

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

JUNE 18

### MONDAY

The Queen of Sheba (which was in southern Ethiopia), heard of the fame of Solomon and went to Jerusalem to see if the stories were true.

**READ: I Kings 10:1-3**

What catches our attention is that the things which the Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon were “concerning the name of the Lord”, and the questions she asked were undoubtedly about Solomon’s Lord. What is the word that gets passed around about us, I wonder? Does it have anything to do with our God? Or our determination to live for Him? Or our passion for the things having to do with Him? What’s the word on the street about you? (and what are you going to do about it?)

### TUESDAY

The queen’s response to Solomon’s wisdom and greatness is one of amazement. She says that although, at first, she had not believed the reports she had heard, after going to Jerusalem and seeing it all herself, she realized that they were not only true, but only a part the whole story.

**READ: I Kings 10:4-7**

Jesus spoke of this visit in Matthew 12:42. He said that the Queen of Sheba went to Jerusalem to meet Solomon and responded excitedly to everything about him. On the Judgment Day, she will witness against those who hear the truth concerning Jesus Christ and reject it, for Jesus is certainly far greater than Solomon. The evidence is enough. They should believe! Just look at the Queen of Sheba if you think otherwise!

### WEDNESDAY

The Queen of Sheba declares that the people of Israel must be happy to be able to be in Solomon’s kingdom, and that Solomon’s God must be happy, too, to see how well Solomon is ruling. She gives great wealth to Solomon (in the form of gold, spices, and gems) as a gift.

**READ: I Kings 10:8-10**

The Queen is not herself a believer, but has real insight. She says that to put him on the throne, God must be delighted in Solomon. Does it strike you odd to hear the expression that God is delighted in a person? Well, it shouldn’t. This past Sunday we read that God delights in the one who obeys Him. And Zephaniah 3:17 tells us that the Lord delights over those who trust in Him. He rejoices over the believer with shouts of joy and with singing! Dear reader, God is delighted with you this day! He is so delighted, He’s singing!

### THURSDAY

The Queen of Sheba gave Solomon ships which transported the gold and gems. There was lumber, too: almu trees, which he used to complete both the Temple, and his own palace, and to make musical instruments. In return, Solomon, as a farewell gift, gave the queen everything she desired.

**READ: I Kings 10:11-13**

In a world you and I know very little of, the king and queen are exchanging gifts of tremendous value. They apparently tried to out-give each other. Actually, as long as our hearts are right with God, that’s a great way for us to live our lives: out-giving others. And, while we’re at it, out-loving them, too. Not in the spirit of competition, but for the sheer joy of giving and loving as God has given to us and loved us.

### FRIDAY

With the huge amount of gold Solomon got each year from taxes and surrounding countries (including gold the queen gave him), he made shields.

**READ: I Kings 10:14-17**

Some people have gotten all excited about these verses, where we read that Solomon received 666 talents of gold that year. 666 is the “mark of the beast” (the anti-Christ) and so they put 2 and 2 together (or rather, 666 and 666 together) and make a connection. But there is none. The Bible is not a fantasy-adventure book where coded numbers convey great mysteries. Solomon received 666 talents of gold one year. Period. And he put it to good use (in his mind) and had 500 decorative shields made. The point is, I think, that Solomon put what God gave him to use. In that way, Solomon was a good steward, and one whom his Lord would one day praise. Just like us! We have exactly the same potential - to use what we have and what God gives us for Him. Our time, talent, wealth, and energies - for God!

### SATURDAY

Solomon’s throne is described: it was ivory, covered with gold, and had a lion standing on each side of it. It was built up on a platform six steps high, and on each step there were two carved lions.

**READ: I Kings 10:18-20**

The throne is described this way so that we catch some sense of the splendor of Solomon’s reign. It was almost beyond belief! No wonder the Queen of Sheba had not believed at first either! Gold everywhere you look! The point is to emphasize that when God says he will do something, He does it! Totally and completely. That’s true for what God has promised you and me as well. God keeps His word. Just ask Solomon.