

## 1 Kings 10

Verses 1-5

Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions. <sup>2</sup> So she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. <sup>3</sup> Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her. <sup>4</sup> When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, <sup>5</sup> the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions.

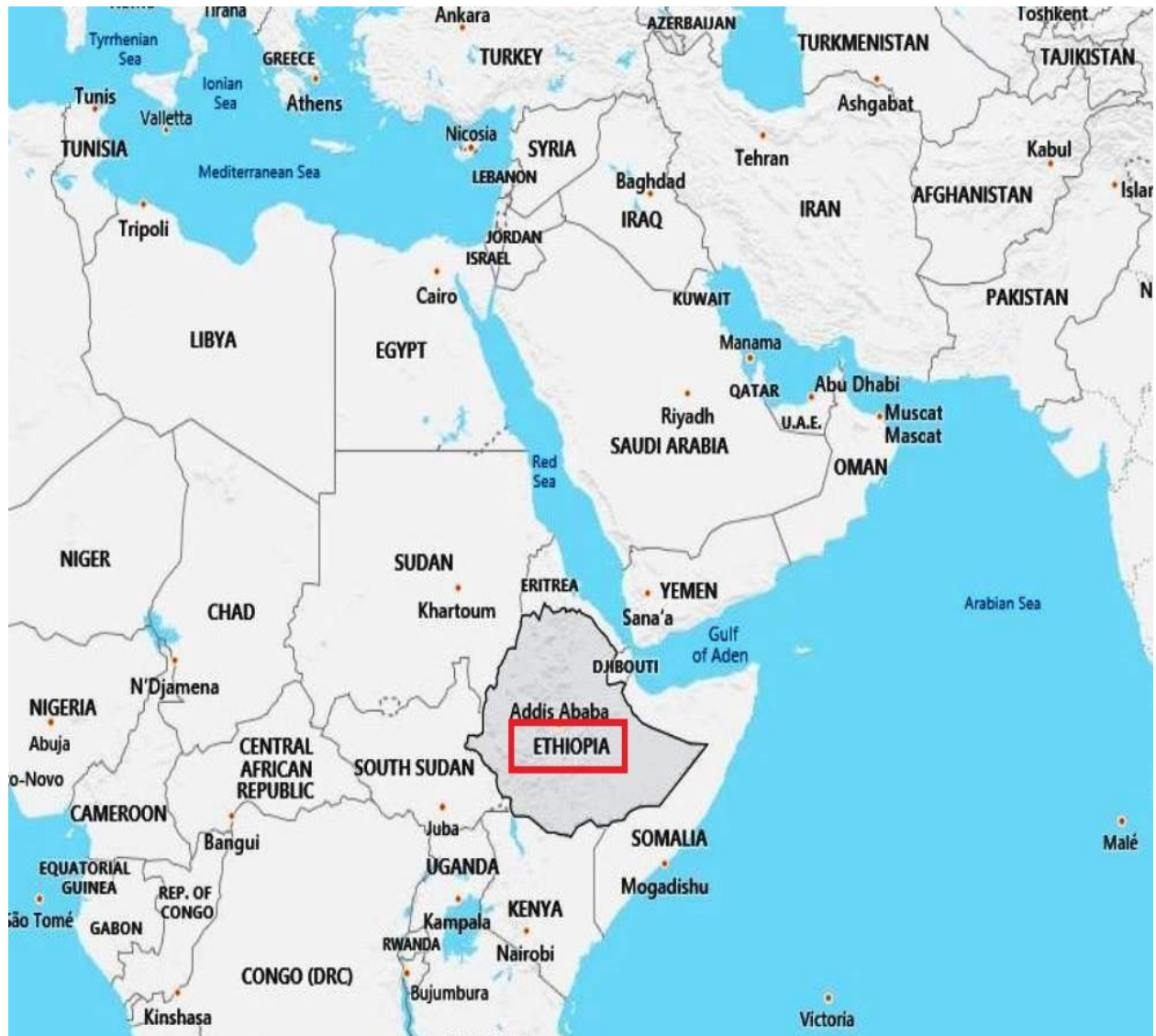
Some think the queen ruled over southwestern Arabia (current day Yemen)

See Pic 1005



Others think it was Ethiopia

See Pic 1010



Christ called her the Queen of the South.

See Matthew 12:42

<sup>42</sup> **The Queen of the South** will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, *something greater than Solomon* is here.

If she came from Yemen it was a trip of about 1300 miles. If it was Ethiopia it was 1600 miles.

<sup>2</sup> So she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. <sup>3</sup> Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her. <sup>4</sup> When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, <sup>5</sup> the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

This meeting was one of curiosity at first but it became one of respect and profound admiration by the queen.

Verses 6-10

<sup>6</sup> Then she said to the king, “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed *in* wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. <sup>8</sup> How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually *and* hear your wisdom. <sup>9</sup> Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” <sup>10</sup> She gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great *amount* of spices and precious stones. Never again did such abundance of spices come in as that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

<sup>8</sup> How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually *and* hear your wisdom.

The queen was envious of those who served Solomon because they were in the presence of greatness on a daily basis.

<sup>10</sup> She gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great *amount* of spices and precious stones. Never again did such abundance of spices come in as that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

In the previous chapter, Hiram sent this same amount of money to Solomon.

<sup>14</sup> **And Hiram sent to the king 120 talents of gold.**

Verses 11-12

**Also the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir a very great *number of almug trees* and precious stones. <sup>12</sup> The king made of the almug trees supports for the house of the Lord and for the king's house, also lyres and harps for the singers; such almug trees have not come in *again* nor have they been seen to this day.**

It is not clear what is meant by the Almug trees. There are a number of wood types that have been suggested but nothing definitive.

Verse 13

**<sup>13</sup> King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire which she requested, besides what he gave her according to his royal bounty. Then she turned and went to her own land together with her servants.**

There is a Jewish tradition that the queen of Sheba desired a child by Solomon. This is supported by the titles claimed by the present-day rulers of Ethiopia. The explanation that Selassie (1930 to 1974) gave regarding that title when he was in Washington was that his ancestors were descended from Solomon via the Queen of Sheba.

Verses 14-22

**<sup>14</sup> Now the weight of gold which came in to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, <sup>15</sup> besides *that* from the traders and the wares of the merchants and all the kings of the Arabs and the governors of the country. <sup>16</sup> King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold, using 600 *shekels of gold* on each large shield. <sup>17</sup> *He made* 300 shields of beaten gold, using three minas of gold on each shield, and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon. <sup>18</sup> Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with refined gold. <sup>19</sup> *There were* six steps to the throne and a round top to the throne at its rear, and arms on each side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the arms. <sup>20</sup> Twelve lions were standing there on the six steps on the one side and on the other; nothing like *it* was made for any other kingdom. <sup>21</sup> 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 was of silver; it was not considered valuable in the days of Solomon. <sup>22</sup> For the king had at sea the ships of Tarshish with the ships of Hiram; once every three years the ships of Tarshish came bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks.**



**<sup>16</sup> King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold, using 600 *shekels* of gold on each large shield. <sup>17</sup> He made 300 shields of beaten gold, using three minas of gold on each shield, and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.**

A typical shield might weigh around 10-20 pounds. A 10-pound shield would contain about 160 ounces of gold, and be worth approximately \$300,000. However, comparing the price of gold in 950 BC with gold prices today is somewhat dubious.

**<sup>18</sup> Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with refined gold. <sup>19</sup> There were six steps to the throne and a round top to the throne at its rear, and arms on each side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the arms. <sup>20</sup> Twelve lions were standing there on the six steps on the one side and on the other; nothing like *it* was made for any other kingdom.**

See Pic 1015



Someone must have snapped a pic on their phone. 😊

<sup>22</sup> For the king had at sea the ships of Tarshish with the ships of Hiram; once every three years the ships of Tarshish came bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks.

Does the city of Tarshish ring a bell for anyone?

See Pics 1025



Jonah boarded a ship for this town in his attempt to get as far away as possible from the city of Nineveh.

It seems Solomon or one of his wives must have taken a liking to Peacocks. Two pics of a Peacock are included here for your enjoyment.

See Pics 1025 and 1026







Verses 23-29

<sup>23</sup> So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. <sup>24</sup> All the earth was seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart. <sup>25</sup> They brought every man his gift, articles of silver and gold, garments, weapons, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year. <sup>26</sup> Now Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; and he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> The king made silver *as common* as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland. <sup>28</sup> Also Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, *and* the king's merchants procured *them* from Kue for a price. <sup>29</sup> A chariot was imported from Egypt for 600 *shekels* of silver, and a horse for 150; and by the same means they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of the Arameans.

<sup>26</sup> Now Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; and he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

The account in 2 Chronicles adds some specificity to this account.

See 2 Chron. 9:25

<sup>25</sup> Now Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

Here in 1 Kings we are told that Solomon had 1400 chariots. In 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles we see that he had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots. This means that he had 2,600 horses for the 1,400 chariots.

<sup>28</sup> Also Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, *and* the king's merchants procured *them* from Kue for a price.

Solomon was breaking the law by acquiring many horses and by importing them from Egypt. See Deuteronomy 17:16

<sup>16</sup> In any case, he is not to acquire many horses for himself, nor shall he make the people return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the Lord has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.'