

The Queen of Sheba

Dr. Phil Stringer

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1. Who was the Queen of Sheba?

We are told about her in the Bible, the Koran, Jewish tradition, Yemeni tradition, Ethiopian history, and the writings of Josephus. She was the empress of an expanded Ethiopian empire which included Arabia.

2. She came to Judah to ask Solomon questions.

1 Kings 10:1

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.

3. She gave Solomon great gifts.

1 Kings 10:2

And 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.

4. The Wisdom of Solomon and his glory were on full display.

1 Kings 10:3-5

And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not *any* thing hid from the king, which he told her not. ⁴ And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, ⁵ And 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.

5. The Queen of Sheba was amazed at Solomon's wisdom.

1 Kings 10:6-7

And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. ⁷ Howbeit 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.

6. Solomon gave her great gifts.

1 Kings 10:8-13

Happy *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. 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. 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. 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.

7. Lessons

- A. Solomon did not try to impress her with worldly wisdom.
- B. Solomon did not compromise with her worldliness.
- C. Solomon later gave in and surrendered to the world.
- D. Solomon's compromise would be a disaster.