

# SECOND CHRONICLES

## Chapter 9

The Queen of Sheba

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions, having a very great retinue and camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. 2 And Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from Solomon that he could not explain to her. 3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 4 the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, and their clothing, his cupbearers, and their clothing, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her. 5 And she said to the king, “The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, 6 but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, half the greatness of your wisdom was not told me; you surpass the report that I heard. 7 Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! 8 Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on his throne as king for the LORD your God! Because your God loved Israel and would establish them forever, he has made you king over them, that you may execute justice and righteousness.” 9 Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices, and precious stones. There were no spices such as those that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. 10 Moreover, the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon, who brought gold from Ophir, brought algum wood and precious stones. 11 And the king made from the algum wood supports for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, lyres also and harps for the singers. There never was seen the like of them before in the land of Judah. 12 And King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all that she desired, whatever she asked besides what she had brought to the king. So she turned and went back to her own land with her servants.

**9:1–12** The visit of the queen of Sheba portrays the fulfillment of God’s promise to give Solomon wisdom and wealth (1:12). Although the themes of Solomon’s wisdom and wealth are here put to the fore, a major motive for the queen’s visit may have been commercial, perhaps prompted by Solomon’s naval operations toward south Arabia (8:17–18). (CSB)

Highlights Solomon’s wealth and wisdom. Expansion of Israel’s interests toward the southern part of Arabia may have prompted the queen’s visit. (TLSB)

**9:1** *queen*. Her visit to the temple builder was evidence that, in addition to providing safety and peace at home, Solomon had friendly and profitable relations with a country as distant and rich in resources as Sheba (vv 1–12). See notes on the parallel account in 1Ki 10:1–13. (TLSB)

*test*. Reports of Solomon’s wisdom seemed too good to be true. (TLSB)

**9:8** *his throne*. The most significant variation from the account of the queen’s visit in 1 Kings (10:9) is found here. The queen’s speech becomes the vehicle for the Chronicler’s conviction that the throne of Israel is the throne of God, for whom the king ruled. (CSB)

A major difference between Chronicles and Kings regarding the queen of Sheba’s visit is noted here. The Chronicler reports her stating that God has “set you on His throne as king for the LORD your God,”

whereas Kings reports her words as “set you on the throne of Israel” (1Ki 10:9). This reflects the Chronicler’s emphasis on the Davidic throne as the divine throne (1Ch 17:14; 28:5; 2Ch 13:8) (TLSB)

### *Solomon's Wealth*

**13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold, 14 besides that which the explorers and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land brought gold and silver to Solomon. 15 King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold; 600 shekels of beaten gold went into each shield. 16 And he made 300 shields of beaten gold; 300 shekels of gold went into each shield; and the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. 17 The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with pure gold. 18 The throne had six steps and a footstool of gold, which were attached to the throne, and on each side of the seat were armrests and two lions standing beside the armrests, 19 while twelve lions stood there, one on each end of a step on the six steps. Nothing like it was ever made for any kingdom. 20 All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. Silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon. 21 For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years the ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. 22 Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. 23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind. 24 Every one of them brought his present, articles of silver and of gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year. 25 And Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000 horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. 26 And he ruled over all the kings from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. 27 And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah. 28 And horses were imported for Solomon from Egypt and from all lands.**

**9:13–28** Both Solomon’s wealth (vv 13–21, 24–28) and wisdom (vv 22–23) were beyond the degree of any king before or after him. He was the ideal king. (TLSB)

**9:13** *weight of gold.* The gold and silver lavished by Solomon on the temple did not exhaust his supply. He had enough of the precious metal for ornaments and drinking vessels in his palace (vv 13–21). (TLSB)

**9:14** *brought gold.* As trade or tribute. (TLSB)

**9:18** *lions.* Symbols of regal strength. Chem: “Solomon made two lions for his ivory throne and 12 small lions for the steps. This example established the civil use of images” (*LTh* 2:374). (TLSB)

**9:21** *Tarshish.* Indicates that he had ships capable of going a long distance. The Chronicler emphasizes Solomon’s glory by accenting not Hiram’s ships but the sailors sent as crews for the ships given to Solomon (8:18). (TLSB)

**9:22** For the parallel of this final reference to Solomon’s illustrious reign, cf 1Ki 10:23–29. (TLSB)

**9:26** **9:26** *ruled over all the kings.* They were his vassals. (TLSB)

**9:28** The Chronicler omits the accounts of Solomon’s wives and the rebellions at the end of his reign (1Ki 11:1–40), both of which would detract from his uniformly positive portrayal of Solomon. (CSB)

### *Solomon's Death*

**29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the history of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat? 30 Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty**

**years. 31 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father, and Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.**

**9:29–31** The Chronicler doesn't raise the issues of Solomon's apostasy (1Ki 11:1–10) and adversaries (1Ki 11:11–40). Significantly, this excludes the dramatic prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite and his condemnation of Solomon for the splitting of the kingdom after his death (1Ki 11:28–40). The Chronicler will emphasize the blame of Solomon's son Rehoboam. (TLSB)

**9:29** *acts of Solomon.* The writer of Chronicles refers his readers to records kept by three prophetic writers (cf 1Ki 11:41). From these sources, no longer in existence today, he selected accounts that served his immediate purpose: to teach the people after the exile that they cannot be God's people without honoring Him in worship acceptable to Him. (TLSB)

**9:29–31** Solomon begins and finishes his reign under the watchful eyes of the Lord's prophets (cf 1Ki 1:45), who reviewed his accomplishments and likely also reviewed his failures. Today, treasure the faithful spiritual leaders the Lord provides for your wisdom and counsel. Both their rebuke and their blessing stem from the Lord's good purposes for you: to call you to repentance and to make you wise unto salvation in Christ. • Grant me ready ears and a sincere heart, O Lord, to welcome the counsel You provide. Amen. (TLSB)