

## The Queen of Sheba

Matt. 12:42

### Introduction:

1. Most of us are familiar with the account of the life of Solomon as described in 1 Kings chapters 3 and following.
2. We know that he asked for wisdom from God rather than wealth, long life and the destruction of his enemies (1 Kings 3:10ff).
3. We know that the wisdom that he was given by God so impressed the world that the Queen of Sheba was so impressed with what she had heard that she came to visit Solomon and to test him with difficult questions (1 Kings 10:1).
4. Solomon answered all her questions. He explained everything to her. "When she perceived all the wisdom of Solomon . . . there was no more spirit in her" (1 Kings 10:5).
5. She said, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me."
6. She praised the Lord God who had so blessed Solomon.

### Discussion:

- I. I can only imagine the questions that she must have asked Solomon.
  - A. Perhaps her country was in economic turmoil. Maybe the poor were being taken advantage of by the wealthy. Perhaps her people were at enmity with one another. Perhaps there were racial riots and hostilities of every sort. Maybe she wondered just how to govern the people of her country.
  - B. And then there was the kingdom of Solomon.
    1. It has been described as "the Golden Age" of the kingdom of Israel.
    2. Wealth was abundant.
    3. International commerce was booming.
      - a. Gold came from Ophir.
      - b. Ships came from Hiram bringing almu trees and precious stones.
      - c. Horses were imported from Egypt and Kue, chariots from Egypt. These were exported to the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Arameans.
    4. The country was at peace from foreign wars.
    5. The country internally was united.
    6. The temple had been built. Serving the Lord by praying toward the house of God, repentance and confession of sin resulted in forgiveness and God's great blessing (1 Kings 8:31ff).
  - C. I do not know what kind of questions the Queen of Sheba tested Solomon with, but she had heard of his wisdom. She saw the conditions in his kingdom. Based on these evidences and I can reasonably conclude that she came to learn and to institute his wisdom in her kingdom.
  - D. Her recognition of the source of His wisdom is telling (1 Kings 10:7-9).
  - E. In Matt. 12:42 she is commended.

II. To be like the Queen of Sheba should be a goal for all of us.

- A. To observe the results of wisdom.
- B. To then seek out that wisdom.
- C. To acknowledge the source.
- D. To learn and then to use the wisdom.
- E. Can you imagine how such could change our country and the world in which we live?

III. There is a sense in which we live in just such a kingdom.

- A. As the Lord's will is carried out in our families, in the church and in our communities things go well with us.
- B. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people" (Prov. 14:34).
- C. The Lord's church and our families are a microcosm of what the Lord would have the world to be.
  - 1. Unity and Peace.
  - 2. Working together.
  - 3. Benefiting others.
  - 4. Protecting the innocent.
  - 5. Practicing righteousness.
  - 6. In this way we are a light on a hill (Matt. 5:14ff).
  - 7. Our heavenly Father is the model of such leadership (Matt. 5:43ff).

- D. This is what Jesus came on the scene and proclaimed as He preached "the kingdom of God is at hand."
  - 1. This kingdom traces back to the days of David and Solomon.
  - 2. Solomon forsook the way of the Lord and his kingdom deteriorated. That's what we learn in the books of 1, 2 Kings and 1, 2 Chronicles.
  - 3. The establishment of the kingdom of God results in new life.
- E. Some of those of Jesus' day were rejecting this message. That's the reason for Jesus statement in Matt. 12:42.
  - 1. They were asking for a sign.
  - 2. Jesus said the resurrection would be the only sign given.
  - 3. He added, "The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold something greater than Solomon is here."
  - 4. Did you get that? Something greater than Solomon is here. "Oh if we could just experience such a Golden Age as Solomon had!"
  - 5. The kingdom of God is greater than Solomon. The question is will we hear its message? Note Matt. 13:1ff.
  - 6. Are we so blind that we study the Scriptures and yet do not understand what the Lord is offering us? Do we not understand what we have? Do we let the world creep into our family and into the church, and into our thinking and blind us to what the Lord has for us? Even the Queen of Sheba could see the results of the wisdom of

Solomon. She sought out that wisdom. She praised the God of Solomon. She would have been a fool had she not taken back some of that wisdom to her country and implemented in her rule. Such a foolish approach would not be consistent with the way she is presented in Scripture. I would love to know about the history of her country after her contact with Solomon. But something greater than Solomon is here!

Conclusion:

1. In your personal life seek out the wisdom of God.
2. In your family life seek out the wisdom of God.
3. In your life and interactions with other Christians, in the church, seek out the wisdom of God.
4. In your life in your community, in your government, in the world, seek out the wisdom of God.
5. The Queen of Sheba—we do not know her name, but we do know she was smart enough to come from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and something greater than Solomon is available to us!!