really are.

- 2) Adversities show us that we can not handle anything and everything on our own strength.
- 3) Adversities will make us humble and dependent on the Lord.
- c. The third was 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 wealthy gift of the queen of Sheba was meaningless!*

### Conclusion

The visit of the queen of Sheba to Solomon was to verify his fame:

- I. The witness of the queen of Sheba of Solomon left her speechless!
- II. The words of the queen of Sheba reminded Solomon he was a clueless!
- III. The wealthy gift of the queen of Sheba was meaningless!

