

Glory, Wisdom, and the Subtle Warning of Decline

Drawn by Wisdom

(vv.1–2) The Queen of Sheba came to Jerusalem, loaded with questions and gifts. She had heard about Solomon’s fame and wisdom, and she came to see if it was all true. Solomon answered every question she had—nothing stumped him.

Personal Application:

People are still drawn to genuine wisdom. When our lives reflect the wisdom and peace of God, others take notice. The Queen didn’t just come to admire Solomon’s riches; she came with real questions—and found real answers. Does my life reflect God’s wisdom in a way that invites people to come closer and seek truth? If not pray and ask God for it.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

Overwhelmed by What She Saw

(vv.3–4) When she saw everything—his palace, his table, his servants, their clothing, and especially how he approached the house of the Lord—she was breathless. She couldn’t believe the excellence and beauty of it all.

Personal Application:

God is glorified in beauty and order. When I live with excellence, when I approach worship with reverence and sincerity, people notice—not to admire me, but to encounter God through me. Is my life inspiring others to worship God? Can people look at how I live and see that something greater is behind it?

"Not Even Half Was Told Me"

(vv.5–8) She praised Solomon and blessed the Lord who placed him on the throne. *“I heard the stories, but the reality far surpasses them,” she said. “Blessed are your servants who get to hear your wisdom every day.”*

Personal Application:

Those of us who live daily with God’s Word can sometimes forget how rich it truly is. The Queen of Sheba envied those who could hear Solomon’s wisdom daily—but I have access to the wisdom of God through Scripture every single day. Am I taking it for granted? Or am I soaking it in with a fresh sense of awe?

Giving and Receiving Generously

(vv.9–12) The queen gave Solomon lavish gifts—gold, spices, and gems. But Solomon gave back to her whatever she desired and more. Their exchange wasn’t just about wealth; it was about honor and generosity.

Personal Application:

God's kingdom is built on generosity. The more I give—whether it's time, wisdom, encouragement, or resources—the more I reflect the heart of God. True generosity gives without worrying about what's returned. Do I live with open hands, both to give and to receive?

Riches Beyond Imagination

(vv.13–21) Solomon's wealth was staggering. He received 666 talents¹ of gold annually, not to mention imports from traders, kings, and governors. Gold shields, ivory thrones, golden cups, peacocks, apes—he lacked nothing.

Personal Application:

This is a snapshot of worldly success at its highest point. But here's the catch—none of it lasted. It reminds me that material wealth, no matter how impressive, is temporary. What am I truly investing in? Am I building treasure in heaven, or just stacking up things on earth that won't endure?

A Reputation for Wisdom

(vv.22–28) Kings from all over the earth came to hear Solomon's wisdom and brought tribute year after year. He ruled with great influence, and God's blessing was obvious.

Personal Application:

Influence is a gift from God—but it comes with responsibility. When God gives me a platform, am I using it to point people to Him, or to myself? People may admire what I've built, but do they leave saying, "Blessed be the Lord your God"?

The End of an Era

(vv.29–31) Solomon reigned for forty years. His achievements were recorded by the prophets, and when he died, his son Rehoboam took the throne. But the glory didn't last. The kingdom immediately began to weaken and fall apart.

Personal Application:

This is one of the saddest parts of Solomon's story. A man who had *everything*—wisdom, wealth, honor, and the presence of God—allowed compromise to sneak in. By the end of his life, his heart had drifted, and the stability of his kingdom unraveled. The lesson? **It's not how you start—it's how you finish.** Am I finishing well? Am I guarding my heart against spiritual drift, even in seasons of blessing?

Final Reflection:

Solomon's reign was the pinnacle of Israel's earthly glory. The Queen of Sheba's amazement was well-deserved. But what stands out even more than the gold and splendor is how fragile it all turned out to be.

¹ In biblical times a talent was 34 kilograms (approximately 75 pounds). At the time of this writing the price of an ounce of gold is \$2980 (down \$46.58 from last week). Solomon's annual income of gold was almost \$2.4 billion.

A life full of riches without a heart anchored in obedience can collapse quickly.

A kingdom built in beauty can fall to pride.

A wise person can still drift if they stop listening to the very wisdom they once gave others.

Let me learn from Solomon's rise—but also from his fall. May I walk humbly with God, seek His wisdom, and treasure His presence above everything else.