

The Height of Solomon's Success

— 1 KINGS 10:14–29 —

IS MY HEART STILL FULLY HIS?

THEME: God's blessings are good, but they must never become more important than obeying the God who gave them.

1 1 KINGS 10:14–15 | INCREDIBLE WEALTH

- 14 Each year Solomon received about 25 tons of gold.
- 15 This did not include the additional revenue he received from merchants and traders, all the kings of Arabia, and the governors of the land. —NIV

KEY POINT: Solomon's kingdom had become incredibly wealthy and internationally connected. Gold, trade, tribute, and revenue were flowing into Jerusalem.

► What does a person do when God gives them more than they ever imagined?



2 1 KINGS 10:16–17 | THE GOLDEN SHIELDS

- 16 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield.
- 17 He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three minas of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon. —NIV

KEY POINT: Solomon displayed hundreds of golden shields in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon. They communicated wealth, power, success, and royal splendor.

► Whose glory is all of this pointing to?



3 1 KINGS 10:18–20 | A THRONE LIKE NO OTHER

- 18 Then the king made a great throne covered with ivory and overlaid with fine gold.
- 19 The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them.
- 20 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom. —NIV

KEY POINT: Solomon's throne displayed extraordinary royal greatness and authority. The throne itself was not sinful, but the question is whether the blessing points people toward God or becomes the focus.



4 1 KINGS 10:21–22 | WHEN ABUNDANCE BECOMES NORMAL

- 21 All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days.
- 22 The king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons. —NIV

KEY POINT: Gold had become common in Solomon's kingdom. His ships brought riches and exotic goods from distant places. The issue was not wealth itself.

► What happens to the heart when abundance becomes normal?



5 1 KINGS 10:23–25 | WISDOM & INFLUENCE

- 23 King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth.
- 24 The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.
- 25 Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules.
— NIV

KEY POINT: Solomon's reputation spread throughout the world. People came to hear his wisdom and brought valuable gifts. The wisdom everyone admired was wisdom God had put in his heart. Success should never cause us to forget where our blessings come from.



6 1 KINGS 10:26–29 | HORSES, CHARIOTS & A WARNING

- 26 Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.
- 27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills.
- 28 Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue at the current price.
- 29 They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty. They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans. — NIV

KEY POINT: Solomon had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horses. From the outside, his kingdom looked stronger than ever. But God had already warned Israel's kings not to rely on great numbers of horses.



DEUTERONOMY 17:16

"The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them."

PSALM 20:7

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."



The horses were not the real problem. The wealth was not the real problem. The success was not the real problem. The danger was beginning to ignore what God had already said.

THE HEART OF THE LESSON

Solomon stood at the height of his success. He had wealth, wisdom, influence, recognition, possessions, and power. God had blessed him tremendously.

But the question was no longer simply, "How much has God given me?"

The deeper question was,
"Is my heart still fully His?"

The blessings God gives us should never become more important than obeying the God who gave them.

REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- 1 According to 1 Kings 10:24, the wisdom Solomon possessed had been put in his heart by _____.
- 2 "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the _____ our _____."
- 3 **CHALLENGE QUESTION:** Is there a blessing, possession, success, relationship, or ability in your life that has begun receiving more of your trust or attention than God? What can you do this week to place that blessing back under God's authority and say, "Lord, my heart is still fully Yours"?