

1 Kings 10

King James Version (KJV)

10 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. (God blessed Solomon with wealth and wisdom)

(Historical Note: In the Quran, The queen of Sheba is called Balkas, and is thought to have come from Yemen) (She wanted to test Solomon's wisdom with riddles)

²And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

³And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not. (He answered all of her riddles. Ego is a dangerous thing for man. It is the beginning of his failures)

(Maybe Solomon forgot that his wisdom came from God. Maybe he started to believe that he was all that) Matthew-23:12

⁴And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,

⁵And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. (spirit = breath) (She was so much in awe of Solomon that it took her breath away)

⁶And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. (This inflated Solomon's ego. Ego was also Satan's downfall)

⁷Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

⁸Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

⁹ Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice. (She is not converted, but she believes that the God of Israel exists; along with her own heathen false gods. These heathen tribes were polytheists)

¹⁰ And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

¹¹ And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones. (almug – called algum in Chronicles – today, probably red sandal wood. This fine wood was also used to make musical instruments)

¹² And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day. (The highest quality available)

¹³ And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

¹⁴ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold, (666 is the number of the beast) (Great wealth corrupts if the owner is not on his guard)

Ecclesiastes-2:8-11 (Solomon calls all this wealth – vanity and vexation of spirit <confusion of spirit>. It is all meaningless and worthless pursuits. None of it matters when we die)

Revelation-14:13 (Only our works <good and bad> follow us into the next life. That is how we will be judged. Earthly wealth means nothing)

¹⁵ Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffick of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country. (Israel charged a tax or tribute to caravans crossing Israel from Red Sea to the Med Sea. There was no Suez Canal. The only way from the Persian Gulf to the Med was by caravan or around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa)

¹⁶ And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target. (Targets are very large shields with a spike or dagger in the middle. They are used by footmen, for protection against arrows, and against charging enemy cavalry)

¹⁷ And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon. (These golden shields and the targets of verse 16 were decorative only. They were probably used in ceremonies of state. Gold is too heavy and too soft a metal to provide protection in a real battle)

¹⁸ Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. (All pomp and bragging; Solomon's great success pumped up his ego. That is why only God can be a just King. HE doesn't have the temptations that men and women have)

¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.

²⁰ And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom. (There were two lions on each step; one on either side. Twelve lions in total for the twelve tribes of Israel)

²¹ And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon. (They were so wealthy that silver was not valued)

²² For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks. (These ships were long distance vessels used for trade)

²³ So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. (God promised Solomon wealth and wisdom beyond his dreams) Chapter 3:13

²⁴ And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. (His wisdom was so great because it came from God; not from Solomon)

²⁵ And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and garments, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

²⁶ And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem. (God told the kings of Israel not to multiply horses unto themselves. Solomon's ego was out of control. He probably started to believe that he had done all this. It was God who made Solomon wise and rich. God gave Israel decades of peace and prosperity)

²⁷ And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycomore trees that are in the vale, for abundance. (made = gave – better translation. Solomon gave away silver like rocks)

²⁸ And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. (Bad translation - They brought the horses back strung on ropes, in droves)

Deuteronomy-17:16—>on (God told Solomon not to do this. This is the beginning of Solomon, going against God)

²⁹ And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring them out by their means. (Solomon sent the kings of the Hittites and the Syrians to get his horses from Egypt. He thinks he's getting around Deuteronomy-17:16 and "outsmarting" God. It will bring down God's judgment upon Israel. Only a fool would even try to con God)

(Solomon should be a lesson to us all. Even the wisest man can become a fool if he lets his ego get out of control. Today we see oligarch billionaires doing the same thing. Their wealth isn't enough to satisfy them. They seek power and control over other people, as if they were better than them)