

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

1 KINGS 10:1-13

10:1, "When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame that Solomon had gained through the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions.

--- This queen understood that Solomon had attained his famous wisdom "by the name of Jehovah." James 3:17, "But the wisdom that is from on high is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, full of mercy and good fruit, without uncertainty or hypocrisy." James 1:5, "And if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

--- Colossians 1:9, 10, "Wherefore we also, from the day we heard it, have not ceased to pray for you, and to ask that ye may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding ..." That is, "intelligence received from God."

--- We emphasize this because so many religious people do not trust in the wisdom of God, the wisdom of the Scriptures, but in the wisdom of man.

--- 1 Corinthians 1:19, 20, "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the understanding of the understanding. 20Where is the wise man, where is the scribe, where is the disputant of this world? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?"

--- The Queen of Sheba knew the difference and chose God's wisdom.

--- 1 Kings 10:2, "And she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels laden with spices, and gold in great abundance, and precious stones..."

--- The Queen of Sheba thought that Solomon's wisdom was of great value, and she was willing to pay a very high price. We should all have the same attitude. We must be willing to "pay the price" to obtain the treasure of divine wisdom by devoting much time to Bible study.

--- Acts 17:11, "And these (the Bereans) were nobler than those who were in Thessalonica, for they received the word with all eagerness, searching the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so."

--- 10:2 And when she came to Solomon, he exposed to her all that was in her heart."

--- She came in all sincerity to hear Solomon's answers and explanations to her "hard questions." Every day when we search the scriptures, we should do so "from the heart," that is, with all sincerity. Many times what we believe and practice do not match what we find in Scripture and we are tempted to stick with our beliefs and practices instead of humbling ourselves and accepting God's wisdom.

--- 10:3, "And Solomon answered all her questions, and there was nothing that the king did not answer."

--- What a good example Solomon set for us. There are so many "hard questions" in the minds of thousands of religious people. There is all kinds of confusion caused by false teachers. It is in our best interest to have Bible studies in homes and ask each person to open his or her own Bible to see how God answers their "hard questions," doubts, erroneous beliefs, etc.

--- She wanted to know the answers to her "hard questions" to be well prepared as Queen of Sheba. No doubt many women mentioned in the Bible had the same attitude. For example, Deborah who ruled as one of the judges.

--- In such studies the salvation of the hearers is at stake. We urgently need to be well prepared to teach, exhort, admonish, and rebuke with Scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17so that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

10:9, "The Lord your God be blessed, who was pleased with you to put you on the throne of Israel; for the LORD has always loved Israel, He has made you king, that you may do justice and righteousness."

--- The Queen of Sheba recognized that Solomon's wisdom was given to him by God and she expresses her personal devotion to God, and this is indeed our purpose in preaching and teaching the gospel. We want to convince everyone that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

MANY LESSONS:

FOR WOMEN:

--- The wife and mother is "Queen of the Home."

--- 1 Timothy 5:14, "I want young widows to marry, to bring up children, to rule their household; let them not give the adversary any occasion of slander." A woman is subject to her husband (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:23), but she rules his house in her role as wife and mother.

--- Titus 2:3-5, "Let the older women also be reverent in their bearings; not slanderers, not slaves of wine, teachers of goodness; 4 That they teach young women to love their husbands and their children, 5 to be prudent, chaste, caretakers of their home, good, subject to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be blasphemed."

... Wives of elders, preachers, deacons. 1 Timothy 3:11, "Let women also be honest, not slanderers, but sober, faithful in all things." This exhortation comes after the instruction for deacons.

- FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.
- --- TO OBEY THE TEXTS "ONE ANOTHER" -- ENCOURAGE ... ADMONISH... ANIMATE... EXHORT... STIMULATE... SERVE.
- TO SAVE SOULS, 1 TIMOTHY 3:15

WHAT WISDOM WILL DO IN OUR LIVES

--- *Above all, "thou shalt find favor and good opinion in the sight of God and man" (Prov. 3:4). For he that finds me shall find life, and obtain the favor of the Lord" (Prov. 8:35). God's favor brings us manifold blessings in this life and eternal life if we are faithful unto death.*

--- Blessings galore - Prov. 3:13; 8:32-34.

--- *"His ways are delightful ways" (Prov. 3:17). Satan deceives men into thinking that sin is the way to joy and happiness. Hebrews 11:24, 25 teaches that sin may be pleasurable, but it is short-lived, and then without fail, one must suffer the consequences of sin. The wise man understands that lasting joy is found in obedience to God's Word.*

--- *"And all its paths peace" (Proverbs 3:17). Disobedience results in sorrow and suffering (Prov. 1:29-33; 2:22; 3:33; 5:22-23). For example, a life of sexual immorality results in venereal disease, aids, unwanted pregnancy, shotgun weddings, etc. Drunkenness leaves a person in pure misery. But those who lead lives obedient to the Lord "will dwell confidently and live quietly, without fear of evil" (Prov. 1:33).*

--- *Wisdom will guide us in good paths. Prov. 6:20-23, "Keep, my son, the commandment of thy father, and forsake not thy mother's teaching; Bind them always in your heart, bind them around your neck. They will guide you when you walk; when you sleep, they will keep you; They'll talk to you when you wake up.²³ For the commandment is a lamp, and teaching is light, and the way of life is the rebukes that instruct you." Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path." God's Word instructs us to lead prudent, judicious lives full of blessings.*

--- *It gives us security. Prov. 1:33, "He that hearkeneth unto me shall dwell with confidence." Prov. 2:7, 8, "He provides sound wisdom for the righteous; It is a shield to those who walk uprightly.⁸ He is he who keeps the paths of judgment, and preserves the way of his saints." Prov. 2:11, "Discretion will keep you; It will preserve your intelligence." Prov. 3:23-26, "Then shalt thou walk in thy way with confidence, and thy foot shall not stumble.²⁴ When you*

lie down, you will not be afraid, but you will lie down, and your sleep will be pleasant. ²⁵ Thou shalt not fear sudden dread, nor of the ruin of the wicked when it comes, ²⁶ For the LORD shall be thy trust, and he shall preserve thy foot from being imprisoned." Prov. 4:6, 11-13; 6:22. Those who walk with the wisdom that God gives us in His Word avoid all kinds of temptations, pitfalls, and dangers along the way.

--- *Wisdom gives a long and prosperous life.* Prov. 3:2, "For the length of days and years of life and peace shall increase thee." Prov. 3:16, "The length of days is in his right hand; On his left, riches and honor." Those who live according to God's Word avoid many things that shorten life.

--- *Wisdom teaches you to avoid bad company* (1 Cor. 15:33). Prov. 2:10-15, the evil influence of worldly men; Prov. 2:16-19, the evil influence of worldly women.

--- **Riches** - Prov. 3:16; Isaiah 8:21.

--- **Honor** - Prov. 4:5-9; 8:18, 19.

--- **Power** - the power of wisdom is seen in Prov. 3:19-20; 8:14-16.

How can we become wise?

A. Listening to the counsel of the wise.

1. Listening to parents - Prov. 4:1-5.

2. Listening to those who have wisdom from above - James 3:17.

3. We conclude that Elihu spoke the truth when he said that all old men do not have wisdom - Job. 32:4-9.

B. Searching God's Word - Prov. 2:3-6; Acts 17:11.

C. Asking for wisdom in prayer - Jas. 1:5.

D. Being in Christ "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" - Col. 2:3.

VI. Who Are the Unwise?

To. The envious and contentious - James 3:14-16.

B. Those Who Do Not Fear God - Prov. 1:7; Ps. 111:10.

C. Those who are wise in their own eyes - Prov. 3:7; Rom. 12:16

**THE FOOL DOES NOT MAKE RIGHT USE OF THE INTELLIGENCE
THAT GOD GIVES US
HE SPEAKS AND ACTS AS IF HE HAS NO MIND.**

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