

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 10

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

And this evening, we are going to spend a good portion of the evening talking about this encounter that Solomon had with the Queen of Sheba – and we are going to start to see the beginning of his downfall as he begins to drift from the Lord.

Let's pray...

[1Ki 10:1-29 NKJV] 1 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.**

In our study this past Sunday Morning in Romans 1 – we saw that Paul reveals to the believers in Rome – that one of the motives for him going to Rome was that word had gotten to Paul about the reputation of the believers in Rome

That despite living in the pagan capital of the empire –

He heard that they had a strong faith

That they had a vibrant faith – a growing faith

That they had a real genuine faith

So Paul pretty much says – I want to see this faith first hand, I want to meet you guys, I want to minister to you guys and help build you up – and I know you will do the same to me.

In other words – what Paul was saying is – I want to see if your reputation matches your character.

You see – reputation is what others think of us

So having a good reputation is actually a good thing –

[Pro 22:1a NKJV] 1 A [good] name is to be chosen rather than great riches,

[Pro 22:1a NLT] 1 Choose a good reputation over great riches;

But sometimes, people will actually go to great lengths to destroy our reputation.

But character on the other hand is who we really are

Character is what God sees – man sees reputation – God sees character

And so it is important to live our lives where our reputation matches with our character.

So that means that we have to be determined to live our lives above reproach.

So that the lies and accusations and even gossip are proven untrue by our life and by the way we consistently live in Jesus, by His grace.

So as followers of Jesus Christ – His reputation had been given to us.

Now, getting back to the Queen of Sheba –

She heard of the reputation – but don't miss this

She heard of the reputation of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord – meaning that all the wisdom and all the wealth were attributed to the name of the Lord.

She didn't simply hear about what a great guy Solomon was –

She heard about Solomon's testimony in the Lord.

She heard about the Lord through the things that Solomon was doing.

So the fame that was being spread by Solomon's great achievements is really the fame of the Lord.

And I think this is something that should be the goal of any believer –

When we die – we want people to remember what the Lord did in and through our lives.

Sometimes I hear people say – I want to make my mark on this world –

That is not the life of the believer – the life of the believer is for Jesus' name to be marked on the world – not ours.

We want people to know Jesus, see Jesus in what He is doing in and through our lives.

And I think that is exactly what is happening here –

People were going to the Queen of Sheba and saying – what this guy is doing is not normal -there is something extraordinary about him – and the extraordinary thing about him is the Lord.

And so, she comes for herself – she wants to see it with her own eyes.

By the way – scholars argue among themselves where Sheba is – some say modern day Ethiopia and some say modern day Yemen – it would still be a 75 day journey by camel to get there.

And she came to test Solomon with hard questions –

This doesn't mean that she came to Solomon with skepticism in the same way that the Pharisees came to Jesus –

She is coming with question that are hard questions – for her personally.

These are questions that she struggled with.

And one of the things that I have found in my life is that when someone knows that we have godly wisdom – they will come seeking answers to their hard questions.

And that alone is a testimony of God working in our lives –

So this is why we continue to seek godly wisdom.

Turn to Colossians 1

[Col 1:9-10 NKJV] 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [Him], being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

This should be our prayer for one another – that we will be filled with the wisdom of God

That we will be filled with all the knowledge of His will and understanding

So that we can use it in our lives but in the lives of those that come with hard questions.

And we can point them to Jesus –

Because Col 2:3 says concerning Jesus -

[Col 2:3 NKJV] 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The longer we walk with Jesus and the closer we draw to Jesus – the more godly wisdom will fill our lives.

2 She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue (a large amount of people), 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. 3 So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain [it] to her. 4 And when the queen of Sheba **had seen** all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 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.**

In verse one – the queen of Sheba heard about the fame –

And in verse 4 – she saw.

When she came to test, it was evident, not only to her ears but also to her eyes.

She came to Jerusalem with all her gifts and she begins to talk to Solomon

Everything that was in her heart – all the hard questions she had, she asked and Solomon answered using the wisdom that God had given him.

And I had you make a note that after seeing everything – there was no spirit in her.

That means that she was left in awe

She was left speechless.

Remember – she was a queen who had wealth – but what she saw, broke her.

I believe that this is a picture of how it should be as we come face to face with the glory and the splendor and the majesty and the wisdom of the Lord.

Because what we see here is a picture of what it is to come in the presence of God

Because God has blessed him

God has given him these things

God has made these things possible in his life and ultimately we are going to see that the Queen of Sheba recognizes that.

And so, what she is humbled by is not Solomon's riches but God's riches.

And the same thing happens to us when we come before the presence of the Lord – when we look at His word and come face to face with Who He is.

6 Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 "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.

The Queen of Sheba came from a far away land to seek the truth for herself and she found it.

turn your bibles with me to Matt 12

Because Jesus uses that Queen of Sheba as an example

[Mat 12:42 NKJV] 42 "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.

This is what Jesus is doing –

He is drawing a contrast between the Queen of Sheba and the Pharisees and scribes

The Queen of Sheba was a gentile who came from far away seeking the wisdom of King Solomon

The religious rulers -were Jewish and they rejected their True King

8 "Happy [are] your men and happy [are] these your servants, who stand continually before you [and] hear your wisdom! 9 "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." 10 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. 11 Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir. 12 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. 13 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.

The Queen of Sheba recognized that all of Solomon's work was due to the work that the Lord had been doing in his life.

And she recognized that the Lord was blessing the people of Israel through Solomon.

Now, the Queen brought tons of gifts to Solomon as we just read –

But notice that Solomon gave her gifts as well and I had you make a note that what she received was based upon what she asked.

She asked the king for it and he gave it to her.

Hey Solomon – I like that thing there – can I have it? Take it

It was James who writes, "You have not because you ask not"

Didn't Jesus say, **[Mat 7:7-8 NKJV] 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

Queen of Sheba asked Solomon and he gave her what she asked for

We go before a greater King – the King of Kings – who wants us to simply ask

14 The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold,

This is calculated to about 22 tons of gold a year

By the way – how many talents of gold was it? 666

Do you realize that this is the only place in the bible outside Rev 13 that we find this number associated with a person.

The antichrist and Solomon

Now, it could be a coincidence or it could be a foreshadowing to what is going to happen in the life of Solomon from here on out.

Remember, Solomon starts off well – but he doesn't finish well

He is going to start getting into things that are going to have long term effects for all of Israel.

15 besides [that] from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country.

Solomon received more than 666 talents of gold a year. The 666 talents was just his beginning salary.

So we see Solomon's heart now – pursuing wealth

Remember what God had written in the law regarding those that will rule Israel –

Deut 17

nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

Yes, God promised Solomon wealth – but we see Solomon pursue what God had in store for him.

16 And King Solomon made two hundred large shields [of] hammered gold; six hundred [shekels] of gold went into each shield.

Into each of these shields – went 7.5 lbs of gold.

By the way – is it wise to use gold on a shield in battle? No, because gold is heavy and it is soft.

These were decorations – he wants to make the appearance that he is a warrior king.

17 He 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.

These were smaller shields that Solomon had built –

Again more decorations –

Solomon had so much gold – he didn't know what to do with it.

18 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

So here we see how bored Solomon was –

His throne was made of ivory

But ivory wasn't good enough – he had to cover up the ivory with gold.

19 The 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. 20 Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like [this] had been made for any [other] kingdom.

Notice the number 6 keep popping up in the details here.

On one side of his throne – you have six lions, in the middle of his throne you have six steps, and on the other side of his throne you have another six lions.

21 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.

Solomon had so much gold that silver was worthless.

By the way – when we read in Revelation 21

It says that in the New Jerusalem – that gold will be used as asphalt –

What we find of value now – will be worthless then

22 For 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.

Why apes and monkeys – this was entertainment.

23 So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

A few weeks ago – Solomon was known for his tremendous wisdom

But notice the order now – he is known first for his riches and then his wisdom.

Now listen to what Solomon is going to say 20 years later –

I am going to be reading from the NLT -

[Ecc 5:10-12 NLT] 10 Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness! 11 The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what good is wealth--except perhaps to watch it slip through your fingers! 12 People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich seldom get a good night's sleep.

Greed is never satisfied. We can never get enough.

And that is something that Solomon had to find out the hard way.

24 Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. 25 Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year. 26 And 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.

Going back to the warning that God had given those that were to rule over His people – we see Solomon violating the law by multiplying horses to himself.

27 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. 28 Also Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the [current] price. 29 Now 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.

So here at the end of the chapter what we see Solomon doing is – he is buying up these horses at wholesale price and then he is going around and selling the horses to the nations around him at retail price.

Now, some people might say – Solomon was simply keeping the peace through these trade deals.

Or he could make the argument that he wasn't keeping the horses for himself.

But again, the Lord prohibited them from doing this.

You see, a lot of gross sins get covered over with lots of logical reasoning

I did this because....

But in the end, all we are doing is walking in disobedience to the Lord.

Solomon is multiplying gold at this time and he is multiplying horses – next week, we are going to see him multiplying wives

The problem is that ultimately these things will lead him away from God.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'