

## **Sunday School Notes for 25 September 2022: The Queen of Sheba**

### **(1 Kings 10: 1-13, Matthew 12:42)**

We know almost nothing about the Queen of Sheba or her country, yet she clearly existed because Jesus talked about her – and he didn't base his teaching on legends. Today it is generally accepted that she came from present-day Yemen, but that she also controlled the area in Africa known as Ethiopia today.

We know only that she made a special trip to see King Solomon. She could have ignored the rumours she heard. She could have decided that they were probably just exaggerations. But she didn't. She took the trouble to investigate and to discover the truth. Was he as great as she had been told?

We can imagine her arrival – a host of camels appearing out of the heat of the desert. They were laden with gifts for this king, Solomon: spices, gold (16 tons of it!) and precious stones.. And Solomon welcomed her . They clearly enjoyed long discussions for the Bible tells us she asked Solomon hard questions but he was able to answer them all because God had made him wise. She was very impressed.

She was amazed by what she saw of his palaces, the food, his officials and his servants in their smart uniforms.

Before she left, she made a speech and said that, although she hadn't believed the reports, everything she had been told about him was true – only the reports didn't go far enough. Everything was much better than she had been told. She told the listeners that they were fortunate to have a king like Solomon and a God who cared for them. She praised God for giving him this wisdom and for looking after his people Israel so well. (Clearly Solomon had explained that everything he had came from God.)

And when she went home, I am sure she told others everything she had learnt.

Jesus used the Queen of Sheba as an example of someone who heard important news and who took the trouble to check up whether or not it was true. She came ‘from the ends of the earth’, he said – from very far away. He praised her because she wasn’t like those in Jesus’ day who just made up their minds without checking out the facts. They were going to miss out on an amazing truth – far more so than the Queen would have if she hadn’t bothered to go to visit Solomon. After all, Jesus is greater than Solomon for he is the King of all the earth. Jesus held her up as an example of one who really wanted to get to the truth.

Sadly, today we have very many people who are like Jesus’ unbelieving listeners. Such people jump to conclusions (that no-one can rise from the dead and that no-one can do miracles), but they haven’t taken the trouble to check out the facts. If, like the Queen of Sheba, we do so, we shall realise there is more evidence to support the truths about Jesus than there is against.