

Apes and Peacocks

The Wisdom of Solomon

What the Queen of Sheba Experienced When She Met Solomon

“Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions, having a very great retinue, camels that bore spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So, Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for Solomon that he could not explain it to her. And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

Then she said to the king: “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However, I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed, the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard. Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on His throne to be king for the Lord your God! Because your God has loved Israel, to establish them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness.” (2 Chronicles 9:1-8)

The Queen of Sheba Became a Believer

“The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed, a greater than Jonah is here. 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.” (Matthew 12:41-42)

1. The men of Nineveh repented at Jonah’s preaching and will one day be in heaven.
2. Jesus tells us, the Queen of Sheba repented when she saw and heard the wisdom of Solomon.
3. Both the inhabitants of Nineveh and the Queen of Sheba were gentiles.

- a. Jesus delighted in telling of the favor of God toward the faith of Gentiles.
 - b. Naaman, widow's son raised by Elijah, one leper who returned, man (Gentiles) will come from the east and west and sit with Abraham.
4. The religious Jews of Jesus' day will not stand on the redeemed side in eternity because they sought redemption through the law, religious legalism.
5. Outside and inside the local church:
- a. The men of Nineveh were saved by one man who traveled to preach repentance to them. This represents evangelism outside the local church.
 - b. The Queen of Sheba came to see Solomon and hear his wisdom. She came to church, heard, and saw the gospel in operation and accepted the Lord. This represents people being saved inside the local church.

Part 2 The Extravagance of Solomon

1. Why did Jesus say Solomon was the wisest man ever next to Him, yet He said David was a man after His own heart, and he was Israel's model King?
2. Why did Jesus not sit on the throne of His wise father, Solomon?

"The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides what the traveling merchants and traders brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon. And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of hammered gold went into each shield. He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold. The throne had six steps, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests. Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

All 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. For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.

So, he reigned over all the kings from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland. And they brought horses to Solomon from Egypt and from all lands.”

“Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years. Then Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.” (2 Chronicles 9:13-28, 30-31)

3. Solomon spent the money of others for his own pursuit of happiness. Ecclesiastes is a depressing book of all Solomon tried looking for happiness.
4. Money and all it could buy did not provide Solomon with peace (Song of Solomon 3:7-8, Ecclesiastes 5:11-13, Philippians 4:7).
 - a. God wants your mind surrounded by one soldier – His most valiant – peace.
 - b. Solomon’s soldiers guarded his body. Ours guard our hearts and minds. Peace is our sentry.

Ecclesiastes: Exhaustive Lists of How Solomon Spent His Money

1. Education – Chapter 1:12-18 and Chapter 3
2. Pleasure, partying – Chapter 2:1-11
3. Working at a job, friends, and popularity – Chapter 4
4. Riches, building projects, libraries, hospitals, offices – Chapters 5 and 6
5. Education, degrees, and sex with 1000 women – Chapter 7

Results of Solomon’s Searching

1. Life is vanity, empty cycles – sun goes up and down, waves come in and out (Chapter 1).
2. Everything has its seasons – born/die, building up/tearing down, making life/killing it, dancing/mourning, etc. (Chapter 3).
3. Solomon became an evolutionist in education (Chapter 3:19-20).
4. His final conclusion:

- a. *“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come...”* (Chapter 12:1).
- b. *“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.”* (Chapter 12:13).
- c. *“For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”* (Chapter 12:14).

Where Did Solomon’s Money Come From?

“The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides what the traveling merchants and traders brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.” (2 Chronicles 9:13-14)

1. Verse 13 – Taxing citizens of Jerusalem and Israel paid for his extravagance.
2. Verse 14 – Business and international traders paid for Solomon’s extravagance.

After Solomon’s Death, Rehoboam Took the Throne

“Then they sent for him and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying, “Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.”

So, he said to them, “Come back to me after three days.” And the people departed.

Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, saying, “How do you advise me to answer these people?”

And they spoke to him, saying, “If you are kind to these people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be your servants forever.” (2 Chronicles 10:3-7)

Rehoboam Rejected the Words of the Elders

“But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. And he said to them, “What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us’?”

Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you should speak to the people who have spoken to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us’—thus you shall say to them: ‘My little finger shall be thicker than my father’s waist! And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!’ ” (2 Chronicles 10:8-11)

He listened to his friends he had known since childhood and taxed the people worse and became wicked to the people of Israel. He eventually caused a national split into ten northern tribes of Israel and the two southern of Judah.

1. Rehoboam wanted to be wealthier and more powerful than his father Solomon.
2. The love of money is never satisfied or has enough money.
3. The love of money can never replace the love of God or bring peace.