

## THE JUDGEMENT OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

*Matthew 12:42* The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

The Queen of Sheba heard about the wisdom that God gave to King Solomon. Perhaps she heard about Solomon's wisdom through merchants and traders from Israel. She heard how Solomon exposed the lies of the false mother by commanding the baby to be divided. The Queen of Sheba heard about this and decided to travel to Jerusalem. What has this generation heard about the Lord Jesus Christ? They have heard that he is God manifested in the flesh; the Alpha and Omega; they have heard of his miraculous birth; his power to heal all manner of sickness; that he came to save us with own flesh and blood and rose again the third day, and they have heard how he pours out of his Spirit and will soon return. And yet, despite hearing of all this, they have decided to stay in their Shebas – countries, their homes, offices, fields etc. For this reason, the Queen of Sheba will condemn this generation on the day of Judgement. People of God, we must not be condemned by the Queen of Sheba: we have heard things about Jesus which cannot be compared to Solomon. God will judge us for what we hear about Jesus; let us not waste time – pack your bags and go to Jerusalem to seek King Jesus.

*John 1:45* Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

The apostles, the 3000 on the Day of Pentecost and the apostle Paul had one thing in common: they were looking for salvation; nothing more and nothing less. We do not read that these people needed healing or some other provision from the Lord – they were looking for the salvation and righteousness promised in Jesus. The Queen of Sheba also did not need healing or some material provision: she was a rich Queen. She was desperately seeking the wisdom that comes from God. She had everything of this world, but everything without God is nothing. The woman was rich in material things but poor in truth. “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). What amazing faith the Queen of Sheba displayed! She was so sure of being blessed, that she took a great offering to Solomon. “And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon” (I Kings 10:10). Imagine going to the church for the first

time in your life, not knowing the pastor or the members, and taking a very generous offering with you. This was the faith of the Queen of Sheba. For this reason, the Queen of Sheba will condemn this generation.

The Queen of Sheba had to humble herself. The lesser person went to see the greater in ancient days. She stepped down from her throne and accepted the difficulty of the journey ahead. She must have heard about the humility of the God of Israel. He had no idols to represent him, only a holy of holies with the ark of the covenant, he used to dwell in a simple tabernacle for hundreds of years – and his greatest servants were men like Abraham and Moses, both very humble desert dwellers. “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Isaiah 57:15). We remember the story of Naaman the leprous captain of Syria whose pride almost denied him his miracle. “But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper” (2Kings 5:11).

The Queen of Sheba had to leave her kingdom in the hands of someone else. This was a big risk. Furthermore, she had to travel through many dangerous regions while she was carrying much gold and riches. There was no guarantee that she would either reach Jerusalem or return in peace to her kingdom. In a sense, she left everything to find God. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). Remember that she did this while she received no invitation from King Solomon. At least we have received an invitation from the Lord Jesus Christ, but this great woman, who was a gentile, did all of this without having received an invitation. In other words, there was no way of knowing whether Solomon would want to see her or grant her permission to enter Jerusalem. For this reason, the Queen of Sheba will condemn this generation because we have received an invitation to approach the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 11:28** *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

**Matthew 11:29** *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

**Matthew 11:30** *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Next, we read that the Queen of Sheba came and asked many questions to King Solomon. “And 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” (I kings 10:11). There are some questions worth travelling to Jerusalem because only God has the answers. I am afraid for this generation. We have become accustomed to asking questions in the wrong places. If the Queen of Sheba lived today, her counselors would have asked her to ask Google or Alexa. There are questions which only Jesus can answer. We don't seem to have the patience to wait on the Lord anymore. We have mobile phones and can ring or text people reminders. The journey to Jerusalem took many days, perhaps months. The journey was a blessed journey of patience, faith and hope. The Queen of Sheba teaches us to enjoy the journey to Jesus; understand that the days and months of travelling patiently with expectation will reap great benefits. We will return with every question answered and every problem taken care of.

With all the above in kind it becomes clear why the Queen of Sheba will rise up in the judgement and condemn many generations. She is the model for all who seek God. A gentile foreigner, who received no invitation and risked her life and kingdom to hear the word of God. She humbled herself and by faith took a great offering to Jerusalem. What report have we heard of Jesus? We have heard that the God who made heaven and earth actually came in flesh to this earth. “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3). Isn't that infinitely greater than what she heard about Solomon? Why do we hesitate? Let us step down from our little “thrones”, risk everything, take an offering and go to the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't want the Queen of Sheba to point her finger at me and condemn me on the Day of Judgement and I am sure you wouldn't want that either. Come, let us go to Jerusalem!