

2/27/11

## 1Kings 10

Solomon is sitting very smug in his kingdom at this time.

1. He has been reigning a little over 20 years.
2. He has finished his major building project, the temple and his palace.
3. He has amassed incredible wealth.

Now all seek his audience to hear his wisdom.

### 10:1-13     The queen of Sheba visits Solomon.

10:1-5     *The arrival and encounter of the queen of Sheba with Solomon.*

\* 2Chron. 9:1-12

10:1-2     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) This is present day Yemen, the area of southern Arabia, the ships of Hiram had just returned from the area.

1Kings 9:28

\* About 1500 miles, 20 miles a day would take 75 days travel

- b) The area was trade depot for traffic from Africa, India and the Mediterranean countries.
- c) 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.
- d) Their fame was in perfumes, incense, gold and gem stones, also known as Sabeans. Job 6:19, Is. 60:6, Jer, 6:20, Ezk, 27:22

- 2) She had heard about the fame of Solomon, in view of the name of the LORD. vs. 1a

- a) The witness of Solomon had been a commendable witness.
  - 1) 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.
  - 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) This was to be His name forever, a memorial to all generations. Ex. 3:14-15
- 3) She came to test Solomon regarding his famed wisdom, to see if the report was reliable. vs. 1b
- a) The method was with hard questions “chiydah”, which means riddles or enigmatic sayings of word plays.
- b) The word appears 17 times in the Old Testament and is used for the riddle of Samson to his groomsmen. Judges 14:12
- c) The word is translated “dark saying” in proverbs and “dark sentences” in Daniel. Prov. 1:6, Dan. 8:23
- 4) She came to Jerusalem flashing her wealth and power. vs. 2
- a) The phrase great retinue “kabad chayil” means a massive display of wealth and armed guards. vs. 2a
- b) The specifics are her wealth is 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

**10:3-5** The personal experience of the queen of Sheba. vs. 3

- 1) Solomon passed the test, not disappointing the queen of Sheba. vs. 3
- 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!

**10:6-9** *The response of the queen of Sheba after seeing all and hearing the wisdom of Solomon.*

- 1) She acknowledge that her skepticism was had been removed by having turned out to be reliable, no exaggeration. vs. 6
- a) She had proved Solomon with all her riddles and sayings.

- b) 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, the half was not told her. vs. 7
  - a) Seeing and hearing made her a believer. vs. 7a
  - b) She commended his fame to be greater. vs. 7b-c
- 3) She commended the subjects of Solomon for constantly hearing his wisdom. vs. 8
  - a) This was a reminder to Solomon about his high privilege bestowed on him by God.
  - b) This was a reminder to Solomon about his responsibility and accountability to God for all people under him.
    - \* 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.
- 4) She communicated to Solomon that God was the source of the blessings. vs. 9
  - a) God had simply delighted in him. vs. 9a

- \* Solomon had been compromising for twenty years, slowly deviating from God more and more.
  - b) God loves Israel, so he was to rule them in justice and righteousness. vs. 9b-f
    - \* Solomon was caught up in his wisdom, wealth and world fame, losing perspective, but he did not know it!
- 10:10-13** *The gift exchange of the queen of Sheba and Solomon.*
- 1) The gift of the queen of Sheba was impressive of gold, spices and precious stones. vs. 10
    - a) Gold was and is the ultimate precious metal, calculations differ, 4 1/2 tons.
    - b) 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.
  - 2) The priority of the wealth was placed on the spices, indicative of the commentary. vs. 10
    - \* The spices were the real wealth that afforded her the gold and precious stones.
  - 3) King Hiram's mariners brought on their ships great wealth to Solomon. vs. 11

- a) Ophir, southern Arabia. vs. 11a-c
- b) They brought great quantities of almug wood, believed to be sandalwood. vs. 11d
  - \* It is mentioned in the Alalakh tablets as being used for fine furniture.
- c) They also brought precious stones from Ophir. vs. 11e
- 4) 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
- 5) Solomon met all the needs of the queen of Sheba nothing, vs. 13a-b
  - a) Some believe that the phrase "all she desired", means that she became pregnant by him and carried back the descendent of Solomon.
  - c) The Ethiopians claim that Hali Salasis was the direct descendent of Solomon.

- 6) Solomon lavished the queen of Sheba with many gifts, in proportion to the royal generosity. vs. 13c
  - a) He would not be outdone by her.
  - b) 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
- 7) Solomon saw her depart to her own country with all her onto rouge. 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!

**10:14-29    The increasing wealth and fame of Solomon.**

\* 2Chron. 9:13-28

**10:14-15** The annual income of Solomon.

- 1) Every years Solomon received 666 talents of gold. vs.14
- 2) This was in addition to the income from the traveling merchants, traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country. vs. 15

**10:16-21** The extravagance of the palace of the Forest of Lebanon of Solomon.

- 1) He made 200 large shields made of wood or basket-work and gold plated, instead of leather, weighing approximately 7 1/2 pounds, for the royal bodyguard. vs. 16  
\* Large enough for a man to cover his entire body and was either rectangular or oval, carried by the heavy infantry. 2Chron. 14:8
- 2) He also made 300 shields made of wood also and plated with gold, weighing about 3 3/4 pounds. vs. 17
- 3) He made a throne to judge from. vs. 18-20
  - a) He made a massive throne at the seat of justice of ivory, imposing the symbol of his great kingdom and overlaid it with gold. vs. 18  
\* The excessive luxury was wasteful for no one would ever see the ivory, he just could do it so he did it.

- b)The throne was elevated at the top of six steps, with an impressive lion standing at each side of the armrests. vs. 19
- c) Each step had a similar lion, on both sides of the six steps, no kingdom of the past had anything like it. vs. 20
- 4) Solomon dishes in his house of the Forest of Lebanon were of gold, both drinking and dish-ware, not one was silver, which was considered insignificant. vs. 21

**10:22-23** The periodic wealth brought from the high seas.

- 1) The merchant ships of Solomon with the fleet of Hiram, brought once every three years gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys. vs. 22  
\* Solomon and Hiram were in business together.
- 2) The summary statement regarding King Solomon surpassing all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. vs. 23  
\* According as God had promised him at Gibeon. 1Kings 3:13

**10:24-25** The immense notoriety of Solomon.

- 1) People from all the nations sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had placed in his heart. vs. 24

- 2) All who came before Solomon came with a present for him, an articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year. vs. 25  
\* 1Kings 4:29-34

**10:26-29** The business ventures of Solomon.

- 1) Solomon began to trust in his own strength. vs. 26  
a) He multiplied chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen. vs. 26a-b  
\* These would give Solomon a false sense of confidence and security!  
b) He stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. vs. 26c  
\* The city of Megiddo is one of them.
- 2) The standard of living was much higher than ever before in Jerusalem, making silver and common as Jerusalem stone and cedar trees, as the sycamors in the lowlands. vs. 27
- 3) Solomon disobeyed the word of God. vs. 28-29  
a) Solomon imported horses from Egypt and Keveh. vs. 28a  
b) Solomon's started a little import business, as his merchants bought

them in Keveh at the current price. vs. 28b

\* He had made a copy of the law and ignored it, disobeying and further compromising the word of God.  
Deut. 17:16-17

- 4) Solomon put a chariot and horse business together. vs. 29  
a) He imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver.  
b) A horse one hundred and fifty.  
\* Some believe also from Cilicia in the north.  
c) Then through his agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.