

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.

Intergenerational Women's Ministry

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

27 November 2021

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**



"This is the second Thanksgiving that my family and I will share without Ahmaud," Wanda Cooper-Jones said in an interview on CNN's "New Day" Thursday. "But this is the first Thanksgiving that we can look at that empty chair and say, 'We finally got justice for you, Ahmaud.'"

St. Matthew AME Church 336 Oakwood Avenue Orange, NJ 07050

Reverend Leslie Watson Wilson, First Lady | Minister to Women

202-256-8531 Cell Lesliemariwilson316@gmail.com

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All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Queen of Sheba

Pages 198-200

AWARENESS

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⁶ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷ But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes..." 1 Kings 10:6-7 (NIV)

Name Meaning

- She is not named in the Bible, but Arab writers call her Balkis and Ethiopian writers name her Makeda.
- She is one who came from somewhere on the Persian Gulf to Jerusalem to prove for herself the profound wisdom of King Solomon.

What She Came For

- She had heard of the much-heralded greatness of Solomon
- Hers was not a State visit to make a new treaty of some sort nor to behold the magnificence of the court of Solomon.
- She was a seeker after wisdom and traveled to increase her knowledge.
- She came to prove Solomon with hard, perplexing questions having heard he knew all about the name of the Lord.
- Word had reached her that it was Solomon's God who had made him so remarkably wise and as a worshipper of other go he wanted to know about this Jehovah who had favored the king in an outstanding way.
- She was seeking for a deeper knowledge of his God.
- Her acknowledgement of God does not imply the acceptance of Him.

What She Heard

- She was an eager student of a more coveted adornment – truth for the mind.
- We don't know the questions she posed but the Bible does say "Solomon told [or answered] all her questions, there was not anything hid from the king which he told her not."
- The queen "communed with Solomon of all that was in her heart."
- Learned herself, she found Solomon's knowledge supreme.

What She Saw and Said

- Although accustomed to grandeur herself, the magnificence which the queen gazed upon in Jerusalem was beyond her conception.

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- ⁴ *When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵ the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at⁶ the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.*

What She Gave

- ¹⁰ *And she gave the king 120 talents of gold (\$3,500,000), large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.*

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What She Received

- All she said she would like to have in her royal court he gave to her.
- The greatest treasure she took back with her was the spiritual and moral wisdom God had put into the heart of Solomon.
- Other: In the *Kebra Negast* ("The Glory of Kings") of Ethiopia this story is retold but developed further. Here, the queen's name is Makeda, ruler of Ethiopia. Toward the end of their time together, Makeda accepts Solomon's god and converts to **Judaism**. Solomon commands a great feast to celebrate Makeda's visit before her departure, and she spends the night in the palace. Solomon swears an oath that he will not touch her as long as she does not steal from him. Makeda agrees but, in the night, becomes thirsty and finds a bowl of water which Solomon has placed in the center of the room. She is drinking the water when Solomon appears and reminds her that she swore she would not steal and yet here she is drinking his water without permission. Makeda tells him he can sleep with her since she has broken her oath. Before she leaves Jerusalem, Solomon gives her his ring to remember him by and, on her journey home, she gives birth to a son whom she names Menilek ("son of the wise man"). When Menilek grows up and asks who his father is, Makeda gives him Solomon's ring and tells him to go find his father.

What Christ Said of Her

- We hear no more of her until the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world and when exercising His public ministry, He said to a crowd gathered around Him (Matthew 12:42) - *The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.*
- The Queen of Sheba was superior to the generation Jesus wrestled with in that she journeyed some 1,200 miles to hear and see Solomon yet a greater than Solomon was in their midst, and they would not listen to His God-given truths. They failed to appreciate Christ as Wisdom incarnate.

December 25th – No Session – Merry Christmas!

January 22nd, 2022 – The Widow of Zarephath – Pages 201-204

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SKILL

Step Fifteen: Privilege

What can be learned from the story of the Queen of Sheba?

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First, as was the case of King Solomon, **believers need to show evidence of God's favor** in their lives – no matter their role, profession, or environment.

Second, **believers should earn themselves a good reputation** for their Godly words and actions – they are to be true ambassadors of the Kingdom. The Queen of Sheba heard of the fame, wisdom, and the riches of King Solomon. We are not told how she heard all this – but presumably someone came down from the north, by land or sea, by camel or ship, and told her of the king. Hearing is the first step towards entering into any spiritual blessing. Faith comes by hearing. Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth; those who listen to My message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life”* – John 5:24.

Third, **believers must share our faith**. We who have heard about the love of God and of the salvation that He offers have a great responsibility to share it with others. The Apostle Paul reminds us that whoever calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved. But, they cannot call on Him if they have never heard of Him. That is why the work of missionaries and evangelists is so important. That is why the Scriptures say, *“How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”* – Romans 10:15

Fourth, **believers know without a doubt we need Jesus!** It is worth the effort for us to meet with the King of kings. He gives us a clear invitation to come to Him, and He guarantees that He will not reject us. Have you heard about Jesus, the wonderful Savior and King, and what He can do for you? Do you realize your need for him? Are you ready to come to Him?

Fifth, **believers must bring our worries to Jesus!** The queen poured her heart out to the king and brought her questions and problems to him. In the same way, we are told to bring all our worries and cares to Him for He cares for us. We do not walk through the valley alone, we need not fear evil for He is with us and His rod and staff comfort us.

Sixth, **believers know that Jesus is the answer to the problems of the world. He has a plan.** The Queen found that there was nothing that she asked Solomon that he was not able and ready to give an entirely satisfactory answer – and this is absolutely true of Jesus Christ. He can give an authoritative answer to all our questions and a solution to all our problems.

Seventh, **believers must believe Jesus is everything that we need!** If we are seeking the way of salvation, we need not look any further – for He is the way, the truth, and the life. If we are uncertain about our future, the Bible tells us that He gives us eternal life and we will never perish and no one will be able to snatch us away from Him. If

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we need guidance and strength to cope with the challenges of life, He promises to send His Holy Spirit who will equip us and lead us into all truth.

Eighth, believers must acknowledge that whatever the question, Jesus is the answer!

Jesus is the answer to the problems of the world. He has a plan to fix this broken world: *"The government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"* – Isaiah 9:6. World peace has proved an elusive goal in our war-torn world, but one day Jesus will set all things right, and the Prince of Peace will rule in true justice, ushering in a time of blessing that the world has never seen. No matter what our individual needs, Jesus is the answer for our lives today, and He promises a better future to come. **God is able to satisfy every need, quench every thirst, and feed our souls.**

Ninth, believers must accept that we are the temple! The Queen saw his house. Have you recognized the wonderful house that our King is building (Ephesians 2:19-22)? We are told that we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Jesus is the chief cornerstone – this is more than a house; we are the temple of the living God. She saw his table laden with good things. *"For the Christian who hungers and thirsts after righteousness will be filled with good things for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."* – Psalm 107:9. Paul assured us that people who have found Christ are new people. The old life has gone and a new life has begun. What the queen saw made her burst with admiration, *"How happy your people must be. What a privilege for your staff and officials to stand here day after day, listening to your wisdom."* – 1 Kings 10:8

Tenth, believers must choose Jesus, always! As the hymn writer says, *"Love so amazing ... demands my soul, my life, my all"*. We cannot simply be token Christians who give an hour or two of our time on Sundays to attend church. In order to be a disciple, we must be willing to give up everything for Jesus. Following Jesus requires commitment and faithfulness, even if our families choose not to follow the Lord. If and when we are faced with the painful choice of loyalty to family versus loyalty to Jesus, we must choose Jesus. Even if our family members disown us for being Christians, we must follow Christ.

Eleventh, believers must seek Jesus earnestly! The Queen of Sheba was superior to the religious leaders that Jesus encountered, because she journeyed hundreds of miles to see Solomon, yet someone greater than Solomon was in their midst and they would not listen to His God-given truths. The Queen of Sheba will not rise against us in judgement to condemn any of us if in our hearts there reigns the One who is in every way superior to Solomon. She sought the wisest and most wonderful teacher she knew of. We have the opportunity of seeking and finding the greatest teacher of all time. He is the personification of Godly wisdom. We can seek Him and find Him – for He is the way, the truth, and the life.

Source: <https://www.joydigitalmag.com/everyday-life/8-valuable-lessons-from-the-queen-of-sheba/>

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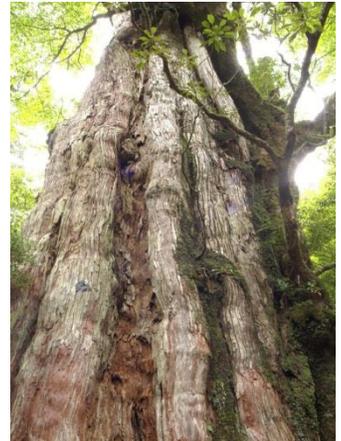
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KNOWLEDGE

Dear (insert your name) _____;

Today I engaged in a conversation on how God can use me as an Ambassador of Christ and what that means as God moves me from where I am to where He wants me to be. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most



Blessings Overflow,

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

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