

4th week of April

God-given Wisdom and Fame

- **Text:** 1 Kings 10:4~9 (April 26)
- **Bottom line:** God is the giver of unimaginable wisdom and abundant blessings.

1. Praise

Jesus, the Name Above All Names

2. Prayer

God, our family has gathered to worship you. Please accept our worship and make it a time for us to be refreshed by the joy and hope that You give us.

3. The Word

Read 1 Kings 10:4~9 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

4 And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more breath in her. 6 And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, 7 but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. 8 Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! 9 Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord loved Israel forever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness."

<NASB>

4 When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, 5 and the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings which he offered at the house of the Lord, she was breathless. 6 Then she said to the king, "It was a true story that I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 But I did not believe the stories until I came and my own eyes saw it all. And behold, the half of it was not reported to me. You have exceeded in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. 8 Blessed are your men, and blessed are these servants of yours who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom! 9 Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to put you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loves Israel forever, He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

Understanding Text

The story of how Solomon became a mighty nation with God-given wisdom spread to the surrounding people. When the queen of Sheba heard about it, she came with gold and silver treasures to check it out. When Solomon's wisdom and glory were greater than the rumors, the queen praised God for making Solomon king and ruling the country with justice.

Understanding the text for leaders

The greatest period in Israel's history was in the time of Solomon. The Queen of Sheba, who visited Jerusalem, gives us a glimpse of an objective assessment of this. The Queen of Sheba is believed to have been the queen of an ancient kingdom in Yemen on the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula. From the size of the gifts she brought (1 Kings 10:2), it is clear that Sheba was a wealthy nation that traded prolifically. The queen of Sheba had prepared a series of riddles and difficult questions, and Solomon answered them all without hesitation. It was because Solomon had great wisdom from God (1 Kings 4:29~33). Solomon's cedar palace was a huge and ornate royal palace. The abundance of food, the nicely dressed attendants, and the ornate decorations of the palace made the queen speechless. The queen of Sheba, who witnessed all of this, praised it as not only no different from the rumors she had heard, but even greater. The queen of Sheba praised the God of Israel for allowing all of this. The Gentile woman praised God. Through Solomon, God is showing us how great it is to live in the blessings that God gives us.

"So she came to Jerusalem with a very large entourage, with camels carrying balsam oil and a very large quantity of gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke to him about everything that was in her heart." (1 Kings 10:2).

"29 Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. 30 Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31 For he was wiser than all other people, more than Ethan the Ezrahite, Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was known in all the surrounding nations. 32 He also told three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005. 33 He told of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; he told also of animals, birds, crawling things, and fish." (1 Kings 4:29~33).

4. Sharing

1) What kind of confession did the queen of Sheba make when she found out that Solomon was greater than the rumors (verses 6~9)

Upper Grades

What did the Queen of Sheba say when she came to visit King Solomon and saw everything? (verses 6~9)

Lower Grades

How did the Queen of Sheba praise God after meeting King Solomon? (verse 9).

Question Guide

Find out in the Bible the extent to which Solomon's wisdom and riches were evident in the visit of the Queen of Sheba. Notice also the praise of the Queen of Sheba, acknowledging that it all came from God. I want you to remember that God's blessings are unimaginably great.

Comments for Leaders

The wisdom of Solomon that the queen of Sheba experienced firsthand was beyond imagination. The splendid palace and the people I saw with my own eyes were amazing. The author of the book of Kings describes this as what it would be like if we fully enjoyed the wisdom and blessings that God has given us. The wealth and prestige of the nation of Israel, as witnessed through the Queen of Sheba, was unprecedented, and never since. Solomon and his kingdom, who fully enjoy the blessings of God, clearly show all of this. God wants us to fully enjoy the grace and blessings that Solomon enjoyed. Through Solomon's image, we can feel God's desire to bless us.

2) It was God who gave Solomon wisdom and blessings. Ask yourself what blessings you want to ask God for and why.

■ **Upper Grades**

God is the one who can give us the blessings that Solomon enjoyed. What blessings do you want to ask God for?

■ **Lower Grades**

Confess that all the good things you have now are given to you by God. Look for what God has given you (family, friends, toys, snacks, etc.) and say, "God gave it to me!"

□ **Comments for Leaders**

The Bible is full of stories about God's wisdom and blessings. God is the one who blesses us with the best. We often think of God as a terrible punisher, a merciless judge of sin. We need to remember that God may correct us when we sin or do something wrong, but that is not God's intention (Jeremiah 29:11; Lamentations 3:33). The God who blessed Solomon wants to bless us abundantly.

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11).

"For He does not afflict willingly Or grieve the sons of mankind." (Lamentations 3:33).

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for making us His children and wanting to give us what is best for us.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God, You are the source of wisdom and blessings. Please help us not to forget the great blessings you have given to your children. May our family enjoy that blessing abundantly in God, share it with others joyfully, and glorify and praise God.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.