

A Bright Light in a Dim(wit) World (I Kings 10:1-13)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. When we exercise God's wisdom, He is exalted.
2. When we display God's wisdom, people are amazed.
3. When we express God's wisdom, He is praised.
4. When we extend God's wisdom, others are drawn to Him.
5. When we embrace God's wisdom, our lives are transformed.

Question: How can we exercise God's wisdom? How can we display God's wisdom? How can we express God's wisdom? How can we extend God's wisdom? How can we embrace God's wisdom?

B. In I Kings 4:1-19, some of the key people in Solomon's kingdom were listed.

1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. Inspiration takes two forms.
 - a. Verbal Inspiration means that EVERY word is inspired by God.
 - b. Plenary Inspiration means that every word is EQUALLY inspired by God.
2. People often say that the genealogies are their least favorite part of the Bible, but I enjoy seeing who lived in the same time frame. A person can also find some interesting things when he or she carefully examines the Bible.
3. Check out Esau's wives (Genesis 26:34, Genesis 28:9, and Genesis 36:2,).
 - a. Genesis 26:34 says, "And Esau was forty years old when he took to wife ***Judith the daughter of Beeri*** the Hittite, and ***Bashemath the daughter of Elon*** the Hittite:"
 - b. Genesis 28:9 says, "Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had ***Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael*** Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife."
 - c. Genesis 36:2-3 says, "Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan; ***Adah the daughter of Elon*** the Hittite, and ***Aholibamah the daughter of Anah*** the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite; And ***Bashemath Ishmael's daughter***, sister of Nebajoth."

C. In I Kings 4:20-43, one of Samuel's prophecies concerning Israel's king was fulfilled.

1. 1 Kings 4:26 says, "And Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen." See I Samuel 8:11.
2. Nevertheless, Solomon was recognized by all that saw him for his godly wisdom.

D. In I Kings 5:1-18, Solomon did business with Hiram, king of Tyre, to get wood for building the temple. In return for the wood, Solomon sent wheat and oil to Tyre.

E. In I Kings 6:1-38, Solomon began building the temple, and the project took seven years.

A Bright Light in a Dim(wit) World (I Kings 10:1-13)

1. He started in the fourth year and second month of his reign (Zif).
 2. He finished in the eleventh year and eight month of this reign (Bul).
 3. The total calendar time was seven years and six months.
 4. The author of this chapter went into elaborate detail of how everything was done.
 - a. He used the cedars from Hiram for the walls.
 - b. The house was overlaid with pure gold (verse 22).
 - c. Cherubims were carved into the cedar walls (verse 29).
- F. In I Kings 7:1-51, Solomon completed building his house.
1. The same elaborate detail is provided about Solomon's house, but when he started and finished is not. His home took thirteen years to build.
 2. In verses 51, he brought in silver, gold, and other vessels that David had dedicated to the Lord.
- II. In I Kings 8:1-66, Solomon and the people dedicated the temple to the Lord.
- A. The people had a great feast and dedicated the temple to the Lord.
 - B. In verses 4-9, they brought the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle to the temple. Remember that they had been in separate places up to this point.
 - C. It is likely that the priests offered the sacrifices in I Kings 3:2-3 and I Kings 3:15 because Solomon stayed so close to the order of things. The conclusion is that he would not have been so meticulous in everything else and then carelessly offered the sacrifices in the wrong way.
 1. In II Chronicles 1:5, he was careful to worship God at the brazen altar (a symbol for Christ on the cross) before approaching the Lord at the Tabernacle in Jerusalem.
 2. In I Kings 8:6-8, the priests correctly brought in the Ark of the Covenant (remember Uzzah).
 3. The large number of sacrifices also made it unlikely that Solomon was acting alone.
 - D. Notice in I Kings 8:9 the two tables of stones within the ark. Where were the other writings of Scripture? II Kings 22:8 says, "And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it."
 - E. In I Kings 8:10, the glory of the Lord filled His house.
 - F. In I Kings 8:11-61, Solomon prayed a dedication prayer to the Lord before all the people.
 - G. In I Kings 8:62-66, they offered sacrifices and after eight days returned to their tents. Everyone was very happy with what had been done.

Question: God never changes; however didn't He change His mind with Solomon?

III. In I Kings 9:1-28, Solomon established a mighty kingdom.

A Bright Light in a Dim(wit) World (I Kings 10:1-13)

- A. In verses 1-9, the Lord came to Solomon a second time in a dream (as He had done at Gibeon) and warned Israel about going astray. Is this a reversal by the Lord? Actually, God is omniscient. He knew what would be happening in Solomon's life.
1. II Samuel 7:12-16 says, "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, ***I will set up thy seed after thee***, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ***He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever***. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: ***But my mercy shall not depart away from him***, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. ***And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.***"
 2. I Kings 9:4-7 says, "And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments: ***Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father***, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel. But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them: ***Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight***; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:"
 3. In verses 10-28, many of Solomon's deeds were recorded.
 - a. In verses 12-14, Hiram had sent Solomon gold to help with the building of the temple. In return Solomon gave him twenty cities, but the cities were not pleasing to Hiram.
 - b. Solomon had much gold.
 - c. He established a powerful navy.
 - d. He established a seaport at Eziongeber.
- B. Solomon had everything going his way.

Question: What was the significance of the queen's visit? Do we face similar situations in our everyday life? If so, what should we do about it?

IV. In I Kings 10:1-13, he is visited by the Queen of Sheba.

- A. In verse 1, she had heard of Solomon's greatness.
1. The Lord was holding true to his promise. Solomon had become a great king.
 2. She came to see for herself.

A Bright Light in a Dim(wit) World (I Kings 10:1-13)

3. The Quarterly pointed out that those around us are and will examine our lives to see if we are truly in the Faith.
4. How can we handle those kinds of situations?
 - a. By not getting in the Holy Spirit's way.
 - b. We do not have to force anything to happen.
 - c. We need to let the Holy Spirit work through us in such a way that the Lord is exalted.
 1. Only do what the Holy Spirit wants us to do.
 2. Only say what the Holy Spirit wants us to say.
- B. In verses 2-7, the queen could not find any fault in how Solomon was doing things.
 1. She confessed that what she had heard was true.
 2. Verse 2 says that she felt so comfortable around Solomon that she opened her heart to him. She told him things that she would not have told just anyone.
 3. As Christians, we should let the Holy Spirit mold us into that kind of person. The Lord wants to use us to reach others.
- C. In verses 8-10, the queen continued to remark about Solomon's wisdom.
- D. In verses 10-13, she gave him gifts (gold, spices, and precious stones) to show her pleasure and gratitude.

Question: Was Solomon correct when he offered sacrifices, or did someone else actually offer the sacrifice? Remember the rule of systematic theology.

- V. I Kings 9:25 says, "And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the house."
 - A. Offer (alah) means to go up, ascend, or climb. It has been translated in the Old Testament as up (676 times), offer (67 times - Genesis 22:2 (Abraham and Isaac)), come (22 times), bring (18 times), ascend (15 times), and 91 other ways.
 1. In I Kings 3:4, sacrificed (zabach) means to slaughter, kill, sacrifice, slaughter for sacrifice.
 - a. Solomon may have been sacrificing in a way that he should not have.
 - b. He may have been sacrificing at Canaanite idol worship sites.
 2. Zabach is used in Exodus 24:5, Exodus 32:8 (the molten calf), Joshua 8:31, Joshua 2:5, and others.
 3. I Samuel 2:12-13 says, "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. And the priests' custom with the people was, that, ***when any man offered sacrifice***, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;"
 4. ***This is what Solomon did. The priest did not have to offer a free will offering.*** Deuteronomy 12:6-7 says, "And thither ye shall bring your burnt

A Bright Light in a Dim(wit) World (I Kings 10:1-13)

offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee."

- B. The priest had to offer the sin offering and make atonement for the people.
1. Leviticus 14:19-20 says, "And the priest shall offer the sin offering, and make an atonement for him that is to be cleansed from his uncleanness; and afterward he shall kill the burnt offering: And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the meat offering upon the altar: and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and he shall be clean."
 2. Leviticus 15:15 says, "And the priest shall offer them, the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him before the LORD for his issue."
 3. Leviticus 15:30 says, "And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for her before the LORD for the issue of her uncleanness."
 4. Numbers 6:11 says, "And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, and make an atonement for him, for that he sinned by the dead, and shall hallow his head that same day."
- C. What was Saul trying to do in I Samuel 13:9? Saul probably did not get into trouble simply because he offered the sacrifice, depending on the type of sacrifice.
1. However, I Samuel 13:8 is clear. Saul knew that Samuel was due at any time.
 2. Saul did what he did because his troops had scattered. He was probably trying to bring them back.
 3. But if Saul knew that Samuel was coming and if he knew that Samuel would be offering the sacrifice, then his mistake was one of impatience and a lack of faith. He failed to realize that the Lord controls everything and that the Lord was in control of that situation, too.
 4. Saul's punishment may have been harsh. But the Lord is sovereign, and He issues such things as He wishes.

VI. Next week's lesson: "Mixed-up Values (I Kings 11:1-13; 12:9-14; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11).