

SHARE GOD'S WISDOM

CORE PASSAGE: 1 KINGS 10:1-10

CONTEXT

When the Lord gave Solomon the opportunity to ask for anything of Him, Solomon humbly requested wisdom. This pleased the Lord, who also blessed Solomon with great wealth and honor. News of Solomon's wealth, renown, and especially his wisdom spread among the nations surrounding Israel, and emissaries were sent from those nations to listen to and learn from Solomon's great wisdom. The queen of Sheba—modern-day Ethiopia or Yemen—was one who came to Jerusalem to see for herself if what she had heard about King Solomon was true.

KEY CONCEPT

Sharing God's wisdom points people to Him.

As you read 1 Kings 10:1-10:

- Consider that as believers, we always have opportunities to share godly wisdom with others.
- Recognize that as we live out our faith, God's love should be seen by others who don't yet know Him.



TIMELINE

Solomon Becomes King upon David's Death (1 Kings 1-2)

Solomon Wrote Numerous Proverbs
and Songs (1 Kings 4)

SESSION STUDY: The Queen of Sheba Visits
Solomon to Observe His Wisdom (1 Kings 10)

Solomon Asks the Lord for Wisdom
(1 Kings 3)

Solomon Builds the Temple
and His Palace (1 Kings 5-9)

Solomon's Foolish Idolatry Divides the Kingdom (1 Kings 11-12)

Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** 1 Kings 9:10-28

☐ **Day 4:** 1 Kings 10:14-29

☐ **Day 2:** 2 Chronicles 8:1-18

☐ **Day 5:** 2 Chronicles 9:1-28

☐ **Day 3:** 1 Kings 10:1-13

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 67



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Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

1 KINGS 10:1-7

GOD GIVES US WISDOM TO SHARE WITH OTHERS TO POINT TO HIMSELF.

Underline the queen of Sheba's purpose and conclusion in this passage.

1 The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame connected with the name of the LORD and came to test him with difficult questions. **2** She came to Jerusalem with a very large entourage, with camels bearing spices, gold in great abundance, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and spoke to him about everything that was on her mind. **3** So Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for the king to explain to her. **4** When the queen of Sheba observed all of Solomon's wisdom, the palace he had built, **5** the food at his table, his servants' residence, his attendants' service and their attire, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he offered at the LORD's temple, it took her breath away. **6** She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your words and about your wisdom is true. **7** But I didn't believe the reports until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, I was not even told half. Your wisdom and prosperity far exceed the report I heard."

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

EVANGELISM: It is the duty and privilege of every Christian and of every church of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. The new birth by the Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort thus rests upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in Christ's teaching. Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle.

The nation of Sheba likely was a polytheistic kingdom that worshiped multiple gods with dominions over specific parts of life or locations. Yet the queen of Sheba heard of the Lord's name in Israel because of Solomon's fame, and this intrigued her and drew her to visit Solomon in Jerusalem. She probably didn't come to worship the Lord, if she even believed in His existence, but she came to "test" Solomon, and that would reveal the truth of the Lord.

The queen, like all humanity, had access to general revelation, God's self-disclosure to all people through creation and human conscience (Romans 1:18-25). But as with all humanity, our sinful nature twists this creation revelation into something we worship in place of the Creator. Therefore, all humanity stands before the Lord without excuse for their rejection of Him. But the Lord has also provided special revelation, His self-disclosure through His Word to all readers, which culminates in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, for our forgiveness and salvation from sin (Romans 10:9-15). Solomon's wisdom served as a special revelation of God to Israel and the nations, including the queen of Sheba.

What are some ways you can incorporate the good news of Jesus in your everyday conversations?

For the queen of Sheba, the clear evidence of God's favor in Solomon's life "took her breath away" (1 Kings 10:5). This was significant considering how wealthy she and her kingdom were based on her entourage and presentation upon arriving in Jerusalem (v. 2). But keeping in mind that she came to test Solomon, the wisdom the king showed in answering her questions was as breathtaking or more so than the evidence of his wealth (vv. 1-7).

Imagine having a friend or professional counselor who could explain and answer everything on your mind. What would your response be? Awe, respect, maybe even willing submission to whatever they say. But above all, we would wonder at the source of their wisdom. How could we not, for such wisdom cannot have an earthly origin. God's wisdom gifted to Solomon amazed the queen of Sheba. But God had an even greater gift in store for the world.

How can you grow in your understanding of godly wisdom to help point others to Jesus?



PERSONAL PREPARATION

1 KINGS 10:8-10

OUR JOY AND BLESSINGS SHOULD LEAD OTHERS TO KNOW OF GOD.

Underline the reasons the queen of Sheba blessed the Lord.

8 “How happy are your men. How happy are these servants of yours, who always stand in your presence hearing your wisdom. **9** Blessed be the LORD your God! He delighted in you and put you on the throne of Israel, because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel. He has made you king to carry out justice and righteousness.” **10** Then she gave the king four and a half tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again did such a quantity of spices arrive as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Sharing godly wisdom should lead to sharing about God and ultimately Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to save the world.

Our joy as followers of Christ should be contagious and point others to God. Solomon's wisdom and wealth led the queen of Sheba to acknowledge God's faithfulness to him, but the benefits of God's favor toward Solomon also trickled down to his household. Solomon's wisdom and joy in the Lord were so contagious to those around him that the queen marveled at the results. Solomon's servants benefited from the physical comforts of his great wealth (vv. 4-5), but the queen recognized that they were joyful because they stood in the presence of Solomon's godly wisdom each day (v. 8).

The queen, who had come to Israel with a great entourage and a magnificent display of her own wealth (v. 2), was so moved by her encounter with Solomon that she felt compelled to contribute to his blessings. In addition to gold and stones, she presented Solomon with the largest gift of spices in Israel's history (v. 10). Even through those like the queen of Sheba who didn't exclusively worship the one true God, the Lord continued to bless Solomon.

Why might we be tempted to prioritize wealth over the gift of God's wisdom?

When Solomon dedicated the temple, he understood that the greatness of God's name and His glory would reach the ears of foreigners from distant lands, who would then come to the temple in Jerusalem to worship. Solomon said, "[M]ay you hear in heaven, your dwelling place, and do according to all the foreigner asks. Then all peoples of earth will know your name, to fear you as your people Israel do" (8:43). The queen of Sheba came to pick Solomon's brain and determine if he was as wise as everyone said he was. Based on her conclusion, she blessed "the LORD"—notably, not Solomon—recognizing that Solomon's wisdom was for the benefit of all of God's people (10:9).

Sadly, a time came when Solomon forsook the Lord and His wisdom to pursue other gods and idols (1 Kings 11). This came with steep consequences for Solomon and Israel, but this sinful turn for the king ultimately revealed that Solomon was not the eternal king promised to David. Someone greater than Solomon, for all his wisdom, was needed (Matthew 12:42). That someone is the perfect Son of David, the embodiment of the wisdom of God so that we might know the Lord fully, and His name is Jesus.

How has the Lord blessed you so that you can make the name of Jesus known in the world?

WHAT THE QUEEN DISCOVERED

Read 1 Kings 10:1-10. Reflect on the ideas and results the queen of Sheba and Solomon had before and after their meeting.

PRE-MEETING

POST-MEETING

QUEEN OF SHEBA

KING SOLOMON

Whenever you are solicited for advice, a reference, a donation, or hospitality, how can you use it as an opportunity to point someone to Christ?

Key Concept: Sharing God's wisdom points people to Him.



HEAD

Why do we often prefer material blessings over spiritual ones?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

As you read and pray Psalm 67, notice the reason for God's blessing of His people. Ask the Lord to reorient your heart and mind to view His blessings as a way of pointing others to Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HEART

How should we respond when the Lord blesses us in any way?



HANDS

What opportunities do you see ahead of you this week to share godly wisdom or have spiritual conversations with others?

