

(1 Kings 10:1) - Solomon's fame concerning his wisdom and the prosperity and splendor of his kingdom had spread across the known world, even to the Queen of Sheba whose kingdom was about 1500 miles away. Not only had she heard of Solomon himself, she had also heard things "*concerning the name of the LORD.*" She had heard things about God Whom Solomon worshipped and served. So, it is recorded here that she made this long, arduous journey to meet Solomon, see all that she had heard of for herself, and "*to prove him with hard questions.*" This indicates that she wanted more than simply to see the sights of Solomon's kingdom. She wanted to test his wisdom by asking some serious questions. We are not told specifically what questions she asked, but the indication from what Christ Himself said of her in *Matthew 12:42* is that they had to do with issues of life, death, judgment, and eternity - "*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!*" (cf. *Luke 11:31*).

(1 Kings 10:2) - It is said here that "*when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.*" The indication is that these are matters laid upon her heart by the Lord. Solomon later wrote, "*I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in His time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end*" (*Eccl. 3:10-11*). This describes man's natural hatred and fear of death and his natural love and awareness for life and eternity. In our natural sin and depravity, we cannot find the proper knowledge to solve these mysteries. This knowledge can only be revealed to sinners by the Lord. This is illustrated in this historical episode where the queen took the right course and came directly to Solomon.

This is what the Holy Spirit brings God's people to do when He gives us spiritual life and knowledge. He brings us directly to Christ as Christ is revealed in the Word of God (*Matt. 11:28; John 6:37-39; 7:37-39*). He does not bring us to a counterfeit under the preaching of a lie (false gospel) (*Gal. 1:6-9*). Here it becomes evident that the Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon is a picture of sinners coming to Christ for knowledge and wisdom in salvation, forgiveness, righteousness, and eternity. This is what takes place when the Lord gives us a new heart. The natural man has no heart for Christ and His truth (*Jer. 17:9; John 3:19-20; 1 Cor. 2:14*). But in our new birth (regeneration and conversion), the Lord gives us a heart convinced of sin, righteousness, and judgment and brings us to desire Christ and salvation by His grace above all things (*John 6:44-45; 16:8-11; Rom. 6:17-18*). We then cherish our communion with Christ by His Spirit and His Word as we learn of His love and care for us to save us completely from all our sins and bring us to glory in the perfection of His righteousness imputed to us and received by us in God-given faith.

This is how the Lord God brings us to Christ. He brings us to a place where we HEAR the Gospel, the good news of Christ's glorious Person and finished work of redemption for the sins of His people. God the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual life in regeneration and shows us the wisdom of God in Christ and the riches of God's glory and grace in Him (*John 6:44-45; Rom. 1:16-17; 10:13-17; Gal. 4:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13-14*). So, just as the Queen of Sheba had heard of King Solomon, in the Gospel we hear of the Person and work of Christ, His deity and glory, His wisdom and power, all accomplished in His death and resurrection as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer.

(1 Kings 10:3) - So Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing too difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. No one else could have answered her questions.

Solomon here is definitely a type of Christ “in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:5; cf. John 3:34-35). As wise and as knowledgeable as Solomon was, our Lord and Savior is truly One “greater than Solomon,” for He is the answer to all questions of life, death, judgment, and eternity (John 1:14-17; 14:6). Christ is the wisdom and truth of God. If we would know God and the mysteries of redemption and eternal life, we must come to Christ (Luke 10:22; John 1:18). Consider some hard questions to illustrate the mysteries and truths of salvation which can only be answered in the Gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace in and by the glorious Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ:

- How good and righteous must we be to have and enjoy eternal life (Matt. 5:20; Acts 17:31)
- What is it to do good and be righteous in God’s sight? (Rom. 3:19-25; 10:4)
- How can sinners be just with holy God? How can he be clean that is born of woman? (Rom. 3:19-23)
- How can God be just and true to Himself and still be the justifier of the ungodly? (Rom. 3:24-26; 4:4-6)
- How can a man be born when he is old? (John 3:4-8)
- If a man die, shall he live again? (John 11:25-27)
- How does God know all things, yet does not remember a believer’s sins? (Heb. 10:11-17)
- Who and what are main subjects and themes of the Old Testament? (Luke 24:27,44-47; John 5:39-45)

(1 Kings 10:4-7) - When the queen had seen Solomon’s wisdom, the house he had built, his riches and piety, she was quite astonished, like one in ecstasy who had no power to speak because what she saw and heard so affected her. She said to the king, “What they told me of you was true, actually, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed anything I thought or heard. It was not until I came and saw that I really believed.” This is the way of all sinners whom God brings to see His glory in Christ. Though we heard of Christ’s love, mercy, grace, and glory, it was not until we came to Him in God-given faith that we saw and experienced Christ as the wisdom, power, and glory of God (Isa. 6:1-4; 1 John 1:1-4). We stand amazed in the presence of our Lord, realizing that it is impossible to put into words the fulness of the riches of His grace and glory (2 Cor. 12:2-4).

(1 Kings 10:8) - The queen exclaimed, “Happy are thy men, happy are thy servants, blessed are all who dwell in thy house, in thy presence, and hear thy wisdom.” We can say with greater emphasis, for, as stated, a greater than Solomon is here, “Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth” (Psalm 65:4). “Blessed is the man whose sin is covered” (Psalm 32:1-2). Blessed is “the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works” (Rom. 4:6). “Blessed are the eyes that see and the ears that hear” (Matt. 13:16). “Blessed is the man whose delight is in the Lord” (Psalm 1:1-3). Blessed are those who know Him, love Him, and dwell by faith in Him.

(1 Kings 10:9) - Then the queen blessed the Lord God Who delighted in Solomon, Who put him on the throne of Israel to do judgment and mercy. The Lord made Solomon their king. The Father loves the Son and has given “all things” into His hands (John 3:35). The Father delights in the Son and gave Him preeminence (Prov. 8:23-30; Matt. 3:17; Eph. 2:5-11; Col. 1:16-18). The Father made Christ the Surety, Prophet, Priest, and King of spiritual Israel (His elect) because He loved them all in Christ with an everlasting love. Christ came to the earth to honor God’s law, satisfy God’s justice, to do judgment and justice that God may be just and justifier of all who believe (Rom. 3:25-26).