

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR AUGUST 1

QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON.

LESSON TEXT—1 Kings 10:1-10, 13. GOLDEN TEXT—Wisdom is better than rubies. Prov. 8:11.

The visit of this wealthy queen from the region of southern Arabia has always appealed to the imaginations of men. Solomon's kingdom was at the apex of its glory. There were no wars. Israel's borders were extended and the temple and those other wonderful buildings had all been completed.

The chief value of this lesson is not in Solomon's wisdom nor in what this queen saw and heard, but rather it is in what has, is being, and will be done by Christ, of whom Solomon is a type and who seized upon all of this glory to teach us a great lesson (see Matt. 6:28-34). Caesar's famous phrase, slightly altered, is in this connection quite applicable—"I came, I saw, I was conquered."

I. "Hard Questions," vv. 1-3. Solomon is here a great type of Christ: (a) His greatness could not be hid (Mark 7:24). Solomon's fame filled the known world (1 Kings, 4:34). The fame of Solomon's wisdom, philosophy, proverbs, poems and knowledge of God (v. 1) drew to his court this queen, and we must recall that it was probably a 1,500-mile toilsome camel-back journey for her to come to his court.

(b) She brought a "very great store" (v. 10) of gifts, which, according to oriental custom, she presented to Solomon. Our best gift to our King is ourselves (2 Cor. 8:5). (c) She came to learn of "the name of the Lord" who had done so much for Solomon and his people; to learn wisdom for the guidance of herself and her people. We come to a King who possesses all wisdom (Matt. 12:42). Solomon had a wonderful missionary opportunity. God is today sending heart hungry people to this land from the most remote parts of the earth. Are we using our privilege to point them to the true God and to Jesus, his son? This queen did not believe what she had heard (v. 7) and resolved to find out for herself. In this she is a rebuke to those more favorably situated who, though constantly beholding the work of God in human hearts and lives, still say, "I do not believe." The queen of Sheba will rise up in judgment against all who refuse to "come and see" (John 1:39, 45-51; Matt. 12:42).

(d) This visit is a prophecy of that day when the kings of Sheba and Seba will come with their gifts for the greater son of David (Psalm 72:10, 15; Isa. 60:6-9). The wisdom which our king bestows is eternal life, "to know him" (Prov. 2:2-6; John 17:3).

II. "Had Seen All," vv. 4-7. When she had listened to Solomon's wisdom and heard the answers to her questions, the solutions to her problems, and had witnessed the wonders of his temple, court and ministers, "there was no more spirit (breath) in her." (Cf. Josh. 5:1.) And similar experience came to those three who went to the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus. Solomon's wisdom is fulfilled in Christ (Col. 2:3). "The house that he built" is a type of that temple he is building of living stones (1 Peter 2:4, 5; Matt. 16:18). "The meat of his table" is excelled by the food on our king's table, the word of life (Jer. 15:16; Ps. 119:103), his own body (John 6:55). Our king, too, has his servants (Eph. 2:6; Rev. 3:21). Their "appeal" is not to be compared with the "robe of his righteousness" and our "standing" (2 Cor. 5:21) is more exalted than that of any at Solomon's, or other earthly courts. We are not servants but "friends," yet we are "his ministers" (Rev. 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:9). Various translations suggest (v. 6), "and his burnt offering which he offered in the house of the lord."

III. Praises, vv. 8-19, 13. (1) By testimony, vv. 8, 9. "Happy are they men" who listen to such wisdom, who dwell in the midst of such achievements. One of the greatest joys is to converse with the wise and the good. Our happiness is in our privilege of standing before Christ and to hear his wisdom (Luke 10:39-42; Prov. 13:20; 3:13, 14); no servant is debarred (John 12:26). The queen glorified the source of Solomon's glory, which was all the gift of Jehovah's grace (see 2 Sam. 12:24, 25 R. V. marg., Matt. 3:17; Isa. 42:1). She did not see the oppression of the people, the temptation to luxury and the decline in religious life which so soon led to decay after Solomon's death. When our king shall reign he will "do judgment and justice."

Even so our king blesses us abundantly "above all, we can ask or think" (see John 10:28; 17:22). The kingdom of heaven is greater than Solomon's (Matt. 12:42) (a) in wisdom (1 Cor. 1:24); (b) in riches (Eph. 3:8); (c) in power (Heb. 2:8); (d) in blessings (2 Chron. 1:15, cf. Phil. 4:19) and this kingdom is "among you."

Men "see" what they are searching after; they receive true knowledge through experience. We may see this kingdom and its working if we let him, who is the "light of the world," enter our hearts and lives.

New Ribbons in New Coquetries of Dress



Leaving out the flowers of the field we must pass on to those of the palm garden and conservatory to find parallels for the splendors of new ribbons. These latest blossoms of the looms, especially the lovely monotone ribbons, leave us marveling at their color and texture and amazed at the results of intricate weaving. It is no wonder that they inspire the artists of apparel to think out such happy coquetries of dress as pictured here.

The ribbons used for these pieces are shell-pink in color with a satin surface broken by figures woven in, which play hide and seek as the light strikes them. One catches a wavering water line which is lost, while a rose leaps into notice or dots spring out like stars. It is all the trickery of light. Truly mankind has gone very far in the weaving of silk.

The girle and buoyant hair bow shown are made for a half-grown girl, and the slippers to add one more charm to lead to the story of the boudoir. They are of pink brocaded satin ribbon trimmed with narrow satin ribbon of the same color.

The girle requires ribbon six inches wide, or about that. There are many patterns in the monotone ribbons to choose from, but those showing small dots scattered over the surface are beautifully suited to young girls. A girle like that shown in the picture fastens at the back with two short standing loops, and one longer hanging loop over two ends. These are trimmed in a curve instead of the usual diagonal.

A buckle is made of buckram and

wound with narrow satin ribbon, and the hanging loop is slipped through it. The hair bow is mounted on an elastic band covered with plain satin ribbon shirred over it. It is merely a group of four loops very tightly bound at the base, where they are sewed to the band.

For the slippers tufted soles are bought and covered with ribbon sewed over the tufted side. The uppers are lined with plain, thin silk and finished with a shirred band of narrow satin ribbon. This is formed into a little rosette centered with a small button made by covering a mold with the ribbon.

Short Skirts. Girls in rather short skirts, slightly fuller but not really wide, are wearing, short, loose backed coats with turned back collars and cuffs of fine lingerie. A small toque of straw and silk trimmed with closely set flowers looks very well with a costume of this kind, and high laced boots of patent leather and light cloth, or neat brown boots, look equally well. The foolishly high heel is no longer in favor.

Attractive Coats. The little coats and jackets designed in many shapes are very attractive above the full short skirt. Very often these coats are cut in loose sack shape, hanging away from the waist-line in graceful effect. At other times they are cut with ridiculously short basques, sticking out round the waist line, and they open wide in front to display the daintiest of blouses.

Hats in Keeping With Formal Occasions



These hats are types which one sees repeated in transparent tulle or lace, or in the most open and unsubstantial of basket weaves. They bespeak occasions that require more than simple dress. They are gay with flowers or the shapes themselves are indulgences in color, which may be anything under the sun their wearers like and can get hold of. For it is a colorful summer and the devotees of fashion have developed a fad for darning.

Certainly much white and black and even more all-white is to be seen in millinery worn with afternoon gowns and in street and outing hats. But fashion swings away and strikes the other extreme with colors more varied than the rainbow dreams of, when it suits the fancy of those who love color to indulge in it.

At the right of the picture a hat of crepe georgette in white is edged with a black lace of hair brad. Maiden hair fern of velvet, large daisies, roses and velvet pansies are posed against a dazzling background; the roses in pink and pansies in their natural colors, but the daisies and ferns in black.

A long end of black velvet ribbon sets off a very gorgeous pansy which flaunts its royal purple and gold—sure of admiration.

Hats like that at the right appear in soft blues, purples, pale gray or sand, and in black or white. This one is in sand color with gray-blue velvet ribbon and satin daisies in several light colors. They have dark centers and are set in bits of their foliage and a few small blossoms. The arrangement of the ribbon velvet is original and effective.

A flowerless model in light blue takes unto itself a butterfly with blue crepe wings and velvet body, which is bound to the shepherdess shape, for better or worse, by a broad sash of velvet ribbon with hanging end at the back. The brim is faced with crepe and a band of it encircles the crown. The big butterfly is featured on the becoming shape and is likely to be found somewhere near the center of the stage among an assembly of flowered millinery—as befits a butterfly.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

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There is immediate relief for skins itching, burning and disfigured by eczema, heat-rash, or similar tormenting skin-trouble, in a warm bath with resinol soap and a simple application of resinol ointment. The soothing, healing resinol medication sinks right into the skin, stops itching instantly, and soon clears away all trace of eruption, even in severe and stubborn cases where other treatments have had no effect. After that, the regular use of resinol soap is usually enough to keep the skin clear and healthy. Every druggist sells resinol ointment and resinol soap.—Adv.

One Explanation.

Rankin—I wonder how wrist watches came to be fashionable?
Phyle—I suppose it is because the small amount of goods used in modern gowns does not permit of pockets.

MANY WAR ZONE HOSPITALS

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After a Catch.

A man with a small mesh net was seen returning to his bungalow.
"Been out after the speckled beauties?" asked a neighbor.
"No, I'm going in after mosquitoes," replied the net bearer, with vengeance in his tones.

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Not So Bad as That.

"What are you so furious about, wife?"
"Mrs. Smith just called me an old cat!"
"Why, you're not old!"—Farm Life.

Charity.

"I hates dese suspicious guys," said the panhandler.
"What have dey been doin' to you now?" asked his friend.
"A gink gives me a dime dis mornin' to 'git somethin' to eat, and den he follers me into a restaurant and watches me spend it."

No Use.

"They're using an awful lot of automobiles in the European war," remarked the auto enthusiast.
"I know," said the disgruntled pedestrian. "But what good does it do? The manufacturers keep turning the blamed things out faster than those fellows over there can bust 'em up."

Canned

"Is your wife putting up any fruit this summer?"
"No, but I've canned a few peaches myself!"
"You have?"
"Yes, I've had three different stenographers this year, and not one of them knew half as much about spelling and grammar as she did about the latest fashions."

Not Guilty.

"Hey, you big busher!" yelled an excited fan as the pitcher of the home team issued his fourth successive base on balls, forcing a runner across the plate. "Where did you learn to pitch? In a correspondence school?"
If the pitcher heard, he made no sign, but another spectator sitting near the excited one administered a stinging rebuke.
"You talk like a fish," he said scornfully. "What makes you think that dub ever learned to pitch anywhere?"

Mean Disposition. "Before engaging rooms in your house," said the bachelor, "I want to know if there are any families with crying babies staying here."
"I'm afraid there is," replied the landlady; "but we—"
"Well, I was just going to say," continued the other, "that if there are, I want you to put me in the room next to theirs. I want to wake up in the night and hear their trouble, so that I can congratulate myself again that I'm not married."

Probably Not.

"I believe a man should be master in his own house," said the newly married man. "There can be only one head in a family, and I mean to be it."
"That's a very good idea," answered his friend, who had been married more years than the other had lived. "A very good idea indeed. Have you spoken to your wife about it?"

Municipal Research Chickens. Farmer—These are chickens.
City Guest—I presume one breed lays scrambled eggs and the other fried.



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Melted Away.

John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton university, said at the Lake Mohonk arbitration conference:
"The day is not yet come when violence and oppression will melt away before right like the plumber's bill."
"Like, I repeat, the plumber's bill. For a plumber, you know, once presented a millionaire a bill of \$100 for mending a pipe."
"But the millionaire handed the plumber a dollar note and said severely: 'Receipt that bill of yours in full.'"
"But—but—" said the plumber.
"Receipt it in full," the millionaire repeated. "I used to be a plumber myself."
"The plumber at this gave a great start, receipted the bill and handed the millionaire 50 cents change."

Tempus Fugit.

"I want a warrant for the arrest of Father Time."
"What's the charge?"
"Outrageous and continuous violation of the speed laws!"—Judge.

What He Did.

"Papa, who is this Thaw that the papers are always talking about?"
"He's the man who put the 'b' in 'rainstorm'."

They All Do.

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Blinks—Out of a job?
Jinks—No; got a political job.

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"Let me see the index," said the meek man.

The agent handed it to him, and he looked through it carefully and methodically, running his finger along the list of names.

Reaching the end he handed the index back to the agent and said: "It isn't what you claim it is. I happen to know the greatest talker in the world, and you haven't her in the index."

"Hey, Skinnay, Come on over!"

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