

The Queen of the South: Seeker Of Wisdom

Read 1 Kings 10:1-3

The queen of Sheba is referred to in Matthew 12:42 as the Queen of the South, “The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.”

The Queen’s desire to meet Solomon was ardent enough for her to embark on a 1400 mile journey, across the desert sands of Arabia, along the coast of the Red Sea, up into Moab, and over the Jordan River to Jerusalem.

Such a journey required at least six months time round trip each way, since camels could rarely travel more than 20 miles per day. Arabian camels were tall and hardy, able to store water and fat for three weeks while living only on desert roughage.

Wearing saddles of oak padded with colorful fabric, and hung with gold chains, camels in a caravan were strung together by ropes made of goat hairs.

The queen of Sheba came from far, with great difficulty, running great risks. Why did she make the long journey to Jerusalem?

She lived in extreme comfort and luxury. Why? She had seemingly everything a person could want and hope for.

But there must have been a void and emptiness in her heart. She was aching for the truth. There was in her a strong curiosity about King Solomon. She was intrigued by him. She had heard of the fame and wisdom of him from others and her response was, “I need to go and meet Solomon for myself.”

Is there in your heart a sense of a need for God, for truth, for righteousness? A need to discover for yourself who Jesus is. Why did he come into the world? Why did he die on the Cross?

The Queen of the South acted in such a way that there was no journey too great for her if that meant she would find answers to her hard and difficult questions.

The mass of mankind today will scarcely cross the streets to see Jesus, who has power to bless them eternally. “It’s too far to walk. I’m too busy,” they say.

They are utterly careless and apathetic about a greater than Solomon, Jesus Christ, who can save them from sin and hell.

There are people living right next to this church building who have never attended a worship service.

People need the Lord Jesus Christ!!!! Jesus is unknown to many people today!!!

I just talked to a person this week and asked her if she goes to church. You know what her reply was? “Mother Nature is my church. I love the outdoors.”

I remember a preacher telling me of an experience he had one time handing out tracts at a sporting event.

There was a business company at the game giving away free Cokes to the fans as a promotion. People were flocking to the coolers for their free soda.

At the same time, the preacher was handing out tracts, and some people thought they were coupons for free food or lottery tickets so they took one.

But when they took a closer look at them and realized it was a gospel tract they threw it away. “What is this?” they said. A free soda is more important to them than faith in Jesus Christ.

What other teaching than the gospel of Jesus Christ meets all the wants of men? Who else but Christ has revealed such grace and truth to sinners?

Who but the Son of God has made known the Father as he has done? Jesus Christ is infinitely greater than the wise and famous King Solomon.

We learn from the Queen of the South that she had a hunger and thirst for the truth. The Queen went to Jerusalem to meet Solomon for herself, and she was not disappointed.

The title of my message for today is, *The Queen of the South: Seeker Of Wisdom.* We must seek after wisdom!!

What is wisdom?

According to John Calvin, “True wisdom consists in two things: Knowledge of God and Knowledge of Self.”

The knowledge of God is found in the Bible. The Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 1:30, “...Of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us **wisdom**, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.”

Jesus Christ is the source of true wisdom. He declares, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

The knowledge of Self is found in the Bible.

Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

The Queen of the South left her country for the expressed purpose of finding true wisdom. Did she find what she was looking for?

Let us consider four things that will help us answer that important question.

1. Seeking after wisdom begins by hearing the truth.

The Queen of the South heard about the fame and wisdom of King Solomon in Jerusalem. Someone told her about the wisdom of Solomon!

Perhaps the queen was told of the story when Solomon settled the dispute between two women both claiming to be the mother of the same baby recorded in I Kings 3:24-28.

Solomon commanded, “Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof. And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.”

The Queen of the South undoubtedly heard about the construction of the great temple to Jehovah in Jerusalem.

It is understandable that any monarch might wish to view such a magnificent building, the fame of which was spreading across the civilized world.

It could have been Solomon’s government and the immensity of his court that stirred the Queen of the South to visit Jerusalem.

King Solomon came to the throne of Israel in 965 B.C. Historians tell us that Solomon had fleets of Phoenician-built ships on the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean. Solomon’s empire was so vast that he found it necessary to divide his kingdom into twelve states, to administer his royal cities.

It was the duty of each state to provide one month's supply, not only of food, but also of barley and straw for the horses, and even horses themselves if necessary, for the needs of the royal household.

This put quite a burden on the farmers and shepherds of the country, and taxation was very high.

To give you an idea of how great this burden was, consider the following: The provisions needed in one day for Solomon's court were: 240 gallons of flour, 480 gallons of meal, 10 fat oxen, 20 pasture-fed cattle, 100 sheep, plus numerous harts, gazelles, roebucks and fattened fowl.

The Queen of the South heard about the fame and wisdom of King Solomon and she wanted to go and meet him in person.

The Bible teaches that, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

I heard from my high school history teacher the good news of Jesus Christ, and I believed it. You heard the good news of Jesus Christ from someone and you believed it.

Seeking after wisdom involves hearing the gospel.

2. Seeking after wisdom continues by acting upon the truth.

We are told in I Kings 10 that when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones.

She traveled far to meet King Solomon. This was a difficult journey with many risks. She left her comfort zone to see Solomon. She wasn't apathetic, idle or uninterested in what she heard. She acted upon the news she heard.

She arose and went forth to Jerusalem. She acted on what she heard because she was interested in obtaining wisdom and truth.

Where did the desire to leave her country and go to Jerusalem come from?

“What was she doing? Why was she going so far away?” thought her people.

Her hearing led to her seeking and this was indeed proof that the Holy Spirit was working in her heart.

Similarly, the Magi traveled far to see Christ. Why? For what purpose? The Lord guided the Magi with a star. He guided the Queen of the South by his grace and she arrived safely in Jerusalem.

In the gospel, we hear the gospel preached but then we must do what the gospel commands. We must go to the Cross where Jesus died for sinners. We must repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Cross makes one wise unto salvation.

It is at the Cross where sinners first see the light and the burden of their hearts roll away.

At the Cross we understand the sinfulness of sin.

We understand at the Cross that Christ became sin for us and that we became righteous by faith in Christ. We read in 2Corinthians 5:21, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Christ became sin for us on the Cross. He shed his precious blood for our sins.

At the Cross is where believers put off their filthy stains and put on Christ's righteousness.

It was at the Cross by faith we received our sight and now we are happy all the day.

3. Seeking after wisdom involves getting answers to hard questions.

The Queen of the South asked hard questions to King Solomon.

She asked questions possibly pertaining to life, death, happiness, sorrow, sin, salvation, and God.

Perhaps a question she asked Solomon was, "What shall I do to be saved?" (Acts 16)

Have you ever asked Jesus that question, "What must I do to be saved from my sins?"

The answer is, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:38)

What a question! What an answer!!

We read of great promises in Matthew 7:7, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

We must not read this text in unbelief, “Ask, but it will not be given me; seek, but I will not find it; knock, but the door will be closed to me.”

Let us not be like the unbelieving advisor of the king who said in the midst of a severe famine in Israel, “Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And the prophet Elisha said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not eat thereof.”

We must taste for ourselves that the Lord is good!
Let not unbelief drown faith!

Thomas Brooks observes, “Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honor, and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure, and pays with pain; he promises profit, and pays with loss; he promises life, and pays with death. But God pays as he promises; all his payments are made in pure gold.”

Perhaps you have hard questions in your life but you don't know where to turn. Why do I suffer? What is God's will in my life? Who will I marry? What job should I be working? Where will I go after I die?

The Queen of the South had hard questions, and she asked King Solomon for his counsel, but we have One who is greater than Solomon, Jesus Christ. The all wise God.

We must take our hard questions to Jesus. He is the Wonderful Counselor!! Ask Him and you will receive grace in your trials. Ask Him and you will receive power to overcome temptations. Ask Him and you will receive wisdom for today. Take your cares to Jesus for He cares for your soul.

Seeking after wisdom entails asking hard questions.

4. Seeking after wisdom culminates in finding faith in Jesus Christ.

When the Queen of the South met King Solomon everything that she heard about him was true. It far exceeded her greatest expectations.

Read 1Kings 10:4-9

She blessed the Lord.

A Bible commentator writes, “It is quite possible, as Jewish writers say, that this queen was converted, through Solomon's influence, to the worship of the true God. But there is no record of her making any gift or offering in the temple.”

It appears that the conversion of the Queen of the South is supported by Matthew 12:42, “The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.”

The queen of Sheba came from a remote country to hear the wisdom of a mere man, though a gifted one, and was transported with wonder at what she saw and heard (1Ki 10:1-9).

But the One who was Greater than Solomon, Jesus Christ, was despised, rejected, slighted, and slandered by the world.

It says that the Queen of South will rise up in the judgment against this evil and wicked generation that rejected the counsel and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

This seems to imply that the Queen of the South is in heaven on the side of the righteous, and therefore a converted person.

The Queen of the South discovered the truth of Jeremiah 29:13, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

She had found Him who is all together lovely. “My beloved.”

“We have found the Christ,” proclaimed Andrew to Peter.

Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” (John 1:41-45).

Can you say that, “Jesus is Mine and I am His.”

Horatius Bonar wrote, "Not what I feel or do, can give me peace with God; not all my prayers, or sighs, or tears, can ease my awful load. Thy work alone, my Saviour, can ease this weight of sin; Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within."

Seeking after wisdom culminates in finding faith in Jesus Christ.

In closing, the Queen of the South was a seeker of wisdom. Seeking after wisdom begins by hearing the truth. Seeking after wisdom continues by acting upon the truth. Seeking after wisdom involves getting answers to hard questions. Seeking after wisdom culminates in finding faith in Jesus Christ. The Queen of the South was a seeker of Christ. Are you seeking the Lord? May the Lord help us to be seekers of Christ. Let us pray.