**1 King 10:1-9 The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon’s fame, which was connected with the fame of the Lord, so she came to test him with hard questions. 2She came to Jerusalem with a very great entourage—with camels carrying spices and a large quantity of gold and precious stones. She came to Solomon and told him everything that was on her heart. 3Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. 4The Queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he built, 5and the food on his table. When she saw the council meeting of his officials, the careful attention of his ministers, as well as their attire, his cupbearers, and the whole burnt offerings which he offered at the House of the Lord, it took her breath away. 6She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your accomplishments and your wisdom is true. 7I did not believe the report until I came and saw it with my own eyes. The truth is, not even half of it was told to me! Your wisdom and wealth surpass the report which I heard. 8Blessed are your men, blessed are your servants, who stand before you continually hearing your wisdom! 9May the Lord your God be blessed, who was pleased to put you on the throne of Israel. Because the Lord loves Israel forever, he made you king to administer justice and righteousness.”**

What Child Is This? A Light for All People

What is the one thing that everyone seems to want to have no matter who they are, where they live, what or how much they have? What is the one thing that everyone wants? Wisdom. Wisdom. Everyone wants to be able to have stuff figured out. It’s the reason why people will go to great lengths to study, learn, and fill their lives with every manner of pursuit so that they might figure things out. That they might know. Each bit of information is a gem to admire. Discovery a new possibility that is could lead to more knowledge. Even what people build, create, or write is a check to see if what they know will match of to the test as to whether or not it is wisdom. The desire for and appreciation of wisdom is behind poems, paintings, plays, records, songs, etc. It’s all a striving for wisdom—to have the answers.

Even for the greatest, there is within a yearning for the next that will be just a little more than what came before. There is always the next thing. Always a push to figure something else out or to master it. A push to go to great distances to figure out wisdom.

Today, we have two examples of this going to great distance for wisdom. We have the Wise Men who came to visit baby Jesus who we often misplace right at the manger and we have the Queen of Sheba who came to visit King Solomon who had a legendary wisdom unmatched by any other (1 Kings 3:10-12, 4:29-34). What brought this Queen to Jerusalem were the reports about Solomon. She heard that he was rich and wise but that’s not all. **The Queen of Sheba heard about Solomon’s fame, which was connected with the fame of the Lord, so she came to test him with hard questions.**She saw and was curious about something she likely didn’t know much about—the LORD. The queen knew Solomon’s success was due to his connection to the God of Israel. So, she came to see for herself the blessings that Solomon enjoyed and to check out this wisdom.

She was having epiphanies while she listened to Solomon answer her questions. Lights of wisdom flashed, sparkled, and stunned this powerful and mighty foreign queen. Solomon was able to answer the questions that weighed on her heart. All of them. When she asked him anything, anything at all, he expounded on it. The answers she received filled in the dark places where her knowledge lacked, it connected the things she understood and gave greater purpose to those things she possessed.

It wasn’t just a mind thing but an everything thing. All that she was taking in displayed a wisdom she had travelled a great distance to behold. **The Queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, the house which he built, 5and the food on his table. When she saw the council meeting of his officials, the careful attention of his ministers, as well as their attire, his cupbearers, and the whole burnt offerings which he offered at the House of the Lord.** She saw that the wisdom Solomon had covered everything he did, had, and was about. The epiphany of this was so great that she had a unique reaction. (physically act out breath being taken away) **It took her breath away.** Wisdom was all around. Wisdom appeared in everything around Solomon.

Then the Queen of Sheba expressed the greatest epiphany she received from being in Jerusalem. Here’s what shown brightest: **May the Lord your God be blessed, who was pleased to put you on the throne of Israel. Because the Lord loves Israel forever, he made you king to administer justice and righteousness.** She saw the source of all the wisdom. The creator of all of this who made it happen was not Solomon but the one who made him king. Solomon greatly blessed the people around him with his wisdom. He was able to expound wisdom and administer well. But what was even more breath taking was the one who made it all happen—the LORD. This queen saw a wisdom greater than the greatest wisdom she had heard about, the wisdom of God letting people see what he is able to do. That was that light that shone brightest for her. She saw the LORD filling in all the dark spaces that perplexed her and filled her heart with question.

It’s just a breath-taking epiphany to see what God does to reveal himself. We have had 12 days to celebrate the LORD’s incarnation, God become man. Wisdom coming to dwell with and for us. He has been shining brighter than all the other stuff whether we saw it or not but what an epiphany to see it’s not just a cute, sentimental picture of a baby boy in a manger, or sitting in the temple chatting with teachers, or receiving visitors who came from far off in the East. We wisdom we see is that this is the creator of the universe, the Great I AM. This is the child whose presence in our world shine upon all people. This child: *the light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it* (John 1:5). He expounds on all the questions and pursuits of life. He is the light that fills in the gaps. Once, he is seen his greatness can answer what perplexes us the most.

Epiphany is that this Child, that we hold so dear, has enlightened people. He expounds wisdom to people. Have you every connected the Child Christ to wisdom? Have you ever pondered perplexing questions such as: Why do I want to progress? Why do I want to grow? Why do I want to improve? Why do I want to get better? Why do I search? Because I need all of this, this chaos, this upheaval, this mess called life to make sense. I need this black hole that just sucks everything into it with one perplexing question after another to be enlightened with answers so I can have things figured out. I desire to see what is behind all of this. I need something to shine on every bit of what I see and the life I live so it makes sense. So that I have wisdom.

We have the wisdom that is rare. Wisdom is answers. The answer is a child revealed to the world. Not just for people who got to see and hold him. But for people who were far away in distance or even time. A child who makes all of the perplexing things make sense and expounds on every bit of life. A child who sheds light to reveal why things go well and other things go poorly. What child is this? a light for all people that uncovers or reveals that God is behind everything and he blesses us.

Let’s think for just a couple of minutes about the other person in the lesson who had an epiphany light shone on him in this lesson—Solomon. After he had expounded on the perplexing questions the Queen of Sheba asked him, she in turn reminded him of the reason God had blessed him with such great wisdom—**to administer justice and righteousness**. In case Solomon had forgotten, the queen reminded him that his wisdom was a gift from the loving LORD. He was to use it not to make his life easy but for the benefit of his people whom he ruled.

God has not made us kings or queens but he has given us the purpose in life and gifts to carry out that purpose. He gives us gifts in life like wisdom—know how, understanding; gold, frankincense and myrrh; perplexing questions that are in our heart; voices to talk to people about Jesus, invite people to hear more about him, and encourage one another to meet life’s challenges. Those are gifts God has given for the tasks he hands to us to be used out in the world not just to obtain a paycheck, or build nice things, or to take care of our family but to show love—to let the Light of Christ Child—to neighbors and strangers.

We may not know about much about the wise men who can to see the young boy Jesus or the Queen of Sheba. Both travelled long distances in search of the wisdom they sought. Our regular efforts, although not likely to take us hundreds of miles away, to connect with God’s Word are times when God enlightens us. We have a wisdom that shines on the darkness of sin which blesses us with a knowledge of why our world is the way it is. Also, the wisdom that is behind all the blessings of life—the Christ who is the Light for all people. Amen