

# The Queen Of Sheba

1 Kings 10:1-13

## **MEMORY VERSE**

1 KINGS 10:9b

“Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A bathroom scale and masking tape.

Kool-Aid with no sugar mixed in, sugar, 3” x 5” index cards, various spices (salt, pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cloves, oregano, chili, etc.) and markers.

Enough camel templates for the number of children in your class, crayons or markers, glue sticks, purple and tan construction paper and scissors.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **A Ton of Kids**

In our lesson today, the great queen from the land of Sheba will come to Solomon in a large caravan of camels. How much do you know about camels? Here are some “facts” about camels.

1. In the ancient world, travel by camel was the #1 method of transportation.
2. Camels can carry about 1,000 lbs. or a 1/2 ton.
3. Camels can travel about 29 miles per day and can go for short periods of time at 25 miles per hour.
4. Camels can grow up to 7 feet tall (5 feet at their shoulder).

To get an idea of how much a camel can carry and what it is like to ride a camel do the following: Bring a bathroom scale from home. Have the children line up to be weighed. Record all of their weights on the chalk or dry erase board and add them up. Will we need one camel or two for our class to ride?

Using masking tape, make a large egg shape approximately 5' x 7' on the floor. The class will pretend that this is a camel's back. Have everyone sit on around the sides on the tape. Have them imagine that they will be riding on a camel. Use the same number of kids that it would take to get up to 1,000 lbs. Have the children hold hands across the "egg shape"(over the imaginary hump). When you say go, have the children on one end stand up and then sit down again. Have the next pair go and so on until all have gone. Go faster until a rocking, "wave" type of action is achieved, like riding a camel. When the children get the rhythm down, allow them to do it for a couple of minutes. Give other children who have not had an opportunity a turn.

Have fun with this activity and explain that this is how the Queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon.

## **LESSON TIME!**

The fame of King Solomon's wisdom and wealth had spread throughout the world of that day. There were many rulers from other nations who were interested in Israel and desirous to know what made Solomon successful. This was a great opportunity for Solomon to give testimony to the Lord. In today's lesson we will see the effect Solomon's wisdom, wealth, and genuine worship of God had on a queen from another land. **When we have the right priorities, it will have a good effect on those around us.**

## 1 KINGS 10:1

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.

Blessed by God with a great deal of wealth and a great amount of wisdom, Solomon's fame was known among the other nations. The queen from the land of Sheba (probably the southern part of Arabia) heard all about King Solomon and came to see for herself.

The term "concerning the name of the Lord" can literally be translated as "belonging to the name of the Lord." In other words, the fame, which Solomon had acquired, was through the name of the Lord. His fame came from the Lord and through His relationship with the Lord. God's wisdom was made known to the whole world through the life of Solomon.

The queen came to test Solomon with hard questions. Some commentators believe that this meant difficult riddles--riddles to be presented in conversation in order to put his wisdom to the test. Perhaps, she came to receive instruction from Solomon to improve her own wisdom. As a queen, perhaps she desired to know how to better govern her own people. Some believe that it may have been spiritual instruction that she wanted—she may have wanted to become better acquainted with the Lord.

The Queen of Sheba and many others from the nations around Israel were watching Solomon. We, too, who follow the Lord, are being watched in all we do. Proverbs 20:11 tells us that "Even a child is known by his doing, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." How do you desire to be known? May we walk in wisdom that others may be drawn to the Lord. **When we have the right priorities, it will have a good effect on those around us.**

### 1 KINGS 10:2,3

She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with 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.

As the queen of a wealthy country, she came with a very large gift for Solomon and an entourage (a large company) of men and camels laden with valuable treasures. Solomon listened to her as she talked with him of “all that was in her heart,” and he answered *all* her questions.

Wouldn't it be great to have someone you could talk to that would answer all of your questions? We do! Our loving God is always there for us, waiting for us to talk to Him. He will answer all our questions. And, we do not have to travel or bring incredible gifts to speak to Him. What a privilege! It is something we should all do all of the time.

### 1 KINGS 10:4,5

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 of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

The queen saw all of Solomon's wisdom and the house that he had built. Not only had she heard Solomon's wisdom, she also saw his wisdom in his building. She saw the palace, the temple, and the other buildings. All around was beauty and prosperity. She was amazed at the abundance of food and of servants in Solomon's service.

The last thing mentioned, though perhaps the greatest, was his "entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord." Matthew Henry says, "...with what gravity and seriousness, and an air of devotion in his countenance, he appeared, when he went to the temple to worship God, with as much humility then as majesty at other times."

Some people believe that this should be translated, "and his burnt offering by which he went up unto the house of the LORD." She saw that Solomon approached God with a burnt offering. This offering—the burnt offering—speaks more fully of Jesus and His death for our sins than all the others.

Solomon, at this point in his life, truly loved the Lord and took worship of God seriously. Seeing Solomon's wealth, wisdom, and worship, the queen stood in absolute amazement for she had never seen anything like this before in her life.

How do we affect the people we are around? Do they notice our relationship with the Lord? Are they amazed? Do they desire the same for their own lives? **When we have the right priorities, it will have a good effect on those around us.**

## Bring In The Spices

The Queen of Sheba brought many gifts to Solomon. Among them were different kinds of spices. For a fun craft we will be looking at some different spices and learn how this gift would have been a great blessing to Solomon.

Begin by demonstrating the need for spices. Make some Kool-Aid before class that doesn't have any sugar in it. Do not tell the children. Pour the Kool-Aid into cups and pass them out to the children. Allow them to drink and discover that their Kool-Aid is missing something pretty important. Explain that without sugar or spices food can be kind of plain. We need to thank the Lord for what He provides us with. Bring some sugar to put a small amount into each of the children's cups. Ask them about what difference the sugar makes in their Kool-Aid.

Next, you will need some 3"x5" cards, various spices such as salt, pepper, cumin, cinnamon, cloves, oregano, chili, etc. On a table or the floor, sprinkle a little bit of each spice onto a napkin. Tell the children about the various spices and what types of foods that they might be used for. Allow them to pick out a spice that they like. On 3x5 index cards, have the children write down what kind of spice they chose (write it for the younger children) and what is the primary food it is used for (fish, chicken, etc.) Then put a spot of glue about the size of a quarter on the card, sprinkle on some of the spice, and let it dry.

With a marker either on the front or back of the card write, "God's wisdom will spice up our lives." Compare our lives without God's wisdom as bland, like food with no spice or Kool-Aid with no sugar. God's wisdom adds dimension, purpose, and excitement to an otherwise dull and purposeless life.

## KINGS 10:6-9

Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in 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 hear your wisdom!

"Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

The Queen of Sheba did not really believe the reports she had heard of Solomon—his wisdom and prosperity. She not only found the reports to be true, she realized that she had heard only half of the truth of the extent of God's blessing upon Solomon. She was amazed at his wisdom and at how happy his servants were who stood continually near him and could hear his wisdom. She also praised the Lord that out of His eternal love to His people Israel, He had given them a king to do justice and righteousness.

Solomon, with a humble heart prayed for wisdom; what blessing came to His life and the nation Israel as a result! Solomon and the nation Israel were a witness to the nation's around them of a people living in harmony with God and experiencing His blessing. **When we have the right priorities, it will have a good effect on those around us.**



### 1 KINGS 10:10-13

Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir.

And the king made steps of the almug wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers. There never again came such almug 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 Queen then gave Solomon 120 talents of gold (about \$3,490,200 – wow!) and a very large quantity of spices and precious stones. In addition to gold, the Ophir fleet also brought a large quantity of “algunmim” wood and precious stones. Solomon made steps for the house of the Lord and for the king's house from the “algunmim” wood as well as harps and psalteries for singers.

In verse 13, Solomon gave the Queen of Sheba all that she wished and asked for. While Solomon was blessed with wisdom and wealth, His greatest blessing was a relationship with the Living God. In right relationship with God, he was able to give testimony to what mattered most!

A relationship with Jesus Christ is what matters most! When we ask God's Son, Jesus, into our hearts and lay down our life for Him, we will experience the true riches of God. When we are experiencing true riches—the knowledge of God—we will want to share the treasure we have with others who do not know Him. And, like Solomon, when our priorities are right, our life will have an impact on those around us.

## **Camel Craft**

You will need enough templates (enclosed with the curriculum) for the number of children in your class, crayons or markers, a glue stick and purple and tan construction paper. Give each child a camel from the templates. Place some tan construction paper behind the template (as an option you could copy your templates onto brown card stock). Cut out around the edges of the camel.

Next, cut out a rectangle from the purple construction paper to make a royal covering over the camel. Cut in a rectangle approximately 1 1/2" X 2 1/2". Cut small slices on both ends (length wise) on the rectangle to make some fringes.

Next with a glue stick, glue the purple covering over the hump of the camel. You can write 1 Kings 10:9 on the camel (or have the kids do it) if you like to help them to remember the lesson.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer to first of all ask the Lord for wisdom and then for the Lord to help us to use the wisdom He gives us to help others. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

