

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA. 1 KN. 10:1-13. 09/04/22. #26.

10 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. 11 She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. 12 So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. 13 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 14 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. 15 Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 16 However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. 17 Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! 18 Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness." 19 Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. 20 Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir. 21 And the king made steps of the almug wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers. There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day. 22 Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

1. The fame of Solomon

- a. The fame of Solomon spread far & wide
 - a1. It reached the Queen of Sheba in southern Arabia over 1000 miles away
 - a2. The gold mines of Ophir (some believe Ophir was in south Arabia & others in India), were the source of hers & Solomon's gold
- b. Notice the 2 claims of fame attributed to Solomon
 - a1. His kingdom was very glorious
 - a2. His wisdom was very great
- c. Solomon's glory was legendary
 - a1. Most legends are exaggerated
 - a2. The queen found that the legends didn't come up to the reality of Sol.'s glory
- d. When the queen saw Sol.'s palace, servants, table, & majesty, she was in awe, totally drained of spirit

2. The queen's reaction

- a. The queen had many questions about life, nature, philosophy, & theology
 - a1. We have no specific questions recorded for us, but can image the nature of them
 - a2. The queen was obviously very intellectual, philosophical, & curious about many things
- b. To travel over 1,000 miles by camel says much
 - a1. She tested Sol. with hard questions

- a2. Sol. was able to answer every inquiry wisely
 - c. The Q. of S. responds with many gifts
 - a1. 120 talents of gold (\$232,000,000 via 2022)
 - a2. Much Almug (algum) wood (either a juniper or red sandalwood from India)
 - a3. Largest supply of spices ever given
 - d. Q of S's reaction
 - a1. "The half has not been told to me"
 - a2. She glorifies God for blessing Sol. & Israel
 - e. Not recorded that Sol. credited God for his success
 - a1. Q/S recognizes that Sol. did not achieve his position, glory, or wisdom on his own
 - a2. "Bless be the Lord your God..."
 - a3. She directed praise to where it belonged
 - f. Godly men & women glorify God for achievements
 - a1. Joseph told pharaoh that only God could interpret his dreams
 - a2. Daniel told Neb. that only God could reveal both the dream & the interpretation
 - a3. Jeremiah gave interpretation "from God"
 - g. Men who took credit for success did not end well (Saul, Samson, Moses @ the rock, Korah, Herod...)
 - h. Sol. is not recorded as giving the Q/S lessons on how God blessed him & gave him wisdom by grace
- ### 3. Out of the mouth of strangers
- a. Q/S recognizing that God had blessed Sol. via these great gifts is a greater testimony to faith than Sol.'s
 - a1. Rahab gave a greater testimony than spies
 - a2. Ruth showed more faith than Naomi
 - a3. In NT, the centurion & Syro-Phoenician woman showed more faith than disciples
 - b. Often those outside the faith are quicker to recognize the hand of God than those living the faith
 - a1. We are used to see God work, but it should not become common or mundane to us
 - a2. Freshness of awe of God leads to worship
 - a3. Do not lose the awe & wonder of the faith
 - c. Sol. sends the queen away with customary royal gifts & everything else she desired