



***What takes the Queen of Sheba's breath away?*** Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 10 prepares us for the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-nine verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God's love for His people gives them a wise, wealthy, and righteous king. In these, Solomon far exceeded the other kings of the earth, but was infinitely exceeded by King Jesus. How infinitely happy are the subjects of King Jesus!

### Wednesday, March 30, 2022 • Read 1Kings 10

Questions from the Scripture text: Who had heard of what (v1)? What did she come to do? Where (v2)? With whom? And what three things? To whom did she come? About what did she speak? What did Solomon do (v3)? What didn't happen? What eight things did she see (v4–5)? With what effect upon her? What did she say she had heard about, where (v6)? What had she thought (v7) until when? What does she now think of it/him? What does she think about whom in v8? What does she think of Whom in v9? What had He done? Why? For what purpose was Solomon king? How much gold did she give the king (v10)? And what other things? Of what quantity? What ships does v11 mention? What else did they bring? What did the king make for what two houses (v12)? And what else did he make from the wood? How unique was the wood? What did Solomon give the queen of Sheba (v13)? In addition to what? Where did she go with whom? How much of what came to Solomon each year (v14)? And what else came (v15)? What did he make out of the gold in vv16–17, and where did he put them? What did he make out of what in v18? And overlay it with what? How many steps did it have (v19)? What were some features of the seat? What were next to the arm rests? How many more of them were where (v20)? How unique was this? What else were gold (v21)? How many were silver? Why? How often did the merchant ships return (v22)? What did they bring? In what ways did Solomon surpass whom (v23)? Who sought Solomon (v24)? To do what? Who put the wisdom in his heart? What did each bring (v25)? What did Solomon gather (v26)? How many of each? Where did he put them? What did he do to silver (v27)? To cedar? What else did he bring from where (v28)? How much did they cost (v29)? To whom did he sell them at profit?

Before things take a devastating turn (cf. 11:1–8), the Spirit gives us one last glimpse of Solomon as an imperfect preview of the perfect Son of David and Davidic kingdom that would come in Jesus Christ.

In this chapter, the wealth and wealth-producing wisdom of Solomon are on full display. Sheba puts Tyre to shame. Her parting gift in v10a includes as much gold as Tyre was able to contribute to the entire temple/kingdom building project (cf. 9:14), but the spices were even more impressive than the gold (v10b)! Even such a queen as this has her breath taken away (end of v5) by Solomon's royal setup. And that takes a back seat to his words (v6). Solomon's wealth includes not only Sheba's spices and 50,000 lbs of gold per year (v14), but almug wood from Ophir that wasn't just once-in-a-lifetime but once-in-forever (v12).

The gold and the wood and the ivory begged to be used—hence shields, steps, armrests, lions, and drinking vessels (v16–21). Add ivory, apes, and peacocks (v22), and Solomon's wealth approaches theoretical maximum (v23). The wealth was second to the wisdom (v24), and the wisdom brought in more wealth (v25).

This is just Solomon, the anticipatory sketch. How great are the infinitely superior wealth and wisdom of Jesus! Others thought silver was valuable, but Solomon's wealth made it as nothing (v21, 27). So also Jesus's wisdom and wealth makes Solomon's as nothing.

vv28–29 point to something more than just a heavy Hittite markup for turning profit on Egyptian horses and chariots. They are a reminder that Solomon has already run afoul of Deut 17:16. He's not the Son of David that we're looking for. But, the point of the chapter is clear: behold the greatness of Solomon's wealth and wisdom... and behold the greater-ness of Christ's! How glorious is the King, and how blessed are His servants (cf. v8)!

How are you responding to the greatness of King Jesus? How does that greatness relate to your safety & joy?

*Sample prayer:* Lord, thank You for choosing us in Jesus, loving us in Him, saving us in Him, and adopting us in Him! Forgive us for sometimes being less impressed with Him than many were with Solomon. Grant us life and light from Your Spirit that we might behold His glory and rejoice forever over belonging to Him, we ask in His Name, AMEN!!

**Suggested songs:** ARP45A "My Heart Is Greatly Stirred" or TPH374 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit [bit.ly/harpcHAH](https://bit.ly/harpcHAH)

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

First Kings chapter 10, we have as our portion. The entire chapter. These are the words of God. Now when the queen of Sheba, heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of Yahweh, She came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue camels, that bore spices, very much gold and precious stones.

And when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing. So difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her. And when the Queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, His cupbearers.

And his entryway by which he went up to the house. If Yahweh there was no more spirit in her and she said to the king, it was true. The report, which I heard my own land about your words and your wisdom. However, I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes and indeed the half was not told me your wisdom and prosperity exceed, the fame of which I heard.

Happy are your men and happy, are these your servants who stand continually before you and here your wisdom blessed be all way your God. They're delighted in. You setting you on the throne of Israel because Yahweh has loved Israel forever. Therefore he made you came to do justice. And righteousness, Once you gave the king 120 talents of gold spice as in great quantity and precious stones, They're never came again.

So abundant such abundance of spices. As the Queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. Also the ships of Hiram which brought gold from a fear brought great quantities of all Mugwood and precious stones from a fear and the cake made steps of Alma wood for the house Yahweh and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers and never again, came such alma wood nor has the like been seen to this day.

Now, King Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba. All she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the Royal generosity. So she turned and went to her own country. She and her servants, The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was 666. Gallons of gold Besides that from the traveling merchants from the income of traders from all the kings of Arabia.

And from the governors of the country and King Solomon, made 200, large shields of hammered gold, 600 shekels of gold went into each shield. He also, I mean, 300 shields of hammered gold 3, minus of gold went into each shield, the king. Put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with pure gold. The throne head, six steps and the top of the throne was round at the back. Their arm rests on either side of the place of the seat and two lions. Stood beside the armrests, 12 lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps.

Nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom. All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver for. This was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon. For the king, had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Param once every three years.

The merchant ships, came bringing gold silver. Ivory apes and monkeys. So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth, enriches and wisdom. Now all the earth, thought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart. Each man brought his present articles of silver and gold garments armor, spices horses and mules that a set rate year by year and Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen here, 1400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen.

Let me stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem, The king made silver is common. In Jerusalem is stones and he made cedar trees as abundant to sycamores, which are in the lowland. Also Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and cover the king's, merchants bought them in Kava at the current price.

Now chariot. That was important from Egypt cost, 600 shekels of silver, and a horse. 150 and thus through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria. So, for the reading of God's inspired and and then it worked So, the main subject matter of the chapter is Solomon's wealth and Solomon's wisdom.

His wealth was great so much. So that although the amount that herem had contributed to the building projects of the temple and the many houses, etc of gold was worth, not just the yearly supply of all of the food of his kingdom. But also 20 cities in Galilee Sheba just dropped that entire amount of gold 120 talents of gold.

All at once, as a gift at her visit. And in addition to that first, receipt of 420 talents of gold that here on the ships brought that we heard about previously. There were 666. Talents of gold that came every year into the kingdom and that was just the royal portion.

The people were getting their own gold from everywhere. Because of how they how prosperous and powerful they were now in the region. In fact, when it tells us about the 120 talents of gold that Shiba brought it then mentions the spices and the spices get the higher price. You might be able to buy spices with gold, but you could never buy spices like this again, with gold, There were never such spices again and then the same thing with the almond wood so that you know the gold was incredibly valuable, but the spices on the almond wood were once in not just a lifetime but once in forever is the way that the chapter puts it priceless and a bunch of the chapter, then is actually devoted to Solomon, trying to figure out what to

do with all the gold in the almond wood.

The gold isn't particularly comfortable to sit on? I've non-overlaid ivory is more comfortable, if you're gonna have an ivory throne, which is pretty amazing to have an ivory throne to begin with, but he's got so much gold and I guess we'll overlay the throne with ivory, and we've got so much gold.

It's not really a good material for shields for like warfare. But if you're dominating everyone to the point that you're not even, not even concerned about exporting horses and chariots to everyone who would have been your enemies but are now so much beneath you and so dependent upon you, that you are making a good profit buying horses and and chariots in the West and selling horses and chariots in the east, then you might as well make your shields out of gold.

Both the great big long shields and the the more maneuverable for active close combat, small shields they weren't really for combat. They were for show but had to figure out what to do with. I still had too much gold and he still had too much almond wood. So puts a lion at each side of the throne on.

On the top of the platform, there makes it out of the almond wood, overlays it with gold, still, too much. Well, we got six steps times, two sides to each step representative of the tall tribes of Israel. We'll put a great big lion for each tribe. One what? On each side of every step.

And we'll try to use up all of that, almond wood and all of that gold. And the idea being, this was literally more wealth than you could ever imagine what to do with. But the wealth was not even as great as the wisdom, When Sheba visits. She observes what lazy 21st century?

People would call Solomon's OCD how every detail down to the place settings, down to the order, in which the servants attended, every every event, and every room and everything down to the details of the clothing that the servants wore. When they were doing, well, it was all so perfectly planned and executed.

Everything was done the exact best way it possibly could. And if there was a better way to have done it, it would have been done instead that way so much. So that all of the kings and leaders from all the surrounding countries would bring what little wealth had left and exchange it for the opportunity to ask Solomon questions about how they could do everything as well as he was doing in his own kingdom and supposing that they followed through it all on the wisdom.

That they so expensively purchased from Solomon. What blessing must have come even to the ungodly pagan kingdoms round. If you were a subject in Syria or Sheba or Egypt, or Tires you would be blast, it would be an advantage to you, for your king, for your queen. To go ask Solomon the right way of leading you so that they could come home and be a better king or a better queen.

And so there's the immensity of Solomon's, wealth, and Solomon's. Wisdom and Sheba has the right idea. But the wrong king. She has the right idea. She had heard of the fame of Solomon verse 1. Concerning the name of Yahweh. And she says, verse 8 9 happier, your man, happier your servants.

This tan continually before you and hear your wisdom that the wisdom is more than the wealth blessed. Be Yahweh your God. Who delighted in you setting you on the throne of Israel because you always has loved Israel forever. Therefore he made you King to do justice and righteousness. But of course Solomon's reign would not end injustice and righteousness.

And the one who the Lord gave as King forever to do justice, and righteousness, because he loved his people forever. We know, of course, is the Lord Jesus and part of that, you can even see that. This is the character of Sheba Pharaoh's daughter, ought to have come and seen what Solomon was like by the mercy of Yahweh and abandoned all the gods of Egypt, in order to be converted to the God of Solomon Yahweh.

The one true God. And yet, as we're gonna hear immediately in verse 11, it's not verse 11, chapter 11 and verse 1 and following the first section theory versus one through eight. I think it is. Yes.

Solomon's wives would turn his heart away from Yahweh. So all of these thousand queens and princesses and people say oh well you know they're political marriages so don't be so hard on him with respect to the seventh commandment. Well, that's not how the seventh commandment works. But even the fact that their political marriages, there's a violation of the first five commandments, the four being, especially against Yahweh.

God, whose worship is commanded and regulated by those, four commandments in the 5th. Because he is the one who's in authority, in the kingdom. And he he most wickedly fails to fulfill in his role as King by turning from the Lord Sheba was right. But people need most in a king is justice, and righteousness and the worship of Yahweh.

And so for all the wisdom that Solomon dispensed other Kings, another Queens He would turn from the one thing most needful. Now my sons Lord willing, you will one day be a husband and a father and you will hopefully so lead and order your household and have a wife of great wisdom.

That everything in your house will be just as perfect as you wanted to be every day. I say that laughing a little bit because I know that that's not actually going to happen but may it more approx approximate reality in your house that has in mind and still if you have all those things and wholehearted devotion, to the one, true God, and reverence for his name and consecration of his day to delight in him by delighting in his day.

If that is not the heart of your house, then you will have Solomon to your household, no matter how much wisdom or wealth is in your house, and your great duty, my dear daughters. When you come to be a queen in the home for that is, what a wife is a helper.

Exactly. Corresponding to the husband is their submission to the king, there is but only to the king and only in so much. As there must be one who is above the other. But the woman was created as exactly corresponding to the man in all creation. No one matched him until God made the woman.

When you come to be a queen in the home, be the kind of queen who directs attention and worship and dependence and delight. Always to the Lord, as Shiba does once she observes and has her breath taken away by the wisdom and the wealth of Solomon, the end of the day.

Even in this chapter, we have a whisper of what's about to come in chapter 11. When he talks about importing horses from Egypt it was expressly forbidden and Deuteronomy 17, Deuteronomy 17 verse 16 that they would multiply horses and chariots and especially that they would do so by way of Egypt and so you can see this glorious picture of the wisdom and wealth of the king that God provides, because he loves his people, but you can also see that that King wasn't Solomon.

Ultimately. That King is Jesus. And when we find that Jesus is our king and that he rules and overrules all things in perfect wisdom. Then we can be content even when every detail of our house and our day is not exactly as we had planned it, because the Lord Jesus is ordering it out.

In his wisdom, He is working all things. According to the Council of Israel is upholding old things by the word of His powerful authority in heaven and on earth has given to him. It is his wisdom that employs even our folly doesn't excuse our folly, but employees are falling to do us good and all the wealth of Jesus belongs to those who are His starting, of course, with God, himself, as your portion, as your inheritance forever.

And so if Sheba could rightly say, in a temporal way, how happy are your servants, then? How much more Can we say of ourselves with the King? Jesus. How happy are? We his servants? Who are continually before him. And here his wisdom and let's pray.

Lord Jesus. You are the forever King. You are for us, the wisdom of God and righteousness and justice. Sanctification peace. Belonging to you means that we may be happy that you are ordering all things out perfectly and that we may be happy that we hear your wisdom and receive perfect instructional help us by your spirit to live according to the instruction that you give us Help us.

So God to know that fearing. You is the beginning of wisdom and that worshiping you and obeying. You reverencing. You there's the great part of our righteousness and that love of neighbor and all its particulars, The secondary and we pray that you would make us to be glad not only in you Lord, Jesus as King.

But and you are God Father Son and Holy Spirit as our portion and as our inheritance through the kingship of Jesus which has made us so wealthy and so make us to rejoice. So God at your indescribable gift of Christ and make us to rejoice to God as the eternal weight of glory, that is about to be revealed to us.

And in us through Jesus Christ and make us live. We pray out of that gladness so that we will be full of love and devotion to you. Neither fretting nor embittered easily troubled or quarreling. But loving you, and loving brother, and loving neighbor, we ask all these things in, Christ's name Amen.