**I Kings**

*I Kings 10*

Solomon’s Fame & Continual Decline

The Fame of Solomon

* Does our testimony make anyone curious?
  + What are we known for?
  + How do we point people to Jesus Christ with this testimony?
* Queen of Sheba came to prove him with hard questions
* Solomon spent the time to answer all her questions
  + But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Pet 3:15)
* Solomon used his time with the Queen of Sheba to glorify God
  + 8 Happy *are* thy men, happy *are* these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, *and* that hear thy wisdom. 9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice. (1 Kings 10:8-9)

Pictures of Christ

* Believed not until she saw (v 7)
  + Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed. (John 20:29)
* The half was not told (v 7)
* Gold and spices presented (v 10)
* Matthew Henry – “What we present to Christ he needs not, but will have us so to express our gratitude “
* The servants of Christ are happy and gladly hear His wisdom
  + NOTE: Happiness appears linked to hearing/receiving
* To do judgment and justice
  + Judgment – According to the law (God’s law)
  + Justice – Executing righteousness

Signs of Decline

* 14 ¶ When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that *are* about me; 15 Thou shalt in any wise set *him* king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: *one* from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which *is* not thy brother. 16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17 Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. 18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of *that which is* before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, *to* the right hand, or *to* the left: to the end that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel. (Deuteronomy 17:14-20)
* He shall not multiply horses to himself
  + And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he bestowed in the cities for chariots, and with the king at Jerusalem. (1 Kings 10:26)
  + And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem. (2 Chron 9:25)
* Neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold
  + And the king made silver *to be* in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he *to be* as the sycomore trees that *are* in the vale, for abundance. (1 Kings 10:27)
* Nor cause the people to return to Egypt….. Ye shall henceforth return no more that way
  + 28 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king’s merchants received the linen yarn at a price. 29 And a chariot came up and went out of Egypt for six hundred *shekels* of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, did they bring *them* out by their means. (1 Kings 10:28-29)