

The Queen and Her Questions 1 Kings 10

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The Queen of Sheba's visit to the kingdom of Solomon (recorded in 1 Kings 10) is an account filled with many spiritual lessons for the follower of Christ. Not only was it affirmed by the Lord when He referred to her as the Queen of the South (Matt 12:42) but it also furnishes us with many reminders – valuable reminders relating to the Person and Work of Christ. Whether she came from modern day country of Ethiopia, or Yemen could easily be debated. However, one thing is for certain – she came from a great distance with a very great retinue as described in verse two. When she finally arrived, she was absolutely astounded. This king and the kingdom he ruled over were far greater and more glorious than she had ever expected. Her response after her arrival has remarkable parallels in the Gospel with our glorious Savior who has an even greater glory than that of Solomon.

Her Investigation

One of the first parallels we see is her determination to act upon the news she had received. Obviously, someone had been talking about Solomon and his fame in the Lord. It was enough to pique her interest and cause her to make this long and arduous journey. Whether it was just one person or many, somehow, some way, she heard the news about him that made her feel it would be worth her while to take this lengthy journey. She was determined to find out for herself about this person whom people had been talking about. This fact alone reminds us that there are many people who, upon hearing of the claims of Christ, are stirred in their spirits to find out more about Him. Some are not the least bit stirred, but thankfully some are. First Peter 3:15 reminds us that there are those who ask believers for the reason of hope that lies within them. There are those who take the initiative to begin the conversation of spiritual things with believers. When a person is under divine conviction through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the faithful witness of a believer, they will demonstrate their genuine interest despite the hardships that might block their path. For the Queen of Sheba, it was a great distance that she overcame; for the seeking sinner, it could be any number of obstacles which stand in the way but are overcome with God's help. As the prophet Jeremiah affirmed: "*you shall find Me when you seek for Me with all your heart*" (Jer. 29:13).

Her Motivation

What was this queen's motivation in visiting Solomon? Simply put, it was to see if indeed he was the person people said he was. It was to prove him with some hard questions that she needed answered. Even though she was probably surrounded by wise men in her own kingdom, there were still some tough questions that apparently had remained unanswered. Even today, there are many who may be surrounded by the world's "wisdom", but they still have many questions – tough questions – that remain unanswered and require solid, answers that can only be found in Christ, in Whom are hidden all the "*treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (Col. 2:3). The fact that Solomon was able to adequately answer the queen and her questions, accentuates the picture it presents of Christ who will do the same for the seeking sinner. Further, the fact that she had a very great retinue with riches in abundance only underscores the truth that money does not satisfy the deepest longings of the heart.

Her Observation

Upon witnessing the wisdom of Solomon firsthand (v. 4), the Queen of Sheba makes a startling observation. She notices how well provided for the subjects of his kingdom are. She stands in awe as she sees the food on his table, the seating of his servants, his waiters, his cupbearers, and the clothing they wore. Even the ascent or entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord (v. 5) greatly impresses her. All this literally takes her

breath away. It is a clear reminder that believers are a “*spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men*”, (1 Cor. 4:9) and that they are being watched by a much larger audience. What others see in our walk will shape their conclusions about our faith whether good or bad. All the more should we heed the Scripture, “*So let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven*” (Matt. 5:16).

Her Declaration

As a result of this chain of events, the Queen of Sheba openly declares that it was a true report that she had heard in her own land and. It was beyond what she had expected (v.7). She notices how happy his men were and the servants who continually stood before him. All of this speaks of the glories of our great King, the Lord Himself who provides abundantly for His people and produces in them a gratitude that they belong to such a kingdom (Col. 1:13), privileged to serve such a great King. The parallels are amazing as one thinks through the blessings of serving Him who went one step further – loving us and giving Himself for us (Gal. 2:20).

Her Capitulation

Enriched by her visit, she acknowledges his greatness and subsequently agrees to the glory of this great king. He gives to her from his royal bounty, far more than what she started with. This certainly is the testimony of everyone who comes to faith in Christ (2 Cor. 9:11). She returns home far richer and more blessed than when she first arrived. It takes me back to my own life as a young teen of seventeen years of age who when invited to a local church in my hometown. I too, made my observations of the congregation I was introduced to. Based on what I saw in that local assembly, I also was moved to say I have never seen anything like it previously – friendly, cordial people representing their King well through their attitudes and actions. Like CS Lewis in his spiritual biography, I was also ‘Surprised by Joy’ as was the Queen of Sheba when she came to the kingdom of Solomon. This is the testimony of everyone who makes the effort to come to Him.

The visit of the Queen of Sheba and the questions she had answered by this great king forever changed her life. Her testimony is telling – “*However, I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes*” (v. 7). Had she not acted on what she had heard, she would have never known the grandeur of this kingdom and the King who ruled over it. She was far richer as a result. For any reader of these words, who likewise heard about our great King – Christ – you too, will be richer if you too act on what you have heard. Be sure to follow in the steps of this queen and make the journey to see for yourself if His kingdom is not even greater than what you realized. You will never regret doing so and will be richer and wiser for it.

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And is it so! I shall be like Thy Son? Is this the grace which He for me has won?
Father of glory—thought beyond all thought! In glory, to His own blest likeness brought!

Oh, Jesus, Lord, who loved me like to Thee? Fruit of Thy work, with Thee, too, there to see
Thy glory, Lord, while endless ages roll, Myself the prize and travail of Thy soul.

Yet it must be: Thy love had not its rest Were Thy redeemed not with Thee fully blest;
That love that gives not as the world, but shares All it possesses with its loved co-heirs.

Nor I alone; Thy loved ones, all complete In glory, round Thee there with joy shall meet
All like Thee, for Thy glory like Thee, Lord, Object supreme of all, by all adored. – J N Darby

