

The Fame of Israel's King

1 Kings 10:1-13 // 2 Chronicles 9:1-12

INTRODUCTION

1. The story of Solomon and the queen of Sheba.

- Solomon was the 3rd King of Israel (son of King David).
- God gave Solomon more wisdom and wealth than all other rulers in his day. 1 Ki 3:10-14

2. The OT is intended to be understood by looking through the lens of the NT. Luke 24:27 I.e., 'Christo-centric'

- Augustine: "The New Testament is in the old concealed; the Old Testament is in the New revealed."

3. The NT gives indicators for how we are to understand the story of Solomon and the queen of Sheba.

- Matthew 2; Colossians 2:3; Jesus: Something greater than Solomon is here! Mt 12:42; Lk 11:31

THE KING'S FAME IN A FAR-AWAY LAND. v.1-5

1. The queen HEARD about the fame of Solomon—and his God. v.1

- She heard about Solomon concerning the name of the LORD.

2. The queen CAME to Solomon's city. v.2a

- The queen desired to see it for herself—and brought with her a great entourage.

3. The queen CONFIDED in Solomon and asked him questions. v.2b-3

- (NASB) "...she spoke with him about all that was in her heart."

4. The queen SAW (her eyes were opened to) the greatness of King Solomon. v.4-5a

- She saw his wisdom, house, food, his servants, waiters, their attire, and cupbearers.
- Solomon's daily provision: 300 bushels of flour, 600 bushels of meal, 30 oxen, 100 sheep + more! 1 Ki 4:22-23

5. The queen 'lost her breath' at the sight of it all. v.5b

- NASB: "there was no more spirit in her"

THE QUEEN'S RESPONSE TO THE KING. v.6-13

1. Testimony: It was true! v.6

2. Belief: I did not believe until I came and saw firsthand! v.7a

3. Exaltation: You are greater than I realized! v.7b (Lordship)

4. Recognition of the King's people: Your people are blessed! v.8 (The Church)

- Happy are your servants! (They have a special relationship with the King. They stand in His presence.)
- Happy are those who hear your wisdom. (They hear from the King—through His Word. E.g., Ps. 1)

5. Worship: Blessed be the LORD your God. v.9

- His plan to put the King on the throne. His love for His people. His character of justice and righteousness

6. Offering: You deserve my most valuable gifts! v.10 (1 talent = 75 lbs.)

- The gifts were used to support the house of the LORD (the temple). v.11-12
- The gifts were used to support worship of the LORD. v. 12 (harps & lyres for the singers)

7. Mission: The queen went back to her own land. v.13 Rf. v.1, 6, 13 (Do you think she remained quiet?)

- Equipped with the king's royal bounty (customary gifts).

APPLICATION

1. Your repentance and faith.

- In what context did Jesus refer to this story in the New Testament? Luke 11:31-32

2. Your daily worship. Every morning you as 'the Queen of Sheba' should go to the King and be amazed at His fame, riches, power, and glory. Be amazed at the riches of his grace.

- Ephesians 1:7: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.
- Ephesians 2:7: ...so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

→ Ask the LORD for a Queen of Sheba experience: for a greater view of King Jesus, His Kingdom, His rule, His glory!

3. Your daily witness and your assignment to reach the nations of the world. Eph 3:8; Romans 10:14-15

- This story is a picture of world missions, and its effect on the queen of Sheba.
- Praise God some nameless person went to Sheba and spread the word about a Great King in another land!