### 2 Chronicles

## Chapter 9

1Well, when the Queen of SheBa heard of Solomon’s reputation, she came to JeruSalem to test him with riddles. And when she came, it was with a very large contingent of [servants] and with camels that carried huge amounts of aromatics, gold, and gems.  
  
And when she spoke to Solomon, she talked about everything that concerned her; 2and Solomon replied to everything that she asked, not missing a word.  
  
3Well, after the Queen of SheBa saw the Wisdom of Solomon, the Temple he had built, 4the food on his tables, what his servants looked like, the stations and uniforms of his wine servers, and all the whole burnt offerings that he sacrificed at the Temple of Jehovah, she was beside herself.  
  
5So she said to the king:  
  
 ‘Everything that I’ve heard about you in my own land and of the wise things that you say, are true!  
  
 6‘However, I didn’t believe any of it until I came and saw it with my own eyes... And look, they didn’t tell me half the story, for I’ve [learned] so much from your wisdom!  
  
 7‘Why, your men and your servants are blest to be able to always stand before you and listen to your wisdom! 8May your God Jehovah be praised for choosing you and putting you on His throne as their king.  
  
 ‘Your God Jehovah must have a great love for IsraEl and [and He must plan] for it to last throughout the ages, that He would put you as king over them as their righteous judge.’  
  
9Then she gave the king 3-1/2 tons (3,175kg) of gold and huge amounts of aromatics and gems. And the aromatics that she gave to him were without equal.  
  
10Then the servants of Solomon and [King] HiRam [of Tyre] brought more gold to Solomon from Ophir, as well as pine lumber and precious gems. 11The king used the wood to build the entryway stairs to the Temple of Jehovah and [the entrance] to his palace, as well as harps and other stringed instruments for his musicians.  
  
Nothing like this had ever been seen before in the land of Judah!  
  
12Then King Solomon gave the Queen of SheBa everything that she desired and asked for… Which exceeded the [gifts] that she’d brought to Solomon; and then she returned to her own land.  
  
  
13Well, the weight of the gold that was brought to Solomon that year was 20 tons (18,140kg)… 14And this was in addition to what his men had gained from their trading. For all the kings of Arabia and all the governors of the land brought gold and silver to the king.  
  
15So Solomon had 200 shields of pure gold hammered out, which were each made with 600 gold coins, 16as well as 300 more shields of 300 gold coins each, which were then taken and hung in the king’s palace, in [the room that he called] the Forest of Lebanon.  
  
  
17Thereafter, the king had a huge throne made for himself from ivory tusks that were covered with pure gold, 18and he had 6 steps to the throne that were overlaid with gold. There was a drop-off on either side of the throne, 19and there were 12 [carved] lions on either side of the throne that were positioned along the drop-off on the 6 steps leading up to the king’s throne.  
  
Nothing like this has ever been seen in any other kingdom!  
  
  
20Everything that King Solomon had was made of gold, and everything in his palace and in the Forest of Lebanon was overlaid with gold. For during the time of Solomon, silver was considered as nothing.  
  
21The king’s ships would sail to TarShish with the servants of HiRam once every three years, and they’d return to the king filled with gold, silver, ivory, and monkeys. 22So Solomon became greater than all other kings in both wealth and wisdom, 23and all the kings of the earth would come before Solomon to listen to the wisdom that God had put into his heart.  
24And when they came (which they did each year), they all brought gifts:  
  
 • Items of gold and silver,  
 • Clothes,  
 • Balsam,  
 • Spices,  
 • Horses, and  
 • Mules.  
  
25So Solomon soon had 4,000 mares for his chariots and 12,000 horsemen, whom he stationed in the cities that he’d built for his chariots, in addition to those that he kept with him in JeruSalem.  
  
26He also ruled over all the kings from the river and the land of the Philistines to the borders of Egypt.  
  
  
27During his reign, gold and silver in JeruSalem became as common as stones, and cedar wood was as common as sycamores in the plains. 28Solomon also had horses delivered from Egypt and many other lands.  
  
29The rest of the things that Solomon said – from beginning to end – [Look!] were recorded by the Prophet Nathan, by AhiJah the ShiLonite, and in the visions of the Seer JoEl, who saw things concerning JeroBoam (son of NaBat).  
  
30So Solomon reigned over all of IsraEl for 40 years. 31Then he went to sleep and they buried him in a tomb in the city of David (his father); and his son RehoBoam started ruling in his place.