

1 Kings Chapter 10 Commentary

1Ki 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. 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. 3 And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not anything 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. 6 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 exceed the fame which I heard. 8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, that stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. 9 Blessed be Jehovah thy God, who delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because Jehovah loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do justice and righteousness. 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."

The queen of Sheba came to Jerusalem to test Solomon's wisdom. She came with great pomp and riches, expecting to make Solomon look little and poor. When she got there, Solomon answered every question she put forth. Also, she saw how the priest and people loved King Solomon. She saw the riches of his house and the temple of God. Then she admits her heart is humbled before the greatness of God that had been bestowed upon King Solomon. She has lost her pomp and show. She gives King Solomon much of her wealth with humility.

Isn't this a picture of the unregenerate man who has not had the Holy Spirit implanted in the new birth. Before we see the greatness of God we are filled with pomp and show, but when the Holy Spirit invades our mind, body, and soul, there is no spirit of pomp and show left in us. Then we can make confession that all the greatness of God, of which we have heard, is indeed true. Then we give all we possess in discipleship to God. Giving all of ourselves is not limited to money, but more rather, to loving one another as Christ loved us, helping those who are in need, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, and many other Christian virtues.

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. 8 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 forever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice."

We know the above comments to be true because the queen of Sheba tells us this in these verses. She freely admits that the all of what she had heard had not come close to describing the scene before her. Notice that she acknowledges "**the LORD thy God**." She gives blessing and honor to "**the LORD thy God**" who has delighted in thee to set thee upon the throne of Israel. She acknowledges that God has done this because God love his people Israel, forever. She also declares that Solomon is ruling by proper judgment and justice.

Surely, this is a picture of the newborn child of God entering the church fellowship, and as they grow in the knowledge of the truth, we, like the queen of Sheba, begin to see the greatness of the love of God, who chooses and saves a people to bear the name of God upon the earth.

This scene reminds us of the scripture "**come and see**" in *Joh 1:39 & 46; 35 "Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; 36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! 37 ¶ And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? 39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. 42 And he brought him to Jesus. And*

when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. 43 ¶ The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. 44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. 46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! 48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. 49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. 50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. 51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." We notice that those who were told to come and see became followers of Christ. Why? Because he told them things about themselves that they knew that he had no physical knowledge of. Thus, we see through example that we are to be willing to tell others of Jesus and when they ask how you know this, urge them to **"come and see."**

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."

We see that the friendship of King Hiram and King Solomon is still intact, because Hiram sends his navy to Ophir and brings King Solomon gold, almug trees, and precious stones. Solomon used the almug trees to make pillars for the house of God and his own house. He also used them to make harps and psalteries for the singers. These were trees which were found nowhere else in the world, in their quality of the wood.

We find in the **Smith's Bible Dictionary**: *It is probable that this tree is the red sandalwood, which is a native of India and Ceylon. The wood is very heavy, hard, and fine grained, and of a beautiful garnet color.*

Since these trees were used in making pillars for the temple and Solomon's house, we understand that King Hiram brought these almug trees at the very beginning of the building of both. The fact, that there were not before, or after, any almug trees like unto these for their excellent quality, gives us the prophetic picture of the apostles of Jesus. God used the apostles to lay the foundation stones of the church, in alignment with the finished work and commandments of Christ. There were none like these twelve before or after. We believe these twelve were the twelve that Jesus chose, minus Judas, and then Jesus chooses Paul, who was first known as Saul, to be the twelfth.

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."

Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, and he added to those riches from his own royal bounty, and she and her servants returned home.

We declare to you that as we make our pilgrimage through this world, after declaring our discipleship to God, we receive all we ask, which is in accordance with God's will and purpose in our lives. Added to that are the royal bounties of being a child of the King, through Jesus Christ. We shall reap the fulness of the royal bounties when Christ returns, and all of God's people are gathered to their eternal home in the presence of our Saviour and King.

14 ¶ "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold, 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. 16 And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target. 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."

We see here where the seemingly endless supply of gold came from to King Solomon. **"six hundred shekels of gold went to one target"** equals about 15 pounds of weight. **"three pound of gold went to one shield"** so we can see that targets were larger than the shields.

We first find the house of the forest of Lebanon in **1Ki 7:2 "He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon;"**

18 "Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. 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."

Where was the great throne located? I had thought that Solomon's throne was a portion of his own house. However, as we examine **1Ki 7:7; 2 "He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof was an hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars. 3 And it was covered with cedar above upon the beams, that lay on forty five pillars, fifteen in a row. 4 And there were windows in three rows, and light was against light in three ranks. 5 And all the doors and posts were square, with the windows: and light was against light in three ranks. 6 And he made a porch of pillars; the length thereof was fifty cubits, and the breadth thereof thirty cubits: and the porch was before them: and the other pillars and the thick beam were before them. 7 Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, even the porch of judgment: and it was covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other. 8 And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch."** it appears that the porch for Solomon's throne, was a porch off of **"The house of the forest of Lebanon."** And that there was a porch that connected Solomon's house to **"the porch of judgment."** which had the ivory throne.

This leads me to believe that **"The house of the forest of Lebanon"** was the place where kingdom business was carried out, and that Solomon's house was just his personal home, and used for entertaining guest. If this is correct **"The house of the forest of Lebanon"** or the kingdom business house, had a porch on it, with the throne of ivory overlaid with gold on its porch of judgment.

The throne had six steps up to reach the king's seat. There were stays on either side of the seat. The word stay is defined as an open hand, which would indicate Solomon's welcoming to those who approached his throne. There were two lions beside the stays and a lion at the ends of each step.

Let's look at the two lions on the sides of the throne. Solomon is descended from the tribe of Judah, and we have the prophesy of Jacob in **Ge 49:8 "Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."** Therefore, we can see one of these lions leading to Solomon's lineage, and fulfilling the prophesy that Israel would praise Judah. The second lion we see as prophetic of the lineage that would proceed to Shiloh, Jesus Christ, the true King who will reign over all of God's chosen people. We see in the lions at the ends of each of the six steps as the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, over which King Solomon was to rule and reign over.

"There was not the like made in any kingdom." This seems to indicate to us that Solomon's throne was unlike any other in the world. This yields to us the prophetic picture of the eternal throne of God, upon which King Jesus sits, and all who approach that throne will be welcome. In the eternal kingdom there will be none coming to seek judgment, because eternal judgement will have passed, the non-elect will have gone to the eternal lake of fire, and none but God's elect will be coming to behold the KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS, to give Him praise and honor.

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. 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."

The drinking vessels being made of gold give us the indication that we should drink from the river of the water of life, not from other vessels which have not the purity of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

23 "So, king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. 24 And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. 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. 27 And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance. 28 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. 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."

We can certainly see God fulfilling His promise in **1Ki 3:9** *"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? 10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; 12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. 13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days."*

We point out the difference between the Old Testament Church and the New Testament Church in this age of grace. In the Old Testament the world came to Jerusalem to see and hear King Solomon in God's glory, who is a picture of Christ in his wisdom and abundance. Jesus has ascended to the eternal heaven on the throne of God and sent his disciples out into all the world, seen in: **Mr 16:15-16; 15** *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* Jesus spoke these words to the eleven disciples in the upper room after Judas had departed to betray him. Paul was the twelfth disciple, apostle, of Christ and he also was sent to the Gentiles, seen in: **Ro 1:1-5; 1 ¶** *"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"*

What a great and glorious Saviour we have who would have such love for God's people, both Jew and Gentile, to send his disciples, today the ministers of the Gospel of Jesus, into all the world. For what purpose? Just as all the world came to Jerusalem to see and hear of King Solomon and to learn of King Solomon's God. God today sends us into all the world to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that all the world will see and hear of the greatness of our God and Saviour, as seen in **Mr 16:14-16; 14 ¶** *"Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*

Thank you, King Jesus, for bringing the age of salvation by the grace of God to fruition. Thank you for establishing the New Testament Church. Thank you, for giving each child of God a ministry to proclaim the greatness of thy name, and thy divine mercy and grace. Thank you, King Jesus, for the gift of salvation by grace in the new birth, along with eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal life. We look forward to the time of thy return and our new, incorruptible, immortal bodies, which will be carried to that place you have gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Amen!