

The Queen of Sheba

1 Kings 10

2 Chronicles 9:1-28

by Don Falkos

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As King Solomon's fame grew, people came from near and far to listen to his wisdom. The queen of Sheba came to test him with difficult questions. He answered everything; nothing was too hard for him to explain. She was overwhelmed at the depth of his wisdom and at the splendor of his surroundings.

She said, "Everything I heard about you is true! I didn't believe it. But the fact is, I hadn't heard the half of it! Your wisdom and prosperity are far beyond what I was told. How happy your people must be to have regular access to the great wisdom the Lord has given you and to have you rule over them with justice and righteousness."

The queen of Sheba gave King Solomon valuable gifts of spices, gold, and precious jewels. He reciprocated with gifts worth even more than what she had given him. Then she went home to her own land.

Year after year everyone who came to see Solomon brought him gifts of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, and other valuables. Every three years the king's fleet returned to port laden with gold, silver, ivory, and exotic animals.

Solomon made hundreds of gold shields to decorate his palace and show off the wealth and glory of Israel. He made a huge throne, decorated with ivory, overlaid with gold, and surrounded by figures of lions. This golden throne was absolutely unique.

All of King Solomon's drinking vessels and other utensils were made of gold. Nothing was made of silver; it was considered worthless, there was so much of it in Jerusalem.

King Solomon's accumulation of wealth never ceased. He became richer and wiser than any other king on earth.