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Participants' Handout

2026 Annual Theme: Hope in Motion

BIBLE STUDY

September 2, 2026/August 26, 2026

August 2026 Theme: An Excellent Spirit

Lesson Subject : “An Excellent Spirit” *Unit three: Solomon*
1 Kings 10:1-10 (Key verse: vs.5) [Part 2]

Topics

- ❖ Scripture Reference
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Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 10:1-10 New American Standard Bible

¹Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon *in relation* to the name of the Lord, she came to test him with riddles. ²So she came to Jerusalem with a very large entourage, with camels carrying balsam oil and a very large *quantity of* gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke to him about everything that was in her heart. ³And Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was concealed from the king which he did not explain to her. ⁴**When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, ⁵and the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings which he offered at the house of the Lord, she was breathless.** ⁶Then she said to the king, “It was a true story that I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. ⁷But I did not believe the stories until I came and my *own* eyes saw *it all*. And behold, the half *of it* was not reported to me. You have exceeded *in* wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. ⁸Blessed are your men, *and* blessed are these servants of yours who stand before you continually *and* hear your wisdom! ⁹Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to put you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loves Israel forever, He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”¹⁰ Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, and a very large *amount of* balsam oil and precious stones. Never again did such a large quantity of balsam oil come in as that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

Reflection Questions

Question 1:

Which News Travels the fastest, Good News or Bad News? Why do you think this is so?

Question 2:

If Someone was asked to describe you with one Word. Which word do you believe they would choose?

Outline: The Book of 1 Kings focuses on Solomon

The books of 1 and 2 Kings were originally a single literary work that provided a continuous account of Israel's history from the death of David and the accession of Solomon.

The books of 1 and 2 Kings constitute the great "royal history" of Israel in the Old Testament. They trace the ups and downs of kingship all the way from the death of David 962 to the destruction of Jerusalem 587.

Royal history to recognize at the outset that this literature is concerned with "royal data" that is, the policies, actions, and destinies of the several rulers of these two ancient states.

- **Self-appointed** (The danger of Self- appointment Adonijah attempts to take the throne) 1 Kings 1:1-10
- **Synchronizing with the will of God** 1Kings 2:1-3
- **Solomon walking in the Statutes of God** 1 Kings 3:2-3; 3:14
- **Setup of officials and Solomon's Success** 1 Kings 4 :21-22
- **Setting the Order for building the Temple of God** 1 Kings 5
- **Specific attention to Sacred Affairs of God** 1 Kings 6:2
- **Seeds of honoring God turned into a harvest** 1 Kings 7:51
- **Summons of the Ark of the Covenant** 1 Kings 8:6-7
- **Supplication Heard and Sovereign Warning** 1 Kings 9:4-5
- **Supernatural endowment of wisdom** 1 Kings 10:1-5

Introductory/ Contextual Clues

In the previous lessons on excellence, we endeavored to provide a thorough and biblical definition of excellence, and how to operate in that excellence in our homes, churches, communities and at large in a biblical sense. In order to further our understanding of the concept

of excellence we explored the character Daniel and His invaluable contributions to the Hebraic writings and the people of God within the Book of Daniel. Now that we have wet our appetite for how to embody biblical excellence in our daily lives, we will turn to 1 Kings where Solomon who is known to be one of the wisest men to ever live. **1 Kings 4:29-30**

- **G von Rad spoke of Solomons' reign as a high point in Israelite culture as well as commerce.**
- **Solomon is put before us simply for the sake of example, of whom it was eagerly expected that his wisdom should be heard.**
- **R. N. Whybray points out" No Israelite King other than David, 2 Samuel 14:20 and Solomon is specially credited with wisdom in the OT.**
- **Solomon is to wisdom much as Moses is to Torah, and David to the psalms.**

Who is Solomon?

Solomon personal "Selomoh" name whose name is interpreted as "his peace" (God) is peace, "Salem" (a god) intact, or his replacement. The explanation of the name selomoh is given in 1 Chr. 22:9 that Yahweh will give salem (peace) and quiet to Isarel in his days. Tenth son of David and the second son Bathsheba, Solomon became the third King of Israel and reigned 40 years about 970 B.C. The second ruler of the united monarchy in the Davidic dynasty.

Solomon is remembered most for his wisdom, his building program, and his wealth generated through trade and administrative reorganization.

Solomon was remembered as having 3000 proverbs and 1,005 songs in his repertoire

The bible clearly notes that Solomon had faults as well as elements of greatness

Where does Solomon's excellence come from?

The wisdom associated with Solomon in the OT consistently one rooted in the fear and knowledge of the lord Proverbs 1:7, 2 Chronicles 1:10, James 1:5

Solomon is portrayed in the bible as the paradigm or a wise ruler 1 Kings 3:4-14 presents Solomon's wisdom as a divine gift in response to his request of Gibeon sanctuary that Yahweh give the new King both understanding of how to rule the kingdom and knowledge of good and evil.

The overall impression of Solomon's wisdom is that it is a gift of grace given by God to an inadequate and naturally foolish and dysfunctional man.

Explore the Text/ Lessons from Solomon:

- **Excellence will be Tested**
- **Evidence of the Exemplary**
- **Experiencing Excellence**
- **Exceeding in Wisdom and prosperity**
- **Exalted by God**
- **Exercise justice and righteousness**

Excellence will be Tested

1 Kings 10 introduces us to a well-known character in biblical history and that is Queen Sheba. Those who are serious students of the scriptures when they hear the name Solomon after thinking of *Wisdom* it is only natural to think of the name Queen Sheba. One of the reasons that this transpires is because of the initial meeting between King Solomon and Queen Sheba.

The author of kings makes it a point to inform his audience of the spreading of the fame of Solomon throughout the land. This is a confirmation to what David expressed to his son Solomon and the conversation that Solomon had with God and that was that the Lord would bless him if he kept his laws, and ordinances and walked faithfully before God. 1 Kings 2:3

Verse 1 of 1st Kings 10 says that Queen Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon. Queen Sheba needed to see it for herself to verify the news. Just take time and think how many people in our culture will do absolutely anything to become famous or a celebrity. They will indecently expose themselves on reality tv shows like "survivor" There are others like the Boston Bomber who took people's lives senselessly to be known on the wrong side of history. But it is not our job to make our names great but to allow God to make our names Great! Genesis 11:1-5 and Genesis 12:1-2

Experience in the world of the text is a particular reference to YHWH the God of Israel. This God is seen to be an active and decisive player in this lived history

Evidence of the Exemplary

The meeting of the Queen of Sheba with Solomon in Jerusalem was surely a summit meeting to work out a trade pact. The queen is impressive, but she is no match for Solomon.

When Queen Sheba arrived there were particular things that she accounted for during her visit with king Solomon

- Very large retinue (attendants)
- Camels carrying spices
- Gold
- Precious stones

In verse 2 and 3 Queen Sheba saw what Solomon had but she also experienced the depth of the wisdom of Solomon. A person that personifies pure excellence is not predicated just upon the possessions that an individual amass but the depth of their relationship with God and the character that they possess. It is not about how much you possess it is about how much the Lord possess you! **Mark 8:36, Mark 10:17-27**

The first order of business is to match wit, to test wisdom 1 Kings 10:2b-5. The queen surely brought her most learned advisers with her. They had done their homework but were nonetheless dazzled by Solomon's impressiveness the commanding phrase for Solomon "nothing hidden" indicates that he had a resolution for every problem posed.

When people encounter you as a Christian can they see the evidence that you have been with Jesus. Just as Queen Sheba had no doubt after she asked these questions of Solomon that the wisdom that he possessed was not from this world, but it must have come from God. **Acts 4:1-13**

Experiencing Excellence

The text says that after all that she saw and all that she heard she had no breath in her. That is totally blew her mind. She stated that the half has not been told.

The queen is so impressed that she violates royal urbanity and is left speechless and breathless. He took away her *ruah*

Solomon is successful on every front, he has no negative element anywhere in his dossier, and is the marvel of all the earth.

Just as Solomon operated in this level of excellence and allowed God to use him to the fullest. We as the body of Christ we should position ourselves to be used in order to blow people's minds about our awesome God! **Acts 1:8 and Acts 2**

Exceeding in Wisdom and Prosperity

The wisdom of Solomon displayed before Sheba and the other visitors was not the wisdom of the world but of God. The comparison and contrast of the world's wisdom versus the wisdom of God is presented in **James 3:13-18**

The wisdom of God according to James is based upon the behavior of the person imparting the wisdom. Our responses in scenarios that arise reveal our level of wisdom. When we have to make real time tough decisions or handle challenging situations under pressure are telltale signs of our level of wisdom.

There were expectations of Solomon:

- **A widespread reputation**
- **A curious visitor**
- **An amazed inquirer**
- **A convinced adherent**

The Queen of Sheba had great expectations for Solomon because of the reports that were communicate to her prior to her visitation. The expectations possessed by Queen Sheba held some weight but the most important expectation Solomon should seriously consider is God's expectations. When we are confronted with task, be it either by our own volition or by the request of others we need to execute our assignment with excellence based upon the expectations of godly excellence and the exemplary standard we have set for ourselves. We must refrain from being infected by the mediocrity or low standard of decisions deriving from baseless(unfounded) prayer and poor planning.

Exalted by God

Solomon was not to be outdone; he bestowed even greater gifts upon Queen Sheba. The purpose of the historian was served in again emphasizing Solomon's wisdom as an evident token of God's blessing upon him.

Like the Queen of Sheba, we must admire God's riches and embrace his treasures of wisdom (Origen)

- Accessed by Divine revelation **Proverbs 2:6-9**
- Maintained by the discipline of the Lord **Proverbs 3:11-14**
- It is therefore not merely secular, or the rational product of the power of the human mind.
- It is made manifest in a righteous lifestyle that is faithful to the Lord... in a corrupt and dangerous world.

The gifts in which we use should give glory to God. **Matthew 5:16, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Corinthians 10:27-33**

There are people who long to hear a person that they admire utter the words *I'm proud of you*. This seeking for belonging and validation can be healthy but in other instances it can become hazardous to our spiritual journey because we can become motivated only by human affirmation instead of being driven by godly dedication. **Philippians 2:9-11**

Exercise Justice and Righteousness

"This word pair on the lips of the Queen is astonishing, because it is a word pair that seems to embody the primary demands of Israel's Torah – prophetic traditions. The terms are used together in some royal texts **Isa 5:7, Amos 5:7**. The terms together bespeak a political-economic practice of social solidarity whereby all members of the community are afforded the resources necessary for a viable existence of well-being, security, and dignity."

Check for Understanding

1. How did Solomon become so wise? Where did he receive his Wisdom?

2. Why did Queen Sheba lose her breath?

3. Is there anything wrong with having a great name?

Life Application

What forms of service can we perform this week for God that will blow people's minds! It does not have to be something big to gain someone's attention but rather we can raise our level of excellence so that people can see God through your service.