

KINGDOM OF SABA

- Queen of Sheva = Queen of Saba
- Queen of the Sabeian Kingdom (Kingdom of Saba)
- Located primarily on the Arabian Peninsula
- 1st Kings 11: 1 has wordplay on the letter sheen שׁ
- Also a wordplay on the root word *shema*



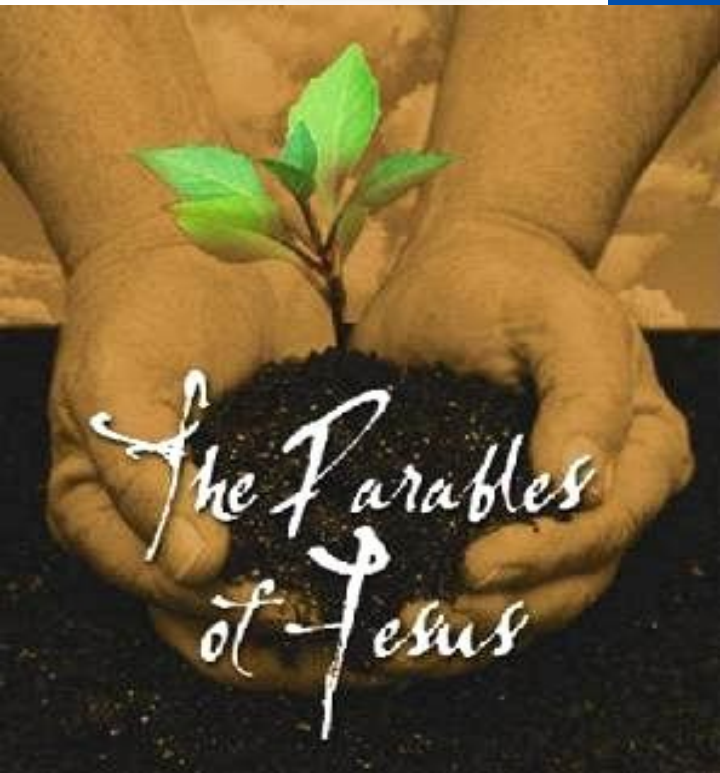
Trade Routes Between Israel and Africa

Dominioms of King Shalomah	The Red Sea Route
The Kingdom of Sheva	The "Incense Road"
Sheva's Hegemonic Area	The Nile Route
Capital Cities	
Main Ports for Shalomah's Fleet	
Etzion-Geber	

RIDDLES AND PARABLES

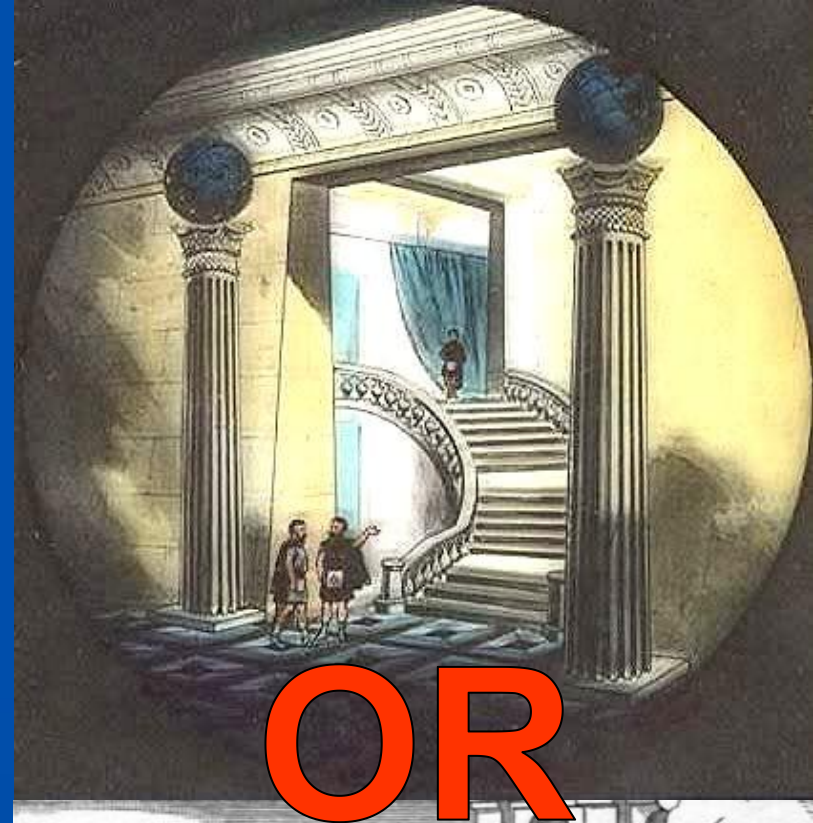


- Riddles in ancient times were serious
- Often considered mysterious or involved superstitions
- Riddles usually involved wagers
- A test of intelligence and cunning
- Parables an offshoot of riddles
- Queen of Saba trying to determine if it was useful for her to pay homage to the God of Israel



STAIRWAY OR SACRIFICE?

- Vs. 5 says that the Queen was impressed with Solomon's sacrificial offering
- Another interpretation is that she was impressed with the magnificent stairway
- Hebrew alphabet consonants ONLY
- עלה = only consonants
- 'olah = burnt offering
- Alah = ascent, stairway
- 2Chron.9:4 says stairway!



CONSEQUENCES OF BAD LEADERSHIP

- Queen says Israel is fortunate to have a king of *mishpat* (justice) and *tzedekah* (righteousness)
- A nation's leader represents that nation's standing in God's eyes
- We shall all be judged as individuals, and according to our national affiliation
- James 2:17 – 19
- Belief in God is NOT the same thing as love and trust in God



QUEEN OF SABA DEPARTS

- Hiram also had a fleet of ships on the Red Sea
- Solomon showered gifts upon the Queen, a customary requirement
- After satisfying her desire for wisdom, and after learning who YHWH is, she returned to her country and idol worship



- 666 talents = 22 tons
- In Judaism 666 is a mystery number
- Vilna Gaon in the Zohar says that 666 has something to do with the Messianic Age !
- 6 = the number of Mankind, the physical world
- 666 represents the peak of the physical world
- Solomon also taxed businesses, merchants, traders passing through



**Solomon's
Gold
666**

GOLD, GOLD, AND MORE GOLD



- Throne inlaid with ivory and gold
- Approach had golden lions
- Silver was considered as worthless as paving stones!
- “Tarshish” ship was a class of ship made for long voyages
- Apes, peacocks, ivory native to Africa

CHARIOTS AND HORSES

- Aristocrats and kings from around the world brought rich gifts to purchase an audience with King Shlomo
- The King built fortresses and chariot cities
- Bought horses and chariots from Egypt
- Brokered chariots and horses to foreign nations



1ST KINGS 11

- Solomon's thirst for wealth couldn't be satisfied
- The Lord's blessing upon Shlomo was conditional on his obedience
- Shlomo amassed a huge harem of foreign wives and concubines
- **Ahav** = love



SOLOMON IN LOVE WITH LOVE

God is love ...
I John 4:16



God is love ...
I John 4:16



God is love ...
I John 4:16



God is love ...
I John 4:16



- The King let his feelings of love override God's laws
- He married 700 wives and also maintained 300 concubines
- Deut. 17: 16-17
- He broke every one of the commands for an Israelite King !!
- Not wealth, not horses, but polygamy and marriage to foreign women was the cause of his idolatry