



In the Old Testament, no one is wiser than King Solomon.

Solomon became King of Israel as a young man after the death of his father David. God gave Solomon great promises; including the unique gift of being the wisest man in the world.

There was no one like him ... anywhere.

In addition to great **wisdom** and **knowledge**, God gave him incredible **fame** and **riches**.

- † Solomon built the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem for the Israelites to worship the Lord
- † Solomon built a spectacular palace for himself called the “**Palace of the Forest of Lebanon**” where everything was laden in gold.
- † Solomon wrote 3,000 Proverbs and over a 1,000 songs;
- † Solomon “*described plant life and taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish*”. 1 Kings 4:33-34
- † He was so prosperous that silver was considered of little value; “*it was as common as rocks on the ground*” 1 Kings 10:27
- † The Bible says that *Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth* 1 King 10:23; and that *year after year ... the whole world sought an audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God put in his heart.* 1 Kings 10:24-25 ... men of all nations came to listen to Solomon’s wisdom 1 Kings 4:34

You cannot overstate how significant Solomon was in his day and age. **There was no one like him ... anywhere.** He was known throughout the world as the wisest man on earth.

Because of his great wisdom, knowledge, wealth, and fame, Solomon is known in the Old Testament as the **Teacher of Israel**; he wrote 3 books of the Old Testament: **Proverbs**, **Ecclesiastes**¹, and the **Song of Songs**.

¹ The Name “Ecclesiastes” is the Latin translation of the Old Testament Hebrew word for “teacher.” Solomon is the “Teacher” of Israel. This word is translated in Ecclesiastes as either “Teacher” or “Preacher”.

Today we heard the story of the Queen of Sheba² coming to visit **King Solomon, the great Old Testament Teacher**. Here is a part of that Scripture passage:

When the Queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the Name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan--with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones -- she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the King to explain to her. 1 Kings 10:1-3

During the Queen of Sheba's visit to Jerusalem, Solomon also taught her about the Lord. She listened to the **Teacher of Israel** and she believed! God created faith in her heart -- the Bible even records one of her songs of praise:

Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness." 1 Kings 10:9

Right after this confession of faith, the Queen of Sheba gives an extravagant offering to the Lord through Solomon.

Solomon taught her about the coming Messiah, and the promises of forgiveness and life that God had made. We know that same Messiah and His promises also --- but we know what He did and how He saved us. We know that the Messiah is Jesus, the Savior God promised to send who through His life, death, and resurrection rescues us from sin and gives us eternal life. Because of Him our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to God. **Like the Queen of Sheba, God has given you faith to believe in Jesus, and His gospel promises of life, forgiveness, and peace.**

True wisdom in Scripture is not being smart, having fame, or being wealthy.

**True wisdom is knowing God
and His Son Jesus Christ who gives eternal life.**
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom³!

² Scholars believe "Sheba" is the modern day area of Sudan and Ethiopia.

³ This is **Proverbs 9:10**: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Jesus echoes this in **John 17:3** "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." St. Paul also declares in **1 Corinthians 1:24**, "Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God". And in **1 John 5:20**: "We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you know and believe in God and His Son Jesus; God has not only given you the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life; but He has given you the gift of wisdom as well: He has given you faith in His Son Jesus! *That is true wisdom!*

**In the New Testament, Jesus uses the story of
Solomon and the Queen of Sheba
to teach us about Himself and the importance of
listening, learning, and obeying His Word!**

The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now **one greater than Solomon** is here. Luke 11:31

Jesus, of course, is the One greater than Solomon; if Solomon was the teacher of the Old Testament times; then Jesus is the Greater Teacher of the New Testament era. It's absolutely important to listen and believe His Word.

When Jesus said these words, the crowds around Jesus were getting bigger and bigger -- but the people were not there to **listen, learn from, nor obey** Jesus. They were there for the miracles; or maybe that He would feed them, and maybe even to watch the fireworks between Jesus and the Pharisees. Jesus describes those who fail to **listen, learn and obey** His Word as “*a wicked and corrupt generation*”.

Jesus is making a sharp comparison:

- On the one hand, the Queen of Sheba, a Gentile, travelled from “*the ends of the earth*” to hear the **Old Testament Teacher Solomon**; she **listened and believed!**
- On the other hand, the people of Israel, the Jews of Jesus’ day, did not have to travel at all to hear the **New Testament Teacher Jesus**, the “*one greater than Solomon*”; and they were **NOT listening nor believing Him.**

Jesus says that the Queen of Sheba herself will condemn them in their indifference, apathy, and unbelief; for their lack of repentance and lack of faith in the One greater than Solomon.

**It's a harsh warning not only for the Jews
but for us as well.**

You did not have to travel from the “*ends of the earth*” to hear Jesus either; rather Jesus Himself **sent people** to the “*ends of the earth*” to find you and preach and teach the Gospel so that you would hear it! We all have had pastors and teachers, family and friends who have taught us the Word and encouraged us in the faith.

God sent every single one of them to you!

The story of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba calls you to check your heart and attitude --- you certainly do not want to be part of the “*wicked and corrupt generation*” that rejects Jesus and His Word and is condemned.

Rather by God's grace, you've been given faith. You know Jesus as your Savior; and His work of salvation for you and in your place. He has taught you that His Word is wisdom and truth; and He gives you the power to trust it, learn it, and put it into practice.

- Someone *greater than Solomon*⁴ is your Teacher.
- Jesus Himself has come from to the “*ends of the earth*” to find you and teach you.
- Jesus, the Son of David, is the New Testament Teacher of the One, Holy, Christian, and Apostolic Church.
- *Jesus the Creator* of all things visible and invisible is **not** going to teach you about plants, animals, birds, reptiles, and fish; but *Jesus the Savior* of the world **is** going to teach you about forgiveness, eternal life, and holy living.
- Solomon was the wisest man on earth during his days; Jesus is the wisest One of all as the Son of God! Jesus is the **Wisdom of God** who gives you a proper world view, He gives you purpose, meaning, and direction for daily living; and He gives you eternal life and salvation so that you will escape final Judgment on the Last Day!

LISTEN CAREFULLY:

You are without excuse

if you neglect the Words and Teachings of Jesus.

One Greater than Solomon is here:

Jesus, the Son of God is our Teacher;
and He has given us His Holy Word
to listen to, learn from, and put into practice.

Amen!

⁴ To recap this idea: The Son of David (Christ) is *greater* than the son of David (Solomon) --- Luke 11:31 makes the connection for us: *The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.* Jesus is the Messianic Son of David who is also the **Son of God** who is far “*greater than Solomon*”! Just as Solomon was the Old Testament Teacher of Israel (“Ecclesiastes”); so now Jesus is the *greater* New Testament Teacher of the Holy Christian Church (John 13:13: *[Jesus said,] you call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am*)!

Lord Jesus, you are the New Testament Teacher of the One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. We ask that you create a zeal within us so that we may listen, learn, believe, and obey your Word and Promises. Create a hunger and thirst within us for Your Holy Word, so that we may be Biblically literate and doctrinally sound disciples. Amen!

Luke 11:29-32

As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. 30 For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. 31 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here. 32 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.

1 Kings 10:1-10, 13

1 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. 2 Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan--with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones--she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. 3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, 5 the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed. 6 She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and

your wisdom is true. 7 But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. 8 How blessed your men must be! How blessed your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king, to maintain justice and righteousness." 10 And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon . . . 13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her advisors to her own country.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

9 Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. 10 The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. 11 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one shepherd. 12 Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. 13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are,²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”