### 1 Kings

## Chapter 10

1Well, the Queen of SheBa had heard of Solomon’s fame and of the Name Jehovah; so, she came to test him with problems.  
  
2When she came to JeruSalem, she brought a very large contingent [of servants], as well as camels that were carrying spices, a huge amount of gold, and many valuable gems.  
  
Then she went to King Solomon and spoke to him about all the things that were in her heart... 3And Solomon answered all her questions… He didn’t overlook a thing, but explained everything to her!  
  
4And when the Queen of SheBa saw how knowledgeable Solomon was and the palace that he’d built, 5as well as all the food that he had, the ways that his servants were assigned, the jobs that his officials were given, how they were dressed, and all of his wine servers and the whole burnt offerings that he sacrificed at the Temple of Jehovah... She was beside herself!  
  
6Then she said to King Solomon:  
  
 ‘Everything that I’ve heard about you in my land and about your knowledge is true! 7I had to come here, because I didn’t believe the things that I was being told.  
  
 ‘However, I’ve found that it’s all beyond what was reported in my land!  
  
 8‘Your wives and servants are blest to be able to stand before you all the time and listen to your wisdom. 9And your God Jehovah, who chose you and put you on the throne of IsraEl, must love IsraEl and [plan to] watch over it throughout the ages, since He’s the One who set you as king over them and to righteously hear and judge their cases.’  
  
10Then she gave Solomon 1-1/2 tons (1,300kg) of gold, a huge amount of spices, and many precious gems... Never before had anyone brought so many spices as those that the Queen of SheBa brought to King Solomon.  
  
  
11Thereafter, HiRam also sent a ship carrying gold from Ophir, as well as cut lumber and valuable stones. 12The king then used this timber to fortify the Temple of Jehovah and the king’s palace, and to make stringed instruments and lutes for the musicians.  
  
Never before had such wood been seen in the land (or anywhere else, for that matter).  
  
  
13Then King Solomon gave the Queen of SheBa everything that she asked for and desired… In addition to all the other gifts that King Solomon gave to her.  
  
And thereafter, she returned to her land with all her servants.  
  
  
14Well, the weight of the gold that came to Solomon that year was about 32 tons (29,000kg)… 15Which didn’t include the tributes that the people or the merchants brought, or that which was brought by kings on the other side of the JorDan or from the governors of the land.  
  
16Thereafter, King Solomon had 300 spears made from hammered gold, each of which was made from 600 gold coins. 17And he also had 300 small shields made of hammered gold that was equal to the weight of three large gold coins.  
  
Then the king had them all mounted in his Palace of the Forests of Lebanon.  
  
18The king also had a huge throne made from ivory that was plated with pure gold, 19which had 6 stairs that led up to the throne!  
  
There were [carved] reliefs of young bulls on its back, and handrails on each side, with [carved] lions standing beside them… 20Plus 12 [more] lions on both sides, next to the six steps.  
  
There had never been anything like it in any kingdom!  
  
21Also, all the [dishes, cups, and bowls] that were used by Solomon were entirely made of gold, as were the bathtubs and vases in the Palace of the Forests of Lebanon.  
  
Nothing there was made of silver, because it was too common in the days of Solomon.  
  
  
22In addition, Solomon owned a ship that sailed the sea from TarShish along with the ships of HiRam [the king of Tyre]. And once every three years, the ship would carry gold, silver, and cut gems to the king.  
  
23So Solomon became greater than all the other kings of the earth in both wealth and in intelligence... 24And all the kings of the earth came to Solomon to hear the wisdom that Jehovah had put into his heart.  
  
25Each one brought gifts of silver, gold, clothing, balsam, spices, horses, and mules every year.  
  
  
26Solomon also obtained chariots and horsemen. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, which he kept in forts throughout the land and with himself in JeruSalem.  
  
  
27The king’s silver was as common as stones in JeruSalem, and his cedars were as common as trees in the plains.  
  
28Solomon’s horses were from Egypt and the king’s merchants were from Kue, and they could come out from Kue [and pass through Israel] for a fee. 29So those [traders] who left Egypt [to pass through Israel] would pay [at least]:  
  
 • 100 large silver coins for each chariot [of goods], and  
 • 50 large silver coins for each horse [carrying goods].  
  
So all the Hittite and Syrian kings came out by sea [to avoid paying the fees].