

2 Chronicles 09 - Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon; Solomon's Great Wealth; Death of Solomon

III. Solomon builds the temple (2 Chr 1:1—9:31)

(3) Solomon 's prosperous reign (2 Chr 8:1—9:31)

(B) His international fame (9:1-12)

(C) His wealth (9:13-28)

(D) His death (9:29-31)

2 Chronicles 9

(B) His international fame (9:1-12) (Cf. 1 Kings 10:1-13)

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with riddles. She had a very large entourage, with camels carrying balsam oil and a large amount of gold and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about everything that was on her heart.

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with difficult questions. She had a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and a large amount of gold and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was on her heart.

1 When the queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's reputation, she traveled to Jerusalem and tested him with difficult questions. She brought along a large retinue, camels laden with spices, and lots of gold and precious stones. Upon her arrival, she spoke with Solomon about everything that was on her mind.

1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bore spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

2 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from Solomon which he did not explain to her.

2 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from Solomon which he did not explain to her.

2 Solomon answered all of her questions. Because nothing was hidden from Solomon, he hid nothing from her.

2 And Solomon told her all her questions: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not.

- She traveled over 1,200 miles!

3 When the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he had built,

3 When the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he had built,

3 When the queen of Sheba had seen Solomon's wisdom for herself, the palace that he had built,

3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built,

4 the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his ministers and their attire, his cupbearers and their attire, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, she was breathless.

4 the food at his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his ministers and their attire, his cupbearers and their attire, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, she was breathless.

4 the food set at his table, his servants who waited on him, his ministers in attendance and how they were dressed, his personal staff and how they were dressed, and even his personal stairway by which he went up to the LORD's Temple, she was breathless!

4 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

- She was filled with amazement by all she saw and heard: "there was no more spirit in her"

5 Then she said to the king, "It was a true story that I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

5 Then she said to the king, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

5 "Everything I heard about your wisdom and what you have to say is true!" she gasped,

5 And she said to the king, It was a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom:

6 But I did not believe their stories until I came and my *own* eyes saw *it all*. And behold, not even half of the greatness of your wisdom was reported to me. You have surpassed the report that I heard.

6 Nevertheless I did not believe their reports until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You surpass the report that I heard.

6 "but I didn't believe it at first! But then I came here and I've seen it for myself! It's amazing! I wasn't told half of what's really great about your wisdom. You're far better in person than what the reports have said about you!

6 Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: for thou exceedest the fame that I heard.

7 How blessed are your men, how blessed are these servants of yours, who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom!

7 How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom.

7 How blessed are your staff! And how blessed are your employees, who serve you continually and get to listen to your wisdom!

7 Happy are thy men, and happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom.

- The queen noted that God had made Solomon a blessing to those around him, as God had promised He would do for those who obeyed His covenant

8 Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you, setting you on His throne as king for the LORD your God; because your God loved Israel, establishing them forever, He made you king over them, to carry out justice and righteousness."

8 Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you, setting you on His throne as king for the LORD your God; because your God loved Israel establishing them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness."

8 Blessed be the LORD your God, who is delighted with you! He set you in place on his throne to be king for the LORD your God. He made you king over them so you could carry out justice and implement righteousness, because your God loves Israel and intends to establish them forever."

8 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, to be king for the LORD thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice.

9 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold and a very great *amount of* balsam oil and precious stones; there had never been balsam oil like that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

9 Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold and a very great *amount of* spices and precious stones; there had never been spice like that which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

9 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, a vast quantity of spices, and precious stones. There were no spices comparable to those that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

9 And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices great abundance, and precious stones: neither was there any such spice as the queen of Sheba gave king Solomon.

- In her visit, we see Israel fulfilling its God-given purpose of bringing Gentiles to Yahweh

10 The servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir, also brought alnum trees and precious stones.

10 The servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir, also brought alnum trees and precious stones.

10 Hiram's servants and Solomon's servants, who brought gold from Ophir, also presented alnum wood and other precious stones.

10 And the servants also of Hiram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought alnum trees and precious stones.

- Then the queen of Sheba bestowed her gifts, the gold alone amounting to 120 talents (4.5 tons, or 9,000 pounds), spices, and precious stones

— The spices exceeded in quality (and quantity?) anything ever seen before in Israel

- The land of Ophir yielded not only gold but also alnum wood (Cf. 2 Chr 2:8; perhaps a name for sandalwood) and precious stones

— The alnum wood was employed in the steps of the temple and the royal palace and as frames for harps and lyres

11 From the alnum trees the king made steps to the house of the LORD and for the king's palace, and lyres and harps for the singers; and nothing like them was seen before in the land of Judah.

11 From the alnum trees the king made steps for the house of the LORD and for the king's palace, and lyres and harps for the singers; and none like that was seen before in the land of Judah.

11 The king used the alnum wood to have steps made for the LORD's Temple and for the royal palace, as well as lyres and harps for the choir, and nothing like that wood had been

seen before in the territory of Judah.

11 And the king made of the algum trees terraces to the house of the LORD, and to the king's palace, and harps and psalteries for singers: and there were none such seen before in the land of Judah.

12 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba her every desire, whatever she requested, besides *gifts equal* to what she had brought to the king. Then she turned and went to her own land with her servants.

12 King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire which she requested besides a *return for* what she had brought to the king. Then she turned and went to her own land with her servants.

12 In return, King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba everything she wanted and requested in addition to what she had brought for the king. Afterward, she returned to her own land, accompanied by her servants.

12 And king Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king. So she turned, and went away to her own land, she and her servants.

(C) His wealth (9:13-28) (Cf. 1 Kings 4:21-34; 10:14-29; 2 Chr 1:14-17; 10:13-28)

13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold,

13 Now the weight of gold which came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold,

13 Solomon received in any given year about 666 talents of gold,

13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold;

- 666 talents = 25 tons, or 50,000 pounds. This did not include profits through taxation or tolls on caravans and other merchants.

14 besides *what* the traders and merchants brought; and all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

14 besides that which the traders and merchants brought; and all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

14 not including revenue from traders and merchants. In addition, all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the nation brought gold and silver to Solomon.

14 Beside that which chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

15 King Solomon made two hundred large shields of beaten gold, using six hundred *shekels* of beaten gold on each large shield.

15 King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold, using 600 *shekels of* beaten gold on each large shield.

15 King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold, overlaying each shield with the gold from 600 gold pieces,

15 And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of beaten gold went to one target.

16 *He made* three hundred shields of beaten gold, using three hundred *shekels of* gold on each shield; and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

16 *He made* 300 shields of beaten gold, using three hundred shekels of gold on each shield, and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

16 and 300 shields from beaten gold, overlaying each shield with the gold from 300 gold pieces. The king put them in his palace in the Lebanon forest.

16 And three hundred shields made he of beaten gold: three hundred shekels of gold went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

- Two hundred large shields, each containing 600 bekas (71-1/2 pounds) of gold, and 300 small shields each with half that amount (300 bekas) of gold

— These shields were only ornamental, for they were placed in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon, one of Solomon's public buildings in Jerusalem, probably built mostly of cedar (Cf. 1 Kings 7:2)

— The royal palace was a separate building (Cf. 1 Kings 7:2 with 1 Kings 7:8)

The house of the forest of Lebanon, built of a forest of cedar pillars, and serving also as an armory (1 Kings 10:17). 100 cubits long, 50 wide, 30 high, on four rows of cedar pillars and hewn cedar beams over the pillars. There were 45 side rooms, forming three stories of 15 rooms each, the pillar hall with the porch, lying between the house of the forest of Lebanon (1 Kings 7:6). The throne room and judgment hall (1 Kings 7:7). The king's dwelling house and that of Pharaoh's daughter (1 Kings 7:8).

17 Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

17 Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory and overlaid it with pure gold.

17 The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with pure gold.

17 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

18 *There were* six steps to the throne and a footstool in gold attached to the throne, and arms on each side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the arms.

18 *There were* six steps to the throne and a footstool in gold attached to the throne, and arms on each side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the arms.

18 Six steps led up to the throne. A golden footstool was attached to the throne, which had armrests on each side of the seat and two lions standing on either side of each armrest.

18 And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays:

19 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.

19 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.

19 Twelve lions were placed on both sides of the six steps leading to the throne, and nothing comparable was made for any other kingdom.

19 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.

20 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; silver was not considered valuable in the days of Solomon.

20 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; silver was not considered valuable in the days of Solomon.

20 All of King Solomon's drinking vessels were made of gold, and all the vessels in his palace in the Lebanon forest were made of pure gold. Silver was never considered to be valuable during the lifetime of Solomon,

20 And all the drinking vessels of king Solomon 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 not any thing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

21 For the king had ships which went to **Tarshish** with the servants of Hiram; once every three years the ships of Tarshish came bringing gold and silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

21 For the king had ships which went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram; once every three years the ships of Tarshish came bringing gold and silver, ivory and apes and peacocks.

21 because the king had ships that sailed to Tarshish accompanied by Hiram's servants. Once every three years ships from Tarshish returned, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

21 For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

- "...Tarshish" - a distant port from which silver, iron, tin, lead, ivory, monkeys and peacocks were brought to Israel (1 Kings 10:22; Jer 10:9; Ezek 27:12)
— From Akkadian, "to be smelted"; "Beyond the Pillars of Hercules" (beyond the Mediterranean...Herodotus 4:152); Tarshish had strong ships capable of long voyages (Is 60:9).

Britannia Metal

Tarshish was an island (over one-year distant) which was, among other things, a key source of tin. "Britannia metal" was an alloy of 93% tin, 5% antimony, and 2% copper, used for making various utensils, including teapots, jugs, drinking vessels, candlesticks and urns, and for official maces. Similar in color to pewter, "Britannia metal" was harder, stronger, and easier to work than other tin alloys. Global commerce from Britain was confirmed by archaeological discoveries at Stonehenge (1500 BC). Tin was exported to Europe in large quantities from Cornwall, England, during the Roman period.

22 So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in wealth and wisdom.

22 So King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

22 As a result, King Solomon became greater than all the kings of the earth in regards to wealth and wisdom.

22 And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

23 And all the kings of the earth were seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.

23 And all the kings of the earth were seeking the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom which God had put in his heart.

23 All the kings of the earth continued to seek audiences with Solomon so they could hear the wise things that God had put in his heart.

23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.

24 They were bringing, each of *them* his gift: articles of silver and gold, garments, weapons, balsam oil, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

24 They brought every man his gift, articles of silver and gold, garments, weapons, spices, horses and mules, so much year by year.

24 Everyone kept on bringing gifts on an annual basis, including items made of silver and gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules.

24 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, harness, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

25 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.

25 Now Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots and 12,000 horsemen, and he stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

25 Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, along with 12,000 cavalry soldiers. He stationed them in various chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

25 And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.

- 4,000 is preferable to the 40,000 in 1 Kings 4:26

26 He was ruler over all the kings from the *Euphrates* River to the land of the Philistines, and as far as the border of Egypt.

26 He was the ruler over all the kings from the Euphrates River even to the land of the Philistines, and as far as the border of Egypt.

26 King Solomon ruled over all the kings from the Euphrates River west to the land of the Philistines and as far south as the boundary with Egypt.

26 And he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.

27 And the king made silver *as common* as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland.

27 The king made silver *as common* as stones in Jerusalem, and he made cedars as plentiful as sycamore trees that are in the lowland.

27 The king made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem, and made cedar trees as abundant as sycamore trees in the Shephelah.

27 And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the low plains in abundance.

28 And they were bringing horses for Solomon from Egypt and from all countries.

28 And they were bringing horses for Solomon from Egypt and from all countries.

28 They also kept bringing horses to Solomon from Egypt and from all of the surrounding countries.

28 And they brought unto Solomon horses out of Egypt, and out of all lands.

Land Promise to Israel

Solomon's rule extended from the Euphrates River to Egypt's border (1 Kings 4:21,24).

However, the extent of Solomon's kingdom did not fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen

15:18) because many countries in that territory only paid tribute to Solomon and were not assimilated into the nation of Israel (1 Kings 4:21).

(D) His death (9:29-31) (Cf. 1 Kings 11:41-43)

29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, *from* the first to the last, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

29 Now the rest of Solomon's accomplishments, from first to last, are written in the records of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer pertaining to Nebat's son Jeroboam, are they not?

29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

- 1 Kings 11:41 reports that Solomon's deeds were written in "the book of the acts of Solomon"

— For the rest of the record of Solomon's life, see 1 Kings 10:26—11:43

— The Chronicler omitted any reference to Solomon's apostasy that resulted in the division of the kingdom (Cf. 1 Kings 11:9-11)

30 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years.

30 Solomon reigned forty years in Jerusalem over all Israel.

30 Solomon reigned for 40 years in Jerusalem over all of Israel.

30 And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

31 And Solomon lay down with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

31 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David; and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

31 Then Solomon died, as had his ancestors, and his son Rehoboam reigned in his place.

31 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.