

The Queen Of Sheba

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[0 : 0 0] Psalm 50 from the beginning, the mighty God the Lord hath spoken, and it called the earth from rising of the sun to where he hath his fall.

So Psalm 50 from the beginning to verse 6, the mighty God the Lord hath spoken. The mighty God the Lord hath spoken and it called the earth from rising of the sun.

Here with me as his fall. From the earth outside your hill, which your best friend is, and your spirit.

And your kingdom of perfection is, God shall yet glory as he.

Our God shall surely come. Keep silent shall not be.

[1 : 5 3] Before the earth shall whispered storm, shall I and above him be.

Until the heavens clear, to come above the cross.

And to the earth like wise the key, may judge his people on.

To gather my sins. To gather my sins. To gather my sins.

To gather my sins. Glory, voy. Glory, voy. voy. voy. voy. voy.

[3 : 1 7] voy. voy.

And then the heavens shout To my children's living day Because the Lord has helped me By whom I'm just yet I To unite their hearts in prayer.

My gracious Father as we gather together We thank you that the mighty God The Lord has spoken That he spoke in creation That he called the earth From the rising of the sun To where it has its fall.

We thank you that he calls Each new day into being. Your mercies are great every morning. Great is your faithfulness. And you're the one who calls the dead to life.

The one who said Lazarus come forth. And he left the grave close and the tomb And walked towards the Saviour. We ask of this evening That we would experience that same calling power That sinners would be called to follow Jesus.

[5 : 0 7] That those who are running away Would be stopped And would taste and would see That God is good. Our Father we thank you That you are the God Who keeps promises.

We have been singing That our God shall surely come. He will come in grace And he will come in judgment. And we ask of this evening That he would come in grace.

We thank you for the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been singing before him Fire shall waste. We thank you that the Saviour Was exposed to the great fire. The Saviour took The wrath of God On his own body Willingly on the cross.

That we would never experience that wrath. For there is now therefore No condemnation For those who are in Christ Jesus. And this evening we ask That we would Revel in all the glories of the gospel.

That we would recognise That there is good news for every sinner. That Jesus has died. That the way is free. And he has given us The power to respond To the call of the gospel.

Lord we thank you That he has spoken to us In the scripture. And as we open the Bible
This evening We ask that we would hear The word of God That our cry and our prayer
Would be Speak Lord For your servants are listening.

We ask for forgiveness For all these years When perhaps our ears Were closed And we did not listen. Not simply because We could not listen But we did not listen.

The cry from our heart was We will not have this man To rule over us. But we bless you
That by the power of the gospel You overcame the feeble citadels Of our own heart.

You stormed the gates Of our own selfishness And you tore down the ramparts Of our own pride And in humility We came crying to you Saying my Lord And my God This evening We thank you For the beauty Of the Lord Jesus May we see some of that beauty As we proclaim his word May we see that beauty Also in the lives Of the men and women Of this congregation That we would As they say Adorn the gospel That we would be Living epistles Known and read Of all people That we would Be men and women Who show and exude The grace Of the Lord Jesus In their own lives.

We think of the beauty Of Jesus The rose of share And the fairest Of ten thousand And
may his beauty Be our beauty This evening. Bless us we pray As we come together
Forgive our sins We ask this In the Saviour's name.

Amen. Can we sing to God's praise In Psalm 72 From the beginning. Psalm 72 In verse 1
O Lord Thy judgments Give the King His Son Thy righteousness With right He shall Thy
people judge Thy poor With uprightness.

Psalm 72 To verse 8 O Lord Thy judgments Give the King O Lord Thy judgments Give the King His Son Thy righteousness voy voy voy voy voy!

voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy voy He will be.

Likewise, the little hills the same shall do by the light of the rest.

[illegible]

The child shall fly in his face, and not fill in his rain.

In the world of the moon and earth, above your Orth Orth Orth Orth Orth Orth Orth Orth
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and to do where it's not to go again.

Can we read in the book of 1 Kings, 1 Kings chapter 10? 1 Kings chapter 10.

When the Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to prove him with hard questions. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great frame, with camels that bear spices and very much gold and precious stones.

And when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all the questions. There was not anything hid from the king which he told her not.

[12 : 48] And when the Queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, and the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his assent, by which he went up unto the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land, of the acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had not seen it.

Behold, the half was not told me. Thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy are thy men. Happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

Blessed be the Lord thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee in the throne of Israel. Because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore made he thee king, and do judgment and justice.

And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices, very great store, and precious stones.

[14 : 04] There came no more such abundance of spices as those which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon. And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great, plenty of almond trees and precious stones.

And the king made of the almond tree pillars for the house of the Lord. For the king's house, harps, also in psalteries for singers. There came no such almond trees, nor were seen unto this day.

And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty.

So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants. Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold.

Beside that, he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffic of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country. And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold.

[15 : 14] Six hundred shekels of gold went to one target. And he made thee three hundred shields of beaten gold. Three pound of gold went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind.

There were stays on either side in the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays. And twelve lions stood there on one side, and on the other, upon the six steps, there was not the like made in any kingdom.

And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None were of silver. It was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish, with the navy of Hiram. Once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks.

[16 : 26] So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom. And all the earth sought to Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold and garments and armour and spices, horses and mules, arrayed year by year.

And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen. And he had a thousand and four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots and with the king at Jerusalem.

And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale for abundance. And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt and linen yarn.

The king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price. And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver and an horse for a hundred and fifty and so for all the kings of the Hittites and for the kings of Syria did they bring them out by their means.

[17 : 43] Amen. The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of God remains forever. Let's sing again to God's praise in Psalm 126.

Psalm 126. Psalm 126. When Zion is bonded, God turned back as men that dreamed were we.

when Zion is bonded, God turned back as men that dreamed were we.

Then filled with love and water voy voy It is my name, my Lord, And all I will be doing My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name,

My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name,

[20 : 58] My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name is my name, My name, My name is my name, My name, My name, My name, My name, artifacts and all the ornaments that you see in these big houses and 50 000 people enter buckingham palace every single year a guest of the king and indeed about half a million people pay money to go into buckingham palace every single year i've never been there but i read and wondered what actually is in buckingham palace and i read these words that said the state rooms are furnished lavishly furnished with some of the greatest collections from the royal collection paintings by rembrandt rubens vermeer cannelletto and claude sculpture by canova and chantrey exquisite examples of porcelain and some of the finest english and french furniture in the world these things take your breath away when you see how the rich and the famous live and especially if it's a monarch if it's the king how grand they must live well we only get a sense of that don't we here in first kings chapter 10 as i was reading that chapter didn't you get a sense of the the lavishness of it you read there of all the gold you read there of all the precious stones you read there of abundance the language is really very much over the top really the palace of king solomon was an extraordinary place so what we have here in first kings chapter 10 is the story of a very famous visit of one royal monarch to another we have the visit of the queen of sheba to king solomon now that is one of the most famous royal visits ever handle wrote a piece of music called the visit of the queen of sheba and is surrounded by much mythology of the queen of the queen of the queen of the queen of the queen of the queen of the queen of sheba she was probably from africa the modern day yemen and she was very very wealthy but let me tell you just a little bit of the story here in many ways it's a typical story it's a very interesting story how the queen of sheba visited king solomon it's got tension in it the queen of sheba asked the question is all that i ever heard of solomon true the riches of king solomon was was his fame was right across the world and the queen of sheba thought is it really so amazing is it really true and so you've got that tension and remember eventually the queen of sheba said the half was not yet told me it was so lavish it it could not even have been exaggerated and then she returns with gifts so what we have here is a meeting of two seriously wealthy monarchs now what's interesting here is why the queen of sheba visited king solomon it was not the art of the deal there's a well-known politician with origins in this island and everything's the art of the deal he will only talk to people if there's some

sort of deal well is that why the queen of sheba was visiting uh king solomon did he want did she want israel to be the the 51st state of sheba what was she doing going to king solomon well it's interesting that what she wanted out of solomon was a spiritual conversation look at verse one when she heard of the theme of solomon note concerning the name of the lord verse one she asked hard questions verse six she speaks about wisdom of all your wisdom and verse seven she speaks about belief doesn't she she she says how be it i believe not the words until i came so this was a complete outsider but look at verse nine she realizes where solomon's wisdom came from and it came from there blessed be the lord thy god which delighted in thee in other words the queen of sheba was attracted not by solomon's wisdom not by his riches but what attracted her was the relationship that solomon had with the lord she was intrigued with his spiritual life she was intrigued with his faith and so she wanted to know the source of solomon's wisdom now remember the bible is a very long book but although it's a long book the theme of the bible is very very simple from genesis to to revelation the theme of the bible is the lord jesus christ and remember what the lord said in matthew chapter 12 he said there to the people that you have heard about the riches of king solomon and he said a greater than solomon is among you so whenever we read here of king solomon our minds are projected onwards to the lord jesus christ to who he is to his wisdom and his love and so this book is not all about the queen of sheba and solomon yes it is but the primary message of first kings chapter 10 is the lord jesus christ and we learn so many things about it so let's look at this passage this evening and notice one or two things the first thing i notice here is the fact of wisdom now wisdom is true we've all heard the expression for verse four the wisdom of solomon remember how solomon was tested uh how the the child was going to be cut in two and how solomon gave that very wise decision to spare the child it was extremely wise now there's very there's hints here about what is wisdom i wonder what do you think wisdom is wisdom is not intelligence wisdom is not the ability to do mathematical calculations wisdom is not the knowledge of the great literature of our day to be able to carry on a very intelligent conversation in the sphere of literature music economics politics whatever that is not what wisdom is that's knowledge you've known very clever people and we've got an expression here he's not wise in fact some of the smartest people i know are the most unwise people i know they do absolutely crazy things but hope wisdom here was we've got a slight a hint there in verse in verse in verse three and four wisdom led verse four to a healthy kingdom in verse five it covered all areas of life here

so wisdom is not just knowing things wisdom is the ability to steer our way through life somebody said this it may sound very flippant but i think it's really quite clever knowledge is the knowledge that a tomato is a fruit wisdom is to know not to put it in a fruit salad see that's the difference between knowledge and wisdom between knowledge and wisdom the ability to apply knowledge in the ordinary things of life and look at verse 18 which is extremely interesting one of the things that attracted the queen of sheba to king solomon was the happiness of all his subjects look at verse eight happy are the men happy are those thy servants who stand continually before thee and hear thy wisdom so solomon's philosophy of life led to happy people did you know that there's a thing called the world happiness report it's a thing it's published every year by the united nations sustainable development solutions network happiness index and according to the happiest country in the world is finland followed by denmark iceland and then sweden the united kingdom according to that thing we are the 20th happiest nation in the world interestingly when you take the statistics closer to home the index asks where is the happiest place in scotland you never believe this one of the happiest places to live in is the western islands so there we are we're not all that bad so the question here is where does the happiness of king solomon's people come from well it comes from wisdom and again what is wisdom if i were to ask the question what is wisdom someone who is exercising spiritual things would say right away the fear of the lord is the beginning of wisdom so that's what wisdom is the fear of the lord the respect for god the knowledge that god is god and he is in the throne that is where wisdom begins but more than that if you read the beginning of the book of proverbs it talks about wisdom doesn't it wisdom and then it says that wisdom is not just a thing wisdom is not just an idea wisdom is a person it speaks about wisdom walking on the streets and then if you take into john's gospel john chapter one the greek word for wisdom there is the word the logos and we read in john chapter one that the word that wisdom became flesh and dwelt among us and so wisdom is the lord jesus christ and not only that the lord jesus christ is not just a person he is the overgrown idea everything in the universe coheres around jesus everything in the universe has its purpose and meaning and orientation only when the lord jesus christ is at the center of our world so that's why an atheistic worldview a world without jesus is a world which is really out of kilter you cannot really have a world without jesus because that would be a world without wisdom

isn't it interesting that the countries that have sought to actually apply atheism of the most miserable countries in the world who goes to north korea on holiday nobody it's a horrible place it's a place of darkness it's a place of fear it's a place of violence in the soviet union under stalin he tried to excise god out of it it was a miserable place where millions of people were put to death we see that in many countries of the world where the god of the bible is pushed aside they are miserable people they're not happy places and so what we have here is the fact of wisdom so we see the fact of wisdom but then moving on naturally not only do we see the fact of wisdom but as i've hinted at we see the attraction of wisdom now the queen of sheba had cared about it verse one again the queen of sheba heard the of the fame of solomon concerning the name of the lord notice how many times his wisdom is linked up to his relationship with god verse one verse five twice in verse nine that's why she came in this journey now the queen of sheba did not need anything material she gave him four tons of gold a lot of gold we go and visit someone we bring a wee minding maybe a packet of shortbread or something that's some minding four tons of gold really is quite extraordinary this is a woman who didn't need any material from from solomon she had it all she was rich but there was something more and again coming back to verse one look at the end of it she came to prove him with hard questions let me say that our faith encourages questions i'm very conscious tonight that there are not a lot of people in this church compared to the folk who live around about here i don't know how many folk live in this parish five six hundred people perhaps many of these people they're not bad people they're people who've got hard questions but the queen of sheba had in verse one notice again when it says she came to prove him with hard questions the church in the past has discouraged hard questions don't ask these questions don't don't don't do these things but we have to listen to what people ask us and we have to have the courage to to answer these hard questions our children who are not here ask hard questions our grandchildren who are not here by large ask hard questions we can preach yes to the people here yes but i'm interested in you i'm also interested in this wider community and i want them to come and do what the queen of sheba did to solomon test us with really hard questions and they're not to be dismissed there was a hunger within the queen there was a hunger to know what is the meaning of life there was a hunger to know why did good things why did bad things happen to good people these are legitimate questions

if i know someone in the community who's lost a child at the age of two with some dreadful illness i want to ask god the question the psalms are full about asking god questions why rabbi jonathan sachs he wrote in october the 3rd 2015 he said mankind is a meaning-seeking animal if there is one thing the great institutions of the modern world do not do it is provide meaning people need meaning i wake up in the morning i wake up in the morning i look in the field i see the sheep the sheep are not searching for meaning they just dwelling over the next bit of grasses my neighbor is seeking meaning why am i here why do i look what is the meaning of life is there life after death and so what we have here is this woman she is homesick she but she she knows that there is a a far-off country she knows that there's a meaning to life and so as with many of the folk in this community they know that there is more to life than what they see they know that there is life after death they even know that there's a god and so we must be like solomon no question is too hard it's not as if we're frightened of the questions we're not because god has got the answers and so what we see here is we see the fact of wisdom we see the attraction of wisdom but where is wisdom where is wisdom to be found today now we live in a fascinating world a world of ai artificial intelligence and it's becoming more and more sophisticated you ask artificial intelligence you ask google a question and it'll come up with an answer absolutely artificial intelligence is incredible the power of google you go into folks houses and you'll hear folks say hey google oh a phone doesn't go off and answers the questions or hey siri you you or what's that other one alexa uh people are asking questions and the answer is coming out where is was is it in the internet is it in google look at verse two i think that gives us a hint she came to jerusalem with a very great train a train of course not a a chuchu train but it is her camels and horses and all her her retinue what was at jerusalem the palace the temple and the place of burnt offerings isn't that intriguing that one of the things that intrigued the queen of sheba was the burnt offerings that he was offering i think the queen of sheba asked the question what can wash away my sin and the answer is over him says nothing but the blood of jesus i'll tell you a story i

[41 : 35] i was recently with a friend of mine and this person is a police officer and they don't believe in god and i was in company with this person and we were we were at a church service actually and one of the hymns that were sung was the vilest offender who truly believes that moment in jesus a pardon receives my friend was angry this police officer says i work with vile offenders every single day that him is saying the vilest offender who truly believes that moment in jesus a pardon receives exactly so we find here that the queen of sheba saw all these things especially the burnt offerings that were so important for her so important for her

Jesus said of himself Matthew chapter 12 something greater than Solomon is here now Solomon's wisdom was huge but I like the first word of chapter 11 it says there but King Solomon loved many strange women together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites Ammonites, Edomites Zidonians and the Hittites Solomon's wisdom was great but it was imperfect Solomon had 700 wives that's a lot of wives Jesus how many wives did Jesus ever have?

he had one wife what's this? what are they teaching in the future of college now? Jesus had one wife of course he had one wife the bride of Christ is his church whom he loved with a perfect love King Solomon had 700 wives Jesus had one King Solomon King Solomon was unfaithful to his wives and his wife Jesus was never unfaithful the glory of King Solomon was in his wealth the glory of the Lord Jesus was in his poverty and in his person he had no wealth but still they came this queen from the east bearing gold gold does that remind you does 1st Kings chapter 10 not remind you of another story in the New Testament of people bringing gifts of gold wise men from the east brought gifts of gold frankincense and myrr those who met with him in the mountain the Lord Jesus fell before him and said my lord and my god the queen of Sheba found all wisdom here at the feet of Solomon what about then the response to this wisdom look at verse 5 there was no more spirit in her literally she was breathless when she saw the wisdom of Solomon she was breathless verse 5 she was astonished there was no more spirit in her verse 9 says the same thing that she that the half was never yet told her this was a spontaneous overflow of wonder

God was glorified you see as Solomon received gold from the queen of Sheba that three figures again Jesus a coming king and gold given to him we often sing at the end of a communion psalm 72 where does it say yea he shall live and given to him shall be of Sheba's gold for him still shall they pray and he shall daily be extolled psalm 72 speaks of gold being brought to the Lord Jesus Christ and also psalm 72 bouncing off 1st Kings chapter 10 speaks of the enduring name of God through which all nations will be blessed his name forever shall endure last like the sun and shall men shall be blessed and in him all nations shall him call you see the Christian faith is absolutely suitable for the whole world

I am very interested in Islam I'm very interested in Muslims we do a lot of work with Muslims in Glasgow we do work all around the world with Muslim people do you know that the Quran is only the Quran when it's written in its original language in other words a translation of the Quran is not the Quran in other words the Quran is only for a certain people whereas the Bible is translated for all the people of the world the Christian faith and I can say this without any fear of integrity is the only religion which if I may use these words can fit every single culture of the world all over the world men and women are coming to know the

[48 : 18] Lord Jesus Christ it's my privilege to meet Christians from all over the world in Asia and India and Africa lots of folk doing different ways but the wisdom that the Queen of Sheba was attracted to is that same wisdom that is all over the world men shall be blessed in him and all nations shall him call!

Jesus in Matthew's gospel brings to us the contrast between the people of his age and who would not believe they kept looking for a sign and so it is with our generation they want a sign they want proof we have proof we've got this world we've got the testimony of the Bible the sign was there remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said he said the actions of the Queen of the South would rise up against the people in judgment folks it's not a take it or leave it scenario it's not that we can just take Jesus or leave Jesus if we leave Jesus the

Bible says that the actions of the Queen of the South will rise up and speak against us in judgment if this pagan woman saw the riches and wisdom of Solomon and was turned there will be no escape for those who know better here's the interesting thing that I've also noticed throughout the highlands and islands I noticed that many people who have been brought up in the church brought up in buildings like this have no time for God and it's the absolute outsider the Queen of Sheba figure who is brought in and tastes and sees that God is good verse 4 the Queen of Sheba saw all these great things verse 5 in the meat of his table the

Queen of Sheba ate at the table of King Solomon how does the book of Kings end well we'll get 1st Kings and we'll get 2nd Kings 2nd Kings ends when a captive is released and the captive is not only released but the captive is given a place at the King's table and if you read the end of 2nd Kings the very last chapter the prisoner's clothes are removed from him he puts aside his prison clothes and he eats at the King's table that's what happens when we are converted and we are born again our prison clothes are taken off and we are given a place at the King's table friends the

Lord Jesus Christ is infinitely more precious than King Solomon ever was will you be like the Queen of Sheba will you also be amazed at what he's given us and be able to say the half has never yet been told bow our heads in prayer our father we bow in your presence we thank you for all that we are we ask that you would hear our prayer come amongst us forgive us our sin show us the beauty of the Lord Jesus for we ask this in his name Amen sing to God's praise in Psalm 103 we'll sing in Gaelic Psalm 103 Oman Am Bian Cousin Ish and Ye Jehovah More we'll sing two verses to God's praise Oman Am Bian Am Bian voy voy voy!

[53 : 22] voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! voy! Please voy voy voy voy a voy voy voy voy voy voy

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

[56 : 19] Amen. Amen.