



Daily Reflections

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA MEETS KING SOLOMON

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

The queen of Sheba, having heard of Solomon's fame, came to test him with subtle questions. She arrived in Jerusalem with a very numerous retinue, and with camels bearing spices, a large amount of gold, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and questioned him on every subject in which she was interested. King Solomon explained everything she asked about, and there remained nothing hidden from him that he could not explain to her. When the queen of Sheba witnessed Solomon's great wisdom, the palace he had built, the food at his table, the seating of his ministers, the attendance and garb of his waiters, his banquet service, and the burnt offerings he offered in the temple of the LORD, she was breathless. "The report I heard in my country about your deeds and your wisdom is true," she told the king. "Though I did not believe the report until I came and saw with my own eyes, I have discovered that they were not telling me the half. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report I heard. Blessed are your men, blessed these servants of yours, who stand before you always and listen to your wisdom. Blessed be the LORD, your God, whom it has pleased to place you on the throne of Israel. In

his enduring love for Israel, the LORD has made you king to carry out judgment and justice." Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty gold talents, a very large quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again did anyone bring such an abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

1 KINGS 10:1-10

Reflection

First Kings 5:11 notes that Solomon's "fame spread throughout the neighboring peoples" while later on, 5:14 reports that "People came from all nations to hear Solomon's wisdom." The Queen of Sheba was among the foreign dignitaries who confirmed his famous wisdom and marveled at his enormous wealth.

It is fascinating that while Solomon's fame as a "wise" man does include references to his wisdom that explained every question Queen Sheba asked, there is much more said about his material affluence, i.e., "the palace he had built, the food at his table, the seating of his ministers, the attendance and garb of his waiters, his banquet service and the burnt offerings he offered in the temple of the LORD." Reportedly, these extravagant riches left Sheba "breathless!" Following the theme of plenty, she gave him gold, precious stones and "a very large quantity of spices."

How does this description of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel, relate to YHWH God? From the vantage point that everything created is gift, Solomon is a recipient of the Creator's generosity. His wisdom and wealth are also inherited realities of the covenant relationship made between the people of Israel and God. The people acknowledge that only YHWH God is the center and support of their world. They neither recognize nor serve any other power in their lives.



"King Solomon Meeting the Queen of Sheba" by A.Davey is licensed under CC BY 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/?ref=openverse>.

For Pondering

- What power do you acknowledge in your life? Wealth? Wisdom? Or?
 - What connection does it have with God?
 - How is that power exercised?
-

For Prayer

Reflect on Psalm 37 as it describes the LORD's activity. Which Divine activity are you drawn to?

*Commit to the LORD your way; trust in him, and he will act.
He will make justice dawn for you like the light;
bright as the noonday shall be your vindication.*

The mouth of the just man tells of wisdom

*and his tongue utters what is right.
The law of his God is in his heart,
and his steps do not falter.
The salvation of the just is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in time of distress
And the LORD helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.*

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list,

please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [thecsd@csjorange.org](mailto:bythecsd@csjorange.org)