

# Someone Greater Than Solomon

Last Sunday, we heard God promise King David, "I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom" (2 Sam 7:12).

**Solomon** was the son of David who ruled

Israel after his father's death, and 1 Kings 3:3 describes a great start: "Solomon \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father..." Solomon was even given an incredible invitation by God: "\_\_\_\_\_ what I shall give you" (1 Kings 3:5). When he could have asked for just about anything, Solomon's request was humble and commendable:

"Give your servant therefore an \_\_\_\_\_ mind to govern your people, that I may \_\_\_\_\_ between good and evil..." (1 Kings 3:9)

1 Kings 4 goes on to describe a kind of "golden age" during Solomon's rule:

Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were \_\_\_\_\_ . (4:20)

And God gave Solomon \_\_\_\_\_ and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. (4:29-30)

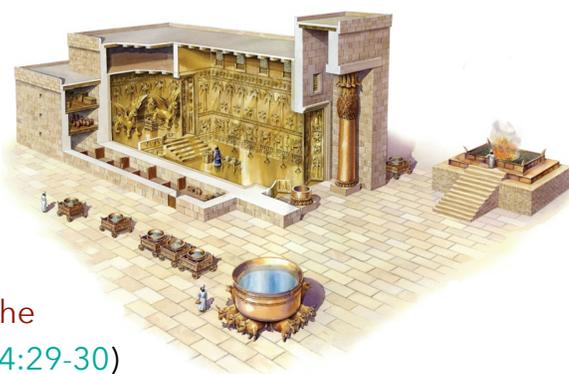
And people of all \_\_\_\_\_ came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom. (4:34)

One visitor of great prominence is described in 1 Kings 10: the queen of \_\_\_\_\_. When she witnessed firsthand all the wisdom of Solomon and the incredible things he had built, "there was no more breath in her" (10:5). She was even moved to bless the LORD by what she had seen in Israel. **But what does this have to do with our search for OUR king?**

Matthew 12 describes a time in Jesus' life when some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." After referencing the prophet Jonah (who we'll talk about soon), notice what Jesus said next:

The queen of the South will rise up at the \_\_\_\_\_ with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something \_\_\_\_\_ than Solomon is here. (12:42)

What is this "judgment" Jesus was referring to? What does the "queen of the South" have to do it? And what (or who) was "greater than Solomon"? **Let's talk about it...**



## For Class & Family Discussion:

- What might many of the kings and queens of the world been tempted to ask for in response to God's invitation in [1 Kings 3](#)?
- Why was Solomon's response a really *great* response?
- [1 Kings 3:16-28](#) serves as a kind of showcase of Solomon's God-given wisdom. What can we learn from that account?
- "He also spoke 3,000 proverbs..." ([1 Kings 4:32](#)). What proverbs of Solomon continue to stick out to you as particularly wise and helpful, even in the 21st century?
- Despite it all, [1 Kings 11:1-10](#) documents a sad turn in Solomon's life. What should we take away from this tragic turn of events, especially in light of God's warning all the way back in [Deuteronomy 17:14-17](#)?
- Why do you think Jesus responded to the request of the scribes and Pharisees for a sign the way he did in [Matthew 12:39](#)?
- What should we make of his words about "the queen of the South" in [Matthew 12:42](#)?
- In what ways is our King "greater than Solomon"?

## For NEXT Sunday:

- We'll hear an angel of the Lord promise that someone would "go before" the Lord "in the spirit and power of Elijah" ([Luke 1:17](#)). Who was this promised someone? What did he have to do with our King? And in what way is he connected to Elijah ([1 Kings 17-19](#))?