

QUEEN OF SHEBA

Making the Bible Come Alive

The curious one

WHO WAS THIS PERSON?

- The Queen of Sheba came from far away to meet King Solomon.
- The Queen of Sheba was rich.
- The Queen of Sheba had heard about the fame of King Solomon.
- The Queen of Sheba did not trust what she had heard about King Solomon, she went to see for herself.
- The Queen of Sheba had prepared riddles to test King Solomon's wisdom.
- The Queen of Sheba gave glory to the God of King Solomon because of the favour He had given her.
- The Queen of Sheba is mentioned only twice in the Bible.



WHAT IS THIS PERSON KNOWN FOR?

- King Solomon walked in the ways of God. He had built the temple of the Lord. He was very wealthy, his kingdom was one of peace and he was the wisest man who ever lived. His fame reached far and wide. The Queen of Sheba was also rich. When she met King Solomon in Jerusalem, she brought many gifts.
- The Queen of Sheba had heard of the fame of King Solomon, of what he had and of his wisdom. She wanted to meet this wise man whose reputation had spread to her distant country. She decided to come and meet him herself and test him with riddles. When she had finished asking all her questions and he had answered them all, the queen did not stop there in her evaluation of King Solomon. In fact, she also observed the servants, the cupbearers, the food on his table, the house, the temple of the Lord, and the burnt offerings (sacrifices) that he offered to the Lord. Then she said to King Solomon, "So it was true what I had learned in my country." She would not believe it until she came and saw with her own eyes, that King Solomon had more wisdom, prosperity than fame had made known. She had not been told half of what she had seen! (1 Kings 10:7)
- The Queen of Sheba recognized that it was the LORD, the God of King Solomon, who had granted His favour by placing him on the throne of Israel. She saw that the Lord loved Israel.





- After her visit, the Queen of Seba gave King Solomon gifts: special spices from her country, gold, precious stones and sandalwood. King Solomon also gave the queen everything she wanted, everything she had asked for. She returned to her country and could tell all that she had seen and known about the God of King Solomon.

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us that our reputation is important.** King Solomon's reputation led the Queen of Sheba to visit him not only because of his wealth and actions, but also because of his great wisdom. She had prepared herself well by bringing riddles to test him. She wanted to see King Solomon at work with his God, his servants and his people. The Bible does not tell us about the faith of the Queen of Sheba. But the Bible says that she had heard about the God of King of Solomon. In the book of Proverbs, there are several verses that talk about the importance of our reputation. In Proverbs 17:17, "A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need." In Proverbs 3:3,4, "Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart.. Then you will find favour with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation." In Proverbs 22:1, "Choose a good reputation over great riches;" So what should you do to have a good reputation? Can people recognize the God you serve? That your God is behind your actions, your strength and your success?
- **To remind us of what we must do to honor God.** King David, King Solomon's father, told him what he should do to honor God. In 1 Chronicles 28:8 it says, "So now, with God as our witness, and in the sight of all Israel—the Lord's assembly—I give you this charge. Be careful to obey all the commands of the Lord your God, so that you may continue to possess this good land and leave it to your children as a permanent inheritance." King Solomon, from the beginning of his reign, had asked God for wisdom to rule over the people. He built the first temple and offered sacrifices to the Lord. The Queen of Sheba recognized that the Lord was with King Solomon and granted him favor. In 1 Kings 10:9a, we read, "Praise the Lord your God, who delights in you and has placed you on the throne of Israel." What should we do to gain God's

favor over our lives? "So the Lord must wait for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help." (Isaiah 30:18).

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Challenge yourself to find five minutes each day for a week, to quiet your spirit, finding a spot where you are not distracted, and practice just listening to God and being in tune with Him. Take your Bible to that quiet place. Use some of that time to pray, and some time to just meditate on His Word. Keep your ears and your heart open to what God is wanting to say to you. It's not a matter of IF He wants to talk to you. He does want to speak. But, He also wants you to be ready and positioned for listening, so you can actually hear in your heart what He is saying. Then, respond in obedience with a heart that is open to what God would have you to do. God called Samuel three times. How many times is He calling you? The more you spend time in His presence, the less He will have to try calling you over and over again. Maybe you will hear His voice the very first time He calls

