

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 KINGS 10

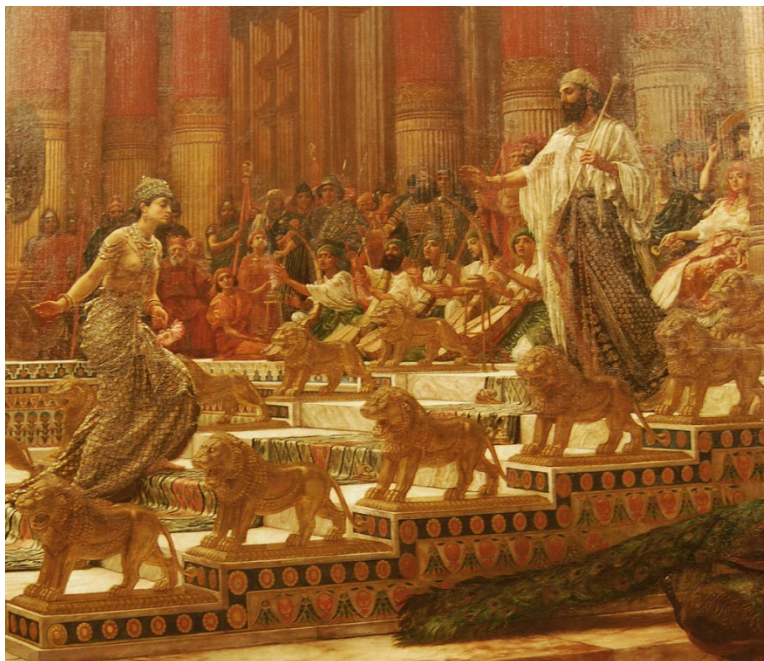


1 KINGS 10:1-3 - QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON

SHEBA - MOST LOCATE SHEBA IN SOUTHERN ARABIA, PRESENT DAY YEMEN, OVER 1,000 MILES BELOW JERUSALEM

1 KINGS 10:4-9 - QUEEN OF SHEBA'S RESPONSE

V. 5 - NAB: "BREATHLESS"



1 KINGS 10:10-13 - QUEEN OF SHEBA'S GIFTS

1 KINGS 10:14-22 - WEALTH OF ISRAEL DURING SOLOMON'S REIGN

V. 14 - 20-25 TONS OF GOLD PER YEAR - APPROX. \$905.12
BILLION - PER YEAR BASED ON TODAY'S RATES

V. 18-19 - SOLOMON'S THRONE

1 KINGS 10:23-29 - THE GREATNESS OF SOLOMON

V. 23-24 - FORESHADOW TO MESSIANIC AGE

MICAH 4:1-5 - AND IT WILL COME ABOUT IN THE LAST DAYS THAT THE MOUNTAIN OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD WILL BE ESTABLISHED AS THE CHIEF OF THE MOUNTAINS. IT WILL BE RAISED ABOVE THE HILLS, AND THE PEOPLES WILL STREAM TO IT. 2 MANY NATIONS WILL COME AND SAY, "COME AND LET US GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD AND TO THE HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB, THAT HE MAY TEACH US ABOUT HIS WAYS AND THAT WE MAY WALK IN HIS PATHS." FOR FROM ZION WILL GO FORTH THE LAW, EVEN THE WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM. 3 AND HE WILL JUDGE BETWEEN MANY PEOPLES AND RENDER DECISIONS FOR MIGHTY, DISTANT NATIONS. THEN THEY WILL HAMMER THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS; NATION WILL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, AND NEVER AGAIN WILL THEY TRAIN FOR WAR. 4 EACH OF THEM WILL SIT UNDER HIS VINE AND UNDER HIS FIG TREE, WITH NO ONE TO MAKE THEM AFRAID, FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD OF HOSTS HAS SPOKEN. 5 THOUGH ALL THE PEOPLES WALK EACH IN THE NAME OF HIS GOD, AS FOR US, WE WILL WALK IN THE NAME OF THE LORD OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER.

THIS RECORD IS SIGNIFICANT NOT ONLY FOR THE PICTURE IT GIVES US OF SOLOMON'S KINGDOM AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE MESSIANIC RULE OF JESUS, BUT ALSO FOR HOW IT SPEAKS TO GOD'S LOVE AND OPENNESS TO THE ENTIRE WORLD. DALE RALPH DAVIS REMARKS:

"...THIS IS NOT MERELY A MATTER OF GRASPING A BIBLICAL CONCEPT; IT IS OUR VERY HOPE. MOST OF US READING THESE PASSAGES ARE PROBABLY NOT ETHNIC ISRAELITES; HENCE HOW OUGHT WE TO LAY HOLD OF THIS PICTURE OF GENTILES BEING DRAWN TO THE COVENANT KINGDOM? BY RIGHTS WE HAVE NO CLAIM TO IT, NO PLACE TO STAND IN IT...THAT IS THE SENSE WE MUST HAVE AS GENTILES READING OUT HEBREW BIBLE (AND THIS RECORD OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA): LOOK AT THAT! GENTILES COMING TO JERUSALEM. IT MUST BE POSSIBLE. ISN'T GRACE GRAND?" ("FOCUS ON THE BIBLE: 1 KINGS", PAGE 107)

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EVENT IN OTHER PLACES:

PSALM 72 IS TITLED AS "A PSALM OF SOLOMON" WHICH IMPLIES EITHER SOLOMON AS IT'S AUTHOR OR PERHAPS IT IS A PRAYER OF DAVID FOR SOLOMON. IT IS LIKELY IN EITHER CASE THAT IT WOULD BE DATED AT THE BEGINNING OF SOLOMON'S REIGN (OR END OF DAVID'S). IT IS A PSALM OF PRAISE AND A PRAYER REQUESTING THE LORD'S FAVOR AND WISDOM UPON SOLOMON. THE CENTER OF THE PSALM CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PLEA:

PSALM 72:8-11, 15 - MAY HE HAVE DOMINION FROM SEA TO SEA, AND FROM THE RIVER TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH! 9 MAY HIS FOES BOW DOWN BEFORE HIM, AND HIS ENEMIES LICK THE DUST! 10 MAY THE KINGS OF TARSHISH AND OF THE ISLES RENDER HIM TRIBUTE, MAY THE KINGS OF SHEBA AND SEBA BRING GIFTS! 11 MAY ALL KINGS FALL DOWN BEFORE HIM, ALL NATIONS SERVE HIM!

15 LONG MAY HE LIVE, MAY GOLD OF SHEBA BE GIVEN TO HIM! MAY PRAYER BE MADE FOR HIM CONTINUALLY, AND BLESSINGS INVOKED FOR HIM ALL THE DAY!

JESUS' MENTION IN GOSPELS

MATTHEW 12:42 (NASB) - "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.

LUKE 11:31 (NLT) - "THE QUEEN OF SHEBA WILL STAND UP AGAINST THIS GENERATION ON JUDGMENT DAY AND CONDEMN IT, FOR SHE CAME FROM A DISTANT LAND TO HEAR THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON. NOW SOMEONE GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE-- BUT YOU REFUSE TO LISTEN.

JESUS USES THIS EXAMPLE TO ILLUSTRATE THAT THE GREAT QUEEN OF SHEBA CAME TO SOLOMON AND HEARD WHAT HE SAID AND RECOGNIZED GOD BEHIND HIS WORDS. AND NOW COMING TO ISRAEL, WAS SOMEONE GREATER THAN SOLOMON - AND YET GOD'S PEOPLE WERE NOT HEARING GOD'S VOICE THROUGH HIS SON. NOT GOOD. GENTILE QUEEN OF SHEBA IS GOING TO HAVE A MORE FAVORABLE SPOT ON JUDGMENT DAY THAN THE "CHOSEN PEOPLE" AS A RESULT.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA PRAISED AND GLORIFIED THE LORD BECAUSE OF HER INTERACTION WITH SOLOMON. THIS IS A COOL EXAMPLE FOR US. MAY GOD'S BLESSING ON OUR LIVES GLORIFY HIM! WHEN GOD DOES GOOD TO HIS PEOPLE - IT IS DESIGNED FOR US TO REJOICE IN HIS LOVE AND KINDNESS BUT ALSO REFLECT HIS BLESSING TO THE WORLD SO THAT THEY MAY SEE HOW GOOD HE IS! WHEN THE WORLD COMES TO OUR HOMES, INTERACTS WITH OUR FAMILIES, SEES OUR LIVES, WHAT DO THEY SAY?

HOWEVER WONDERFUL THIS STORY IS, THERE ARE HINTS OF DARKER CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON...

DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20 - GOD'S CHARGE FOR ISRAEL'S KING

WHAT LOOKS LIKE ON THE OUTSIDE IS NOT THE SAME AS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE ON THE INSIDE. WE OBSERVE THE GREATNESS OF SOLOMON - FIRST HIS HUMILITY AND WISDOM, THEN HIS DESIRE TO SEEK THE LORD AND WORSHIP HIM, AND NOW WE HEAR OF HIS GREATNESS. AND WHILE GOD IS IN THE MIX AND USING THE GREATNESS OF HIS ANOINTED KING TO BRING HIMSELF GLORY - SOLOMON IS ATOP A HILL WITH A VERY SLIPPERY SLOPE. AND WHEN WE SIT ATOP THAT SORT OF HILL, IT'S VERY EASY TO FALL.

YOU MAY HAVE YOUR SPOUSE FOOLED. YOU MAY HAVE YOUR CHILDREN FOOLED. YOU MAY HAVE YOUR CHURCH FOOLED. YOU MAY HAVE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU FOOLED. YOU MAY HAVE MATERIAL ABUNDANCE AND THE APPEARANCE OF GOD'S BLESSING UPON YOUR LIFE. YOU MAY ATTEND THE WORSHIP GATHERINGS OF THE WEEK. YOU MAY HAVE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE YOUR TALENTS AND INSIGHT. BUT THE PROMISE OF GOD REMAINS SURE:

GALATIANS 6:7 - DO NOT BE DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED; FOR WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THIS HE WILL ALSO REAP.

AND THE FINAL WORDS OF SAMUEL TO SAUL RESONATE AT THIS MOMENT:

1 SAMUEL 15:22-23 (ESV) - AND SAMUEL SAID, "HAS THE LORD AS GREAT DELIGHT IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES, AS IN OBEYING THE VOICE OF THE LORD? BEHOLD, TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE, AND TO LISTEN THAN THE FAT OF RAMS. 23 FOR REBELLION IS AS THE SIN OF DIVINATION, AND PRESUMPTION IS AS INIQUITY AND IDOLATRY. BECAUSE YOU HAVE REJECTED THE WORD OF THE LORD, HE HAS ALSO REJECTED YOU FROM BEING KING."

GOD WANTS OUR HEARTS NOT JUST OUR OUTWARD ACTIONS. GOD WANTS GENUINE FAITH NOT JUST EMPTY GESTURES. THIS IS THE COVENANT HE DESIRES TO MAKE AND KEEP WITH HIS PEOPLE. THE LORD IS NOT LIKE THE IDOLS OF THE NATIONS - HE IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD. AND AS SUCH, HE IS ALIVE - NOT A DEAD PILLAR OR FROZEN SCULPTURE. RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM IS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, BUT HIS ULTIMATE AIM.

SOLOMON WILL BEGIN TO FORGET THIS, ALLOWING OTHER THINGS TO SWAY HIS HEART AND MIND. HE WILL BEGIN A LIFELONG JOURNEY TO DISCOVER THE MEANING OF LIFE. IT WILL ONLY BE IF AND WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE LORD WITH WHOLE HEART THAT HE WILL FIND THAT HE ALREADY KNEW WHAT LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT - LIVING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD