

A POT OF GOLD. 1 KN. 10:14-29. 09/11/22. #27.

¹⁴The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, ¹⁵besides *that* from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country. ¹⁶And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred *shekels* of gold went into each shield. ¹⁷He also *made* three hundred shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. ¹⁸Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. ¹⁹The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round at the back; *there were* armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests. ²⁰Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like *this* had been made for any *other* kingdom. ²¹All 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. ²²For the king had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys. ²³So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. ²⁴Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. ²⁵Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year. ²⁶And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem. ²⁷The king made silver as *common* in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland. ²⁸Also Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the *current* price. ²⁹Now a chariot that was imported from Egypt cost six hundred *shekels* of silver, and a horse one hundred and fifty; and thus, through their agents, they

exported *them* to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

1. The catalogue of Solomon's wealth

- a. Sol. brought in 666 talents of gold/yr.
 - a1. 2022 value = \$700,800,000
 - a2. Interesting = # of man is 666
 - a3. In addition = what came in via trade & gifts
- b. He made 200 large shields of 600 shekels of gold (240 ounces or 13 ½ lb. each)
 - a1. 2022 prices = \$413,160 per shield
 - a2. Had to be for display (not good for battle)
- c. Made 300 smaller shields of 3 minas (150 shekels)
 - a1. Worth \$94,760 each
 - a2. 200 shields = total of \$82,632,000
 - a3. 300 shields = \$28,800,000
- d. Silver was so common that they were like stones
- e. Horses brought in from Egypt
- f. 1,400 chariots

2. Trek to Jerusalem

- a. Kings & princes came to Jerusalem to hear Sol.'s wisdom & to pay tribute to him
 - a1. They brought elaborate gifts to him
 - a2. Expensive garments, spices, & jewels were laid at Solomon's feet
- b. Sol.'s merchant ships brought him collections of exotic animals, wood, & rare gifts

c. Sol. sat on a throne of ivory overlaid with gold between two carved lions

- a1. 6 steps led up to the throne with each step bordered by carved lions on each side
- a2. No king ever had greater pomp as people approaching Sol. had to look up to him

3. Regal in a cup

- a. Sol.'s glory shone for a moment
 - a1. God gave Sol. his glory via a promise
 - a2. Sol.'s glory was very temporary
 - a3. There is no indication that Sol. credited or glorified God for his glory
 - a4. Sol. collected much wealth for himself
 - a5. There is no indication that Sol. used his vast wealth to help his subjects
 - a6. Even with all the wealth that poured into the kingdom, Sol. put heavy taxes on his subjects to support his vast retinue & projects
- b. Instead of glorifying God for Sol.'s accomplishments his people cursed Solomon for his oppression
- c. Blessings can be hoarded or shared
 - a1. Gifts can be squandered or harnessed
 - a2. Achievement can puff up or humble
- d. The difference between opulence & tastefulness is the difference between indulgence & charity

Solomon's abundance	Sol.'s need
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Solomon's indulgence	charity?
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Solomon's glory	Glory to God
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- e. God's material blessings are to meet obligations, glorify God, passed on as charity, & to enjoy
 - a1. The percentage we spend on each indicates the true nature of our character
 - a2. The more our resources go to enjoyment, the less we glorify God & fewer eternal rewards
- f. When people saw Sol., they saw his glory
- g. When people see us, what do they see?