

To whom did she offer blessing?

Did this queen understand the nature of the worship of the true God?

Would not such a worship as Solomon's, in offerings and sacrifices, seem like a magnificent idolatry?

What corroboration of the magnificence of the temple equipment does later history give? (Ezra 1. 7-11.)

Who had made Solomon king, and why?

What says the GOLDEN TEXT of Solomon's superiority?

Who was this "greater" King?

#### 4. What the Queen Gave, v. 10.

What was the queen's gift of gold?

What else did she give?

What oriental custom still prevalent is suggested by these gifts?

What is said of the quantity of spices?

What illustration of the prodigality of kings in giving was afterward given in Israel's history? (2 Kings 5. 5.)

What was the condition of the people in these oriental monarchies?

What light on the cause of their condition do such incidents give?

What is always the effect of concentration of wealth in the hands of the few?

What gift does our King desire? (Prov. 23. 26.)

#### Practical Teachings.

1. The queen visited Solomon and revered him. "I am greater than Solomon," said one. Do you reverence him? Homage for the king! But let the King be Jesus.

2. The queen saw Solomon's riches. Have you seen the riches of Christ?

3. She saw the power of Solomon. Have you felt the power of Christ's love?

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That wisdom is God's gift?

2. That prosperity is God's gift?

3. That honor is God's gift?

#### QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

##### 1. Verses 1-3.

1. How far did the queen come? What led her to make the journey? What kind of questions did she ask?

2. How long would the journey take? What was her train? For what was her country famous? What did she gain by her visit?

3. How did Solomon show his wisdom?

##### 2. Verses 4, 5.

4. Tell some of the eight things which surprised her. What is known of Solomon's palace?

5. How was a king's glory estimated? Who were the cupbearers?

##### 3. Verses 6-9.

6. How did Solomon's greatness compare with the report she had heard?

7. In what ways did she show her sincerity and earnestness?

8. What privilege did the king's courtiers enjoy? Have we a greater blessing to be thankful for?

9. To what did she attribute Solomon's wealth and prosperity?

##### 4. Verse 10.

10. Of what were gifts a token in the East? How much was her present of gold worth in our money? What else did she give?

#### Teachings of the Lesson.

Earthly things cannot satisfy the soul. We should not grudge the efforts needed to increase knowledge and goodness. Of Christ's love, the joy of his service, and the glory of his home, it may be truly said the half has not been told. Let us sacrifice the lower for the higher. The benefits we receive from Christ should be openly confessed.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What story went abroad about Solomon?

What did some people do?

Who was one of his visitors?

Where was Sheba? **South of Canaan.**

In which of two countries may it have been?

How do we know that the queen was rich and powerful?

What led her to visit Solomon?

What did she bring with her?

What had she come to buy?

What did she ask of Solomon?

Who gave him wisdom to answer her?

What did Solomon show her?

What did she declare?

What did she give him?

How will this lesson condemn us if we do not seek Jesus?

#### Remember—

That Christ is our King.

That he wants us to come seeking wisdom of him.

That he asks us to bring our "gift" to him.

#### LESSON OUTLINE.

##### The Seeker After Truth.

##### I. A GENTILE SEEKER.

When the Queen of Sheba heard, v. 1.

Gentiles shall come.... and kings. Isa. 60. 3.

Also to the Gentiles. Acts 11. 18.

##### II. A NOBLE SEEKER.

The Queen of Sheba.... came, v. 1.

A council of great authority. Acts 8. 27.

Not many mighty.... noble. 1 Cor. 1. 26.