Royal Portraits: King Solomon

Divided

By Eric Farmer, November 22, 2026

When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan – with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones – she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.

She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord’s eternal love for Israel, He has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”
1 Kings 10:1-9 NIV

King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.
1 Kings 10:23-24 NIV

The fruitfulness of Solomon’s kingship did not guarantee his faithfulness to God.

And now something greater than Solomon is here.
Matthew 12:42 NIV

Solomon’s kingdom could not survive the unfaithfulness of its king.
Jesus’ Kingdom endures because of the faithfulness of its King.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Solomon received repeated warnings from David and God, and even instructed others to remain faithful. Why can knowing what is right be so different from actually doing it?
2. Solomon experienced extraordinary wisdom, wealth, and influence. Why is outward success not always a reliable indicator of spiritual health?