

Kings and Queens

Queen of Sheba

1 Kings 10:1-12

¹ When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. ² Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³ Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴ When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵ the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

⁶ She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷ But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁸ How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹ Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

¹⁰ And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹¹ (Hiram’s ships brought gold from Ophir; and from there they brought great cargoes of almugwood and precious stones. ¹² The king used the almugwood to make supports for the temple of the LORD and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. So much almugwood has never been imported or seen since that day.)

¹³ King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.

- The French general and Revolutionary war hero, the Marquis de Lafayette, gave John Quincy Adams an alligator—which the President kept in a bathroom in the East Wing of the White House to show to visitors!
- Teddy Roosevelt was given a zebra and a lion from Ethiopia.
- Richard Nixon was given a panda from China.
- George W. Bush was given three-hundred pounds of raw lamb from Argentina! (I don’t know what he did with all that lamb, but that was an interesting gift!)
- During an official visit to the African nation of Mali in 2013, the President of France (then, Francois Oland) was given a camel.

I. I will listen to God's wisdom.

¹When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. ²Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

A. Unpack

1. Vs. 1 The Queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord.
 - a. Solomon has accumulated great wealth.
 - b. He expanded the borders of the kingdom.
 - c. He is famous for his wisdom
 - d. The golden age of Solomon.
 - e. He is importing and exporting goods from all around the known world - this includes to and from Sheba.
2. So she knew about him. She is familiar with him.

I think of Psalm 119

Vs. 2

Blessed are those who seek him with their whole heart

Vs. 36

Incline my heart to your testimonies and not to selfish gain

Vs. 72

The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces

Vs. 103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth

Vs. 127

I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold

Vs. 161

My heart stands in awe of your words. I rejoice at your word like one who finds a great spoil

Question

What kind of efforts are you willing to go to get wisdom?

Illustration

Application

1. Listen to the Wisdom of God and act on it.
2. If you were to ask God to evaluate your life what is something that he would tell you to change.
3. What will you do about it?

How to respond to God's wisdom.

1. Tell someone.
2. Articulate a clear plan.
3. Give yourself a deadline.
4. Do it with zeal and joy.

II. I will look for God's activity.**I Kings 10:4-5**

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- A. Unpack
 1. She saw all the wisdom of Solomon
 2. She saw the palace he had built.
 3. She saw the food on his table
 4. She saw the seating of his officials.
 5. She saw the attending servants in their robes.

6. She saw the cupbearers
7. She saw the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD
8. She was overwhelmed.

ESV - “There was no breath in her”

I will not let the Queen of Sheba outdo me.

I will recognize Jesus Christ as God’s ultimate wisdom

Proverbs 2:2-4

- 2** My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
2 turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
3 indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
4 and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.
6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
7 He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
8 for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.
9 Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair—every good path.
10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
11 Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.
12 Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,
from men whose words are perverse,
13 who have left the straight paths
to walk in dark ways,
14 who delight in doing wrong
and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,

- ¹⁵ whose paths are crooked
and who are devious in their ways.
- ¹⁶ Wisdom will save you also from the adulterous woman,
from the wayward woman with her seductive words,
¹⁷ who has left the partner of her youth
and ignored the covenant she made before God.^[a]
- ¹⁸ Surely her house leads down to death
and her paths to the spirits of the dead.
- ¹⁹ None who go to her return
or attain the paths of life.
- ²⁰ Thus you will walk in the ways of the good
and keep to the paths of the righteous.
- ²¹ For the upright will live in the land,
and the blameless will remain in it;
²² but the wicked will be cut off from the land,
and the unfaithful will be torn from it.

Proverbs 20:5

The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water,
but a man of understanding will draw it out. (ESV)

Proverb 20:5

A person's thoughts are like water in a deep well, but someone with insight can draw them out. (GNT)

- B. Here is what she saw.
1. Sacrificial system
Sin requires blood sacrifice.
Jehovah is worthy of worship.

1 Kings 10:9-10

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in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."

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Application

1. People should see our lives and declare the goodness of God.
2. People should see how we walk, and talk and spend our money and say – that is a life that is devoted to God.

III. **I will pursue Jesus with relentless passion.**
everything I have.

Matthew 12:38-42

³⁸ Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

³⁹ He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.

⁴² The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

I Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

I will seek God's wisdom.

I will search for God's activity.

I will pursue Jesus with relentless passion.