

General Church Education



Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth

1 Kings 10:1-29

Lesson 6

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is Our Prophet

For ages 11-12 years

Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth

1 Kings 10:1-29

Teacher Background

Solomon's wealth and power can be awe-inspiring. Many adolescents dream of being exceptionally smart, becoming great athletes, or famous musicians. Many dreams are tempered with the reality of hard work, but some may imagine themselves having wealth or sitting on Solomon's throne. It is relatively easy to say that money isn't everything and that it is more important to develop one's talents and interests for the purpose of being useful in an enjoyable career. However, it is much more difficult to help young adults understand the truth of this.

It is important to note that wanting wealth or fame is not necessarily bad. It is the reason behind a desire that makes it good or bad. Adolescents can't have entirely unselfish thoughts; however, they can be led to see the potential use in being wealthy or famous so that they could help people financially or use fame to influence people for good. Few people are able to work in careers that are enjoyable and also make them rich.

Focus Points

- Solomon continued to build up his kingdom after completing the temple.
- Solomon's fame spread so far that the queen of Sheba came to visit him.
- Israel became a world power in consequence of Solomon's wealth and power.

Readings from the Writings

"What is signified here by 'Sheba and Raama' is evident from their merchandise, which is said to be spice, the precious stone, and gold. 'Spice' in the internal sense is charity; 'the precious stone' is faith from charity; and 'gold' is love to the Lord, all which are celestial things signified by 'Sheba.' Properly the knowledges of such things are 'Sheba', wherewith all who are becoming people of the church are imbued; for no one can become a person of the church without knowledges. Similar things were represented by the queen of Sheba, who came to Solomon and brought him spices, gold, and precious stones." *Arcana Coelestia* 1171

"The Lord's royalty, by which is signified the Divine truth that proceeds from Him, was represented also by the throne constructed by Solomon, regarding which it is ... written in the first book of Kings.... Thus was represented the 'throne of glory,' the 'lions' being Divine truths fighting and conquering, and the 'twelve lions' all these truths in one complex." *Arcana Coelestia* 5313.15

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following activity choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” (1 Kings 10:9)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth True or False?

Read a series of statements. Decide if each statement is true or false. Show your answer by circling “T” for true or “F” for false. Look out for statements that are only partly true!

Signs of Wealth

Create a Venn Diagram that compares the type of wealth people had in Israel in Solomon's time with the wealth in your nation. In the middle, write the signs of wealth that the nations have in common.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

The Queen of Sheba Gifts Solomon with Spices

Gather spices such as the Queen of Sheba would have given to Solomon and research the rare spices she may have given. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-the-queen-of-sheba-gifts-king-solomon-with-spices-1-kings-10.pdf>

Comparing Solomon and Jesus

Read short selections from the Word as a basis for comparing Solomon and Jesus. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-comparing-solomon-and-jesus-2-samuel-1-kings.pdf>

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. As you fill in the spaces, think about whether the king is good or evil. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth

1 Kings 10:1-29

Vocabulary

retinue—a group of people that accompany an important person

tribute—a periodic payment one state or ruler makes to another

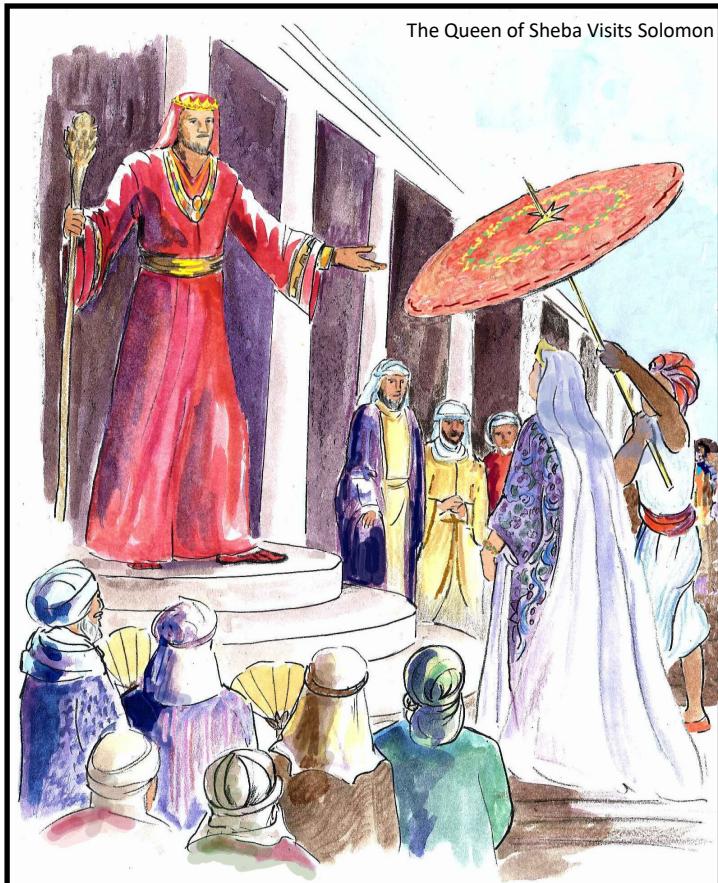
Solomon Completes the Temple Builds Cities

King Solomon completed the temple and built a magnificent palace for himself. Then, he continued to develop his kingdom. He built cities for his people and for storing his chariots and cavalry. He also built a fleet of ships. He enslaved those who were not from the tribes of Israel, and he made those of the tribes of Israel officials and commanders. While he amassed great wealth and power he continued to offer burnt offerings to the Lord.

The Queen of Sheba Visits

Sheba was in Arabia, far south of Canaan. Perhaps merchants traveling to Africa and India and Arabia told the queen of Sheba about Solomon's wisdom and the splendor of the temple and other buildings in Jerusalem. Or perhaps sailors on ships that Solomon sent to the east coast of Africa and to India spread the fame of Israel's king and his magnificent buildings.

The Queen of Sheba determined to visit such a wise king. She traveled with a great retinue—probably servants and soldiers to serve and protect her and to guard the valuable gifts she brought for Solomon—spices, gold and precious stones. The Word tells us that Solomon never again received such an abundance of spices.



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Solomon welcomed the queen. She spoke with him about many things—"all that was in her heart." She asked many questions and was astounded at Solomon's answers, for he could explain everything so well. We are given a hint of what the queen might have asked Solomon in 1 Kings 10:6-9. What might she have asked him?

Solomon Shows His Wisdom

1 Kings 10 verse 1 mentions that the queen of Sheba had heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord. She may have wanted to know about the God the Israelites worshiped. In those days people believed that wealth and honor came from God's good pleasure. The queen may have wondered what kind of god could give Solomon so much. We can only imagine what other questions she might have asked, but we know she was amazed with his answers.

The queen was so overwhelmed by Solomon's wealth, his home and his lifestyle that we are told "there was no more spirit in her." The stories she had heard about Solomon had not begun to describe his wisdom and prosperity. She exclaimed that the people who served, worked with, and lived with Solomon must be very happy. She blessed the Lord and told Solomon that the Lord must love Israel "forever" to have given it such a great king. She then gave Solomon the gifts she had brought. He responded by giving her all that she asked for before she returned to Sheba.

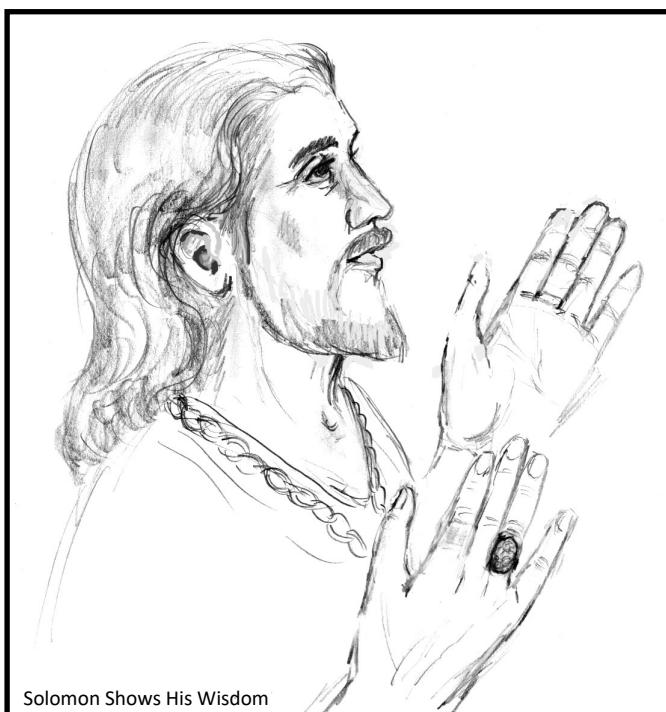
Solomon's Prosperity and Fame Continue to Grow

The prosperity and wise leadership Israel experienced under Solomon's rule really came from the Lord. However, the wealth did not just appear. The Lord caused Solomon to successfully trade useful and beautiful things that his people made with other countries. It is also likely that Solomon received taxes from his kingdom and tribute from nations that he and his father David had conquered.

It sounds as though everyone was busy and happy. And "all the earth sought Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart." This means that people from countries near and far away came and visited Israel. They brought much wealth and gave the people of Israel work and money to provide food and housing.

Israel Becomes a World Power

Although David conquered many lands and enlarged the kingdom, he did not have



Solomon Shows His Wisdom

the wealth and power Israel enjoyed under Solomon. With Solomon's success as a wise counselor and leader came a new kind of prosperity, especially in Jerusalem. Leaders and traders from many nations brought new objects, and creatures, such as apes, monkeys, mules, horses, birds, precious stones, ivory and sweet smelling wood. Most of these things are common now, but they were once wonders that helped to make Solomon's reign exciting.



Wealth

Have you ever dreamed of having a big house, many clothes, things you want? Maybe you already have some of those things. They are what is called worldly wealth—things we can touch, use, and look at. Solomon had more of this kind of wealth than anyone had known.

Solomon had another kind of wealth as well—wisdom. He could recall facts, explain things, make wise decisions, offer counsel, lead his people, and probably discuss and explain spiritual matters too. He also seemed able to choose between good and evil, at least at first. He looked to the Lord and worshipped Him. You may recall that he asked for an understanding heart.

Both types of wealth made him famous—and gave him yet another kind of wealth—great reputation and honor. Many people do things to gain this type of wealth, sometimes good things and sometimes bad. Have you ever done something so people would think highly of you? The Lord tells us that none of these things are bad. It is how we value them, seek them, or use them that can be bad or good—even having intelligence.

If we seek worldly objects and money so we can have lots of things but don't care about other people, we can become evil. However, if we seek wealth for the good we can do and find ways to share it, we can become good. If we want a great reputation so we look better than others or so we can become famous, we can become evil. If we work to develop a good reputation so we can serve others better and accomplish our uses more fully, we can become good. If we seek intelligence so we can get ahead of others or just to look smart, we can become evil. If we develop our intelligence so that we can wisely care for others and obey the Lord, we are seeking the most important kind of wealth we can have. The Lord's greatest gift to us is eternal happiness which comes from living a life of usefulness to the neighbor in this world and in heaven.

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” (1 Kings 10:9)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth True or False?

Read a series of statements. Decide if each statement is true or false. Show your answer by circling “T” for true or “F” for false. Look out for statements that are only partly true!

Signs of Wealth

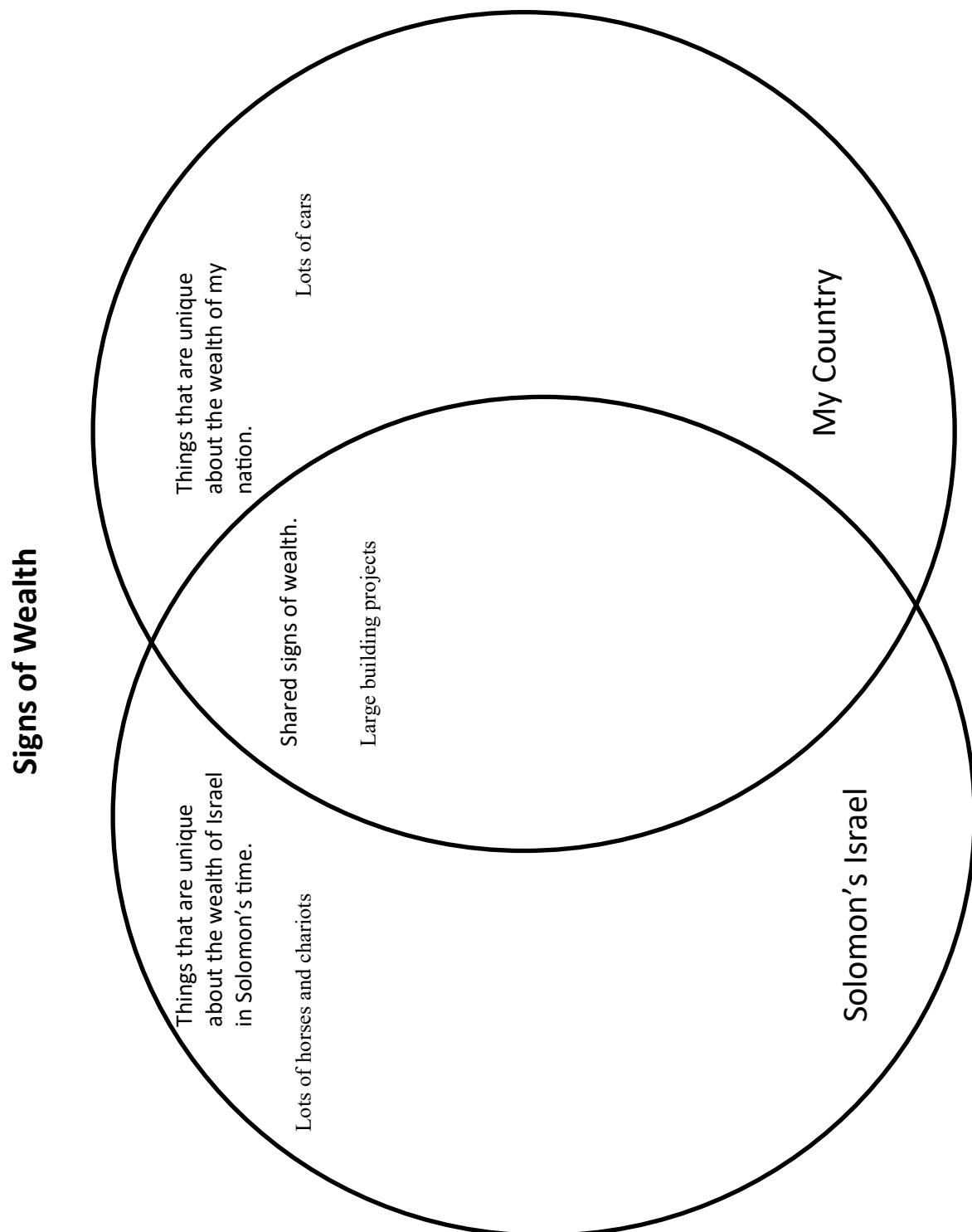
Create a Venn Diagram that compares the type of wealth people had in Israel in Solomon's time with the wealth in your nation. In the middle, write the signs of wealth that the nations have in common.

Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth True or False?

1 Kings 10:1-29

All of the following questions can be answered by circling “T” for true or “F” for false. Look out for statements that are only partly true!

1. T or F Sheba was a country far north of Canaan.
2. T or F The Queen of Sheba went to visit Solomon and brought him presents so he would not harm her people.
3. T or F The Queen of Sheba was so amazed by Solomon's wisdom and wealth that she told Solomon that his people were blessed to have such a leader.
4. T or F Solomon did not give the Queen of Sheba anything in return for her generosity.
5. T or F Solomon gained most of his wealth by going out and conquering neighboring nations.
6. T or F Solomon used some of the gold he received to make shields of gold and a throne made of solid gold.
7. T or F Solomon did not use silver very much. Please explain your answer.
8. T or F Every year Solomon's merchant ships brought him shipments of gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.
9. T or F Solomon had hundreds of chariots, thousands of horsemen and horses imported from Syria and the Hittites.
10. T or F Solomon was wiser and richer than all the other kings of the earth.



Answers

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Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth True or False

1.F, It was south. 2. F, The queen of Sheba came to pay homage to Solomon, 3. T, 4. F. 5. F, 6. T/F; The throne was ivory, overlaid with gold, 7. F; Silver was very common, 8. T, 9. F; the horses were imported from Egypt and Keveh, 10. T.