

The African Presence in the Bible





- ▶ Black History Month
 - ▶ Tonight's Topic
- ▶ **“The Queen of the South”**

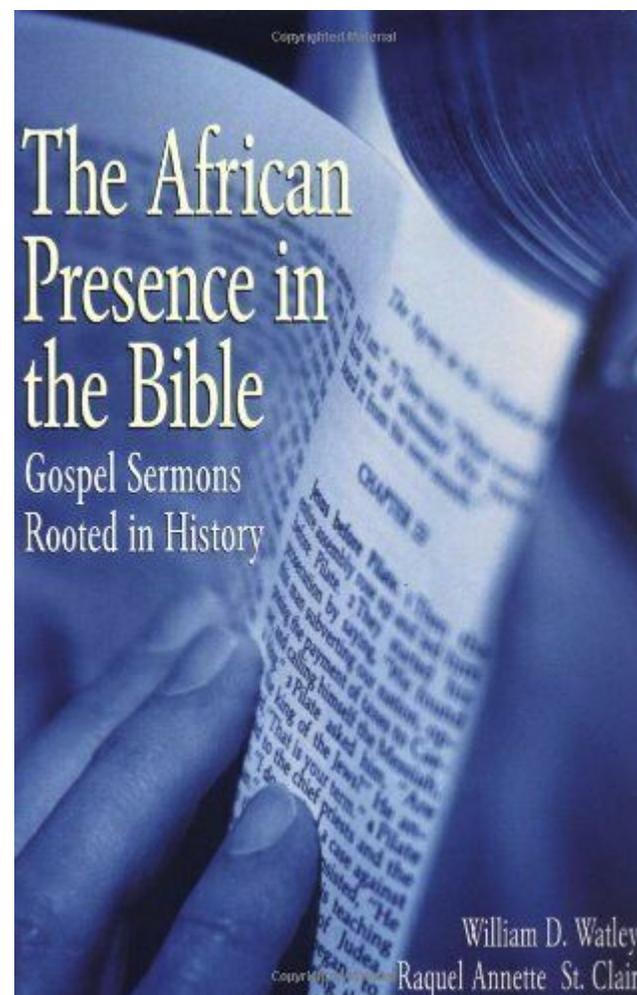
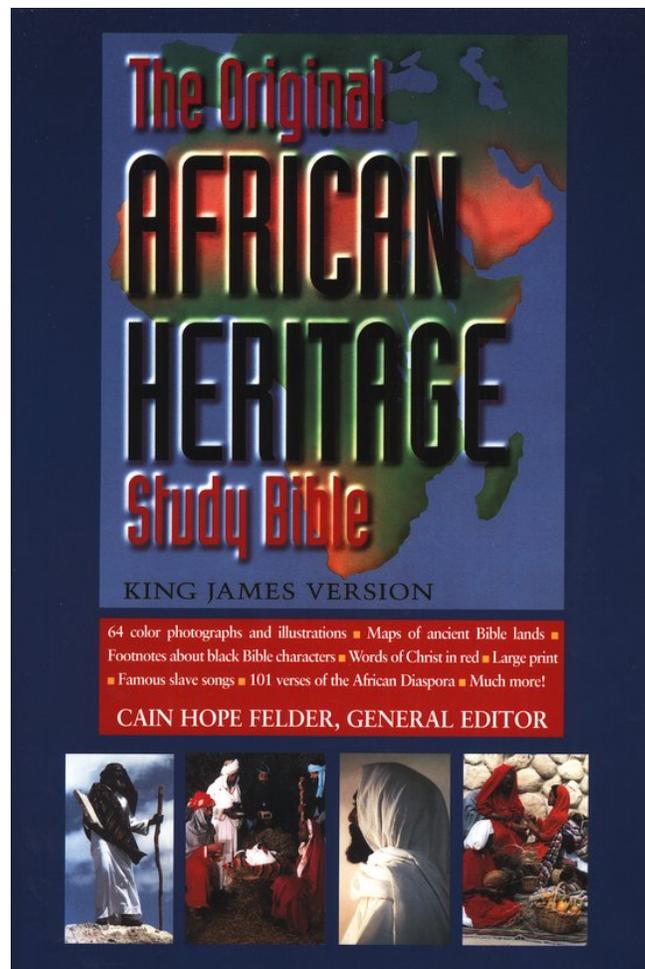
Brief Recap of our 8 Previous Lessons

- ▶ The Garden Eden (Gen 2:10-14)
- ▶ Old Testament Study-Life of Moses
- ▶ New Testament Study-Gospel Writer Mark
- ▶ African Contributions to Early Christianity

- ▶ Invisible Institution (Psalm 91:1-2)
- ▶ How Christianity Got to Africa (Acts 8:26-40)
- ▶ The Color of Christ (Rev 1:14-15)
- ▶ Story of Joseph (Gen 37:1 to Gen 50:26)



The Two Sources for Tonight's Lesson



Matthew 12:42

- ▶ The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

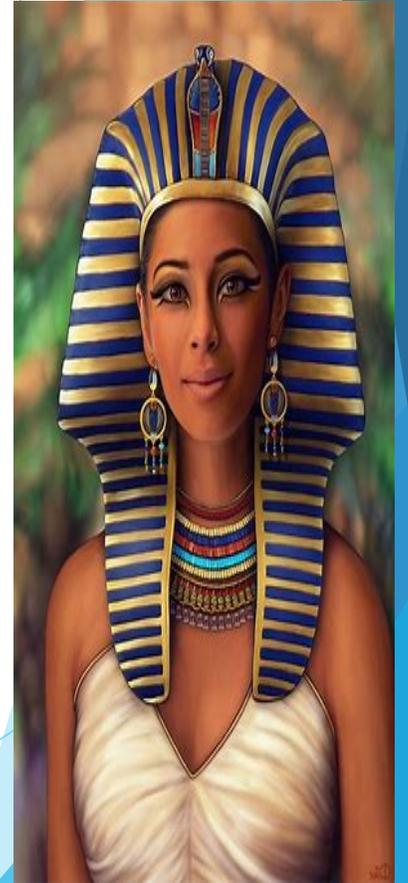
Luke 11:31

- ▶ The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

Who is the Queen of the South?

Who is this African woman Jesus is speaking about?

- ▶ In the bible, when they refer to the “south” they are referring Africa (Ethiopia)
- ▶ The African woman Jesus praised, was not living during Jesus’ time on earth but have been dead for thousands of years
- ▶ This means that she must have been so dynamic that she become part of the religious and cultural tradition of the Hebrews to the extent that thousands of years after her life and death, Jesus heard, read, and learned enough about her to respect and praise her!
- ▶ She is the famous Queen of Sheba and her story appears in 1 Kings 10:1-13



Let's Bring Some Context to the Text

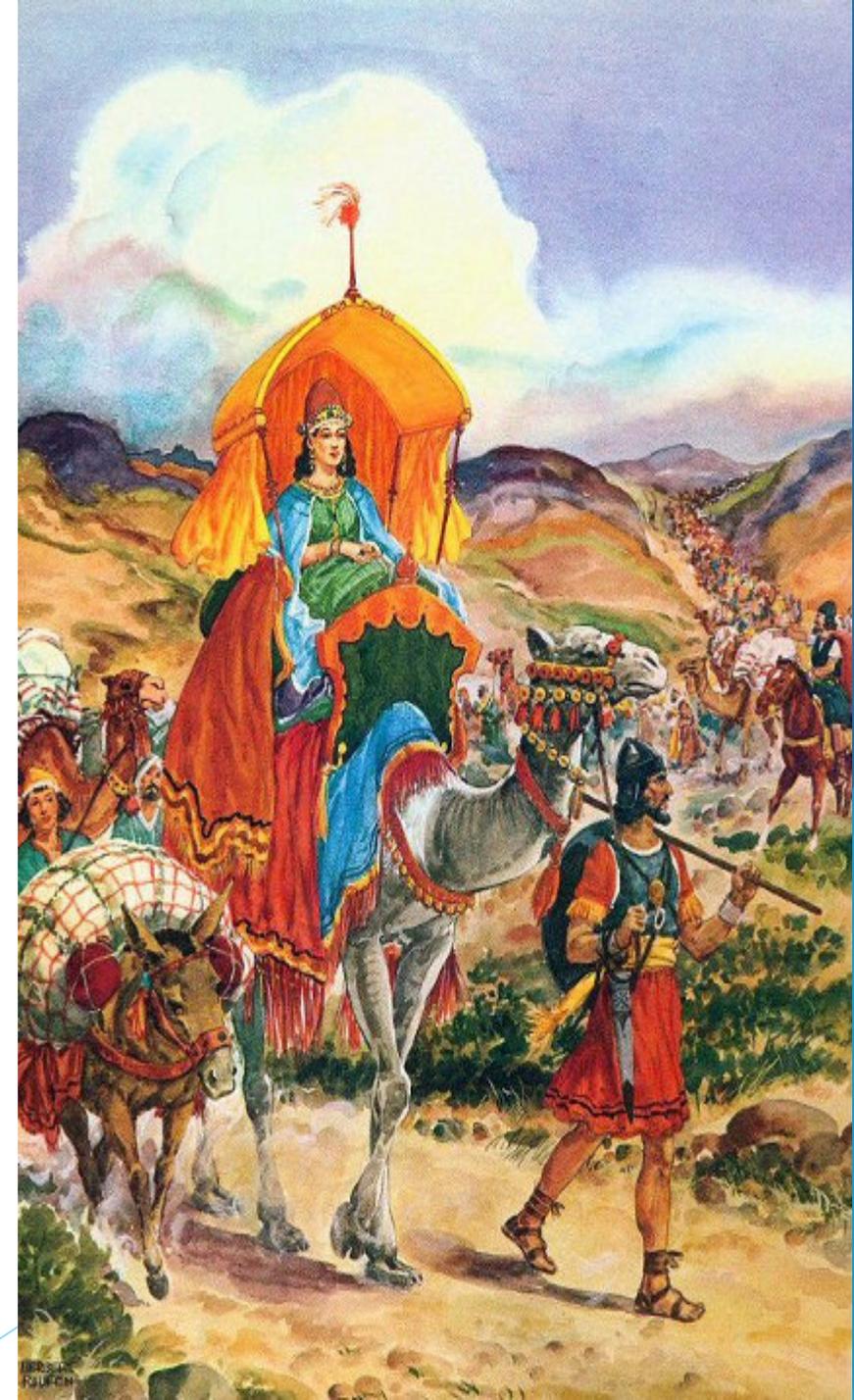
Matthew 12:42

- ▶ First, what taking place in the text...
- ▶ In Matthew 12 a conversation between Jesus and the religious leaders is not friendly. The leaders are consistently accusing Jesus, conspiring against Jesus, condemning Jesus and testing Jesus. Its toward the end of the back and forth Jesus respond with the sentence Matthew 12:42
- ▶ Therefore Jesus uses the “Queen of the South” as an example.
- ▶ Jesus was contrasting the Queen’s actions with the actions of the religious leaders of His time. For the Queen traveled a long distance to listen to Solomon and seek his wisdom whereas the religious leaders were unwilling to listen to the Son of God who came down from heaven to save them.

1 Kings 10:1-13 KJV

And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.

² And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.



1 Kings 10:1-13 KJV

³ And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not.

⁴ And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,

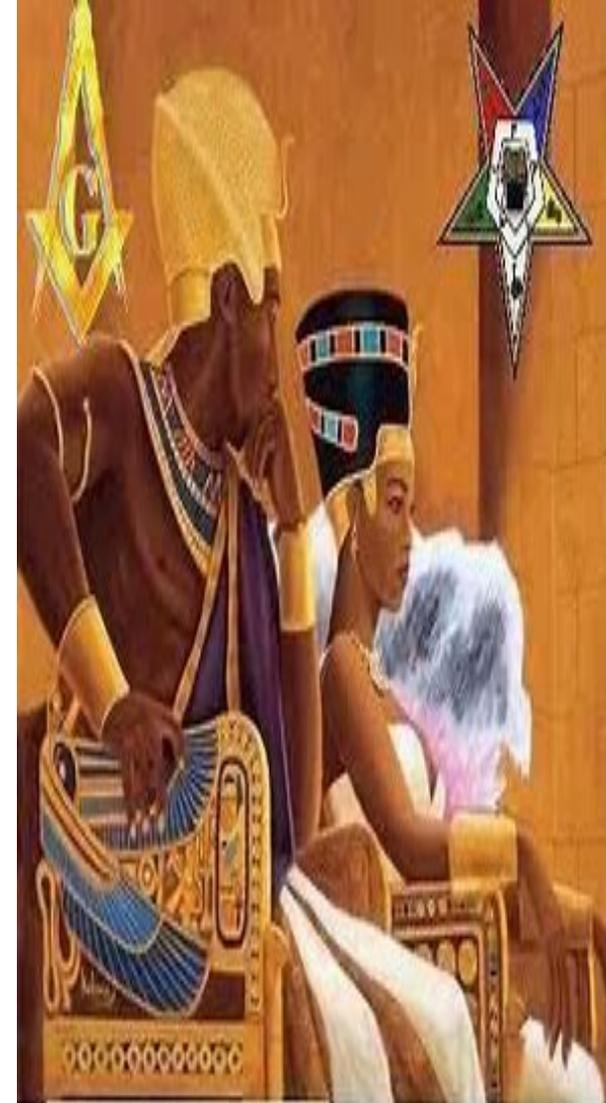
⁵ And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.

⁷ Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

⁸ Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

⁹ Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.



SOLOMON SHEBA

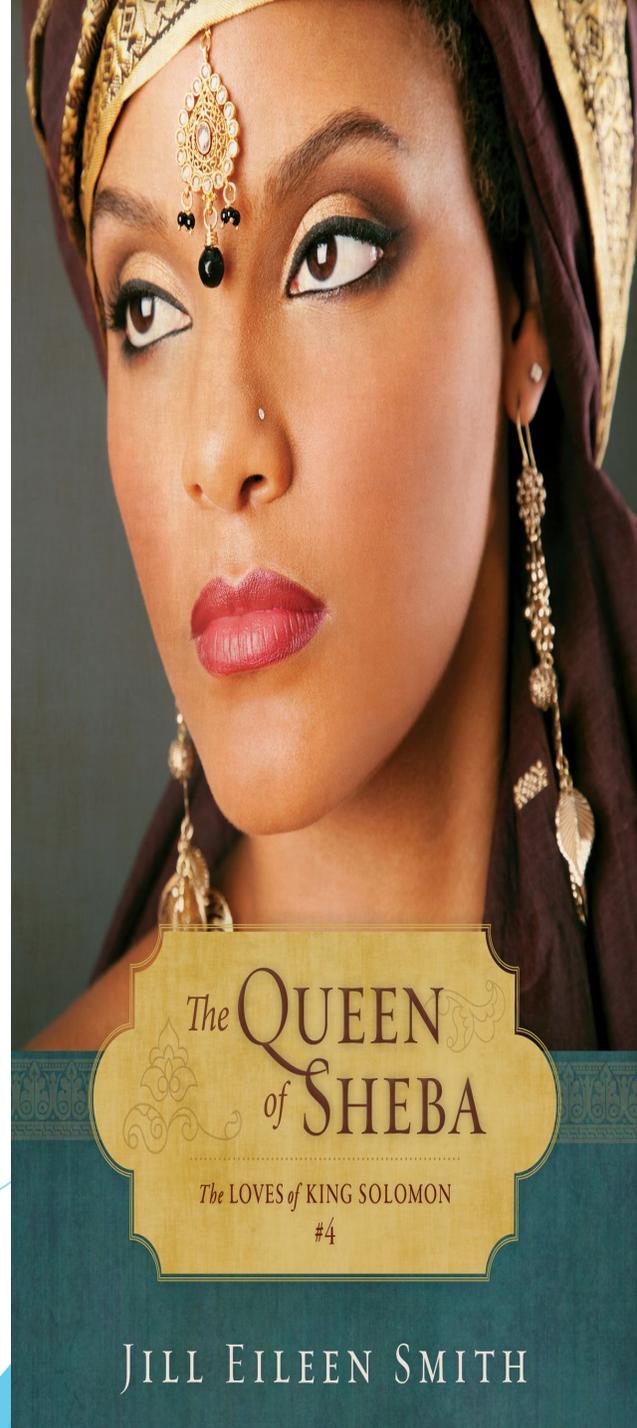
1 Kings 10:1-13 KJV

¹⁰ And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon.

¹¹ And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones.

¹² And the king made of the almug trees pillars for the house of the LORD, and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers: there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.

¹³ And king Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

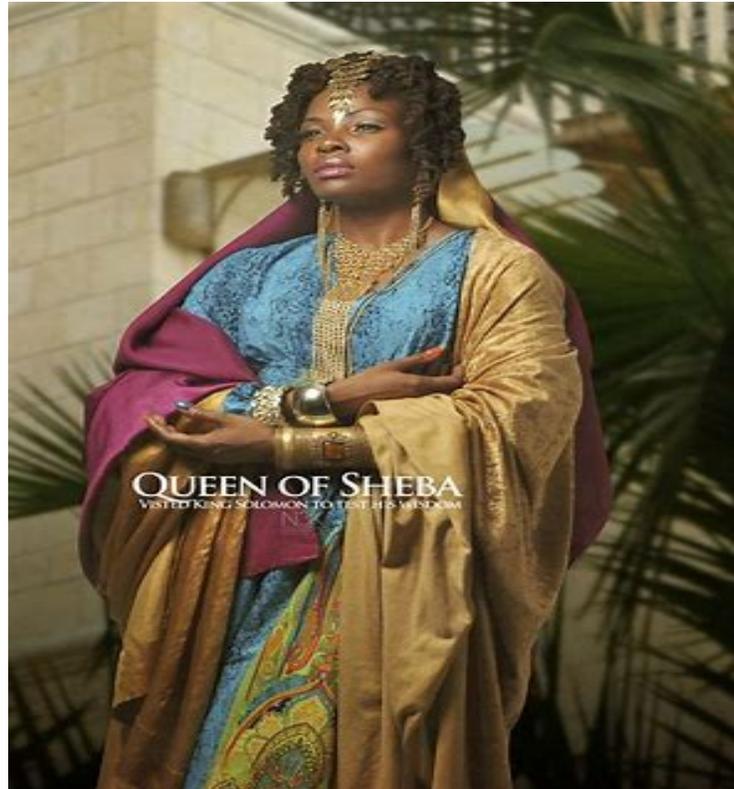


The QUEEN
of SHEBA
The LOVES of KING SOLOMON
#4

JILL EILEEN SMITH

Background on the Queen of Sheba

- ▶ Although “Sheba” is in southern Arabia, at the time this Queen lived and ruled, Ethiopia was more of a region than the single nation we know today.
- ▶ It stretched beyond the borders of Africa to include southern Arabia.
- ▶ The Queen was a major world power herself.



Lessons we can learn from her life

- ▶ She was a “Secured” individual.
- ▶ First, the queen had to have been extremely secure as a ruler to leave her kingdom for such a long period of time.
- ▶ Second, since Solomon’s wisdom was legendary, she had to secure in her own abilities and intelligence to approach him as an equal.
- ▶ Third, if Solomon was supposed to the best, the queen’s long and costly journey to meet Solomon meant that she had a desire for the best.



By Being Secured

- ▶ Search for the best
- ▶ Admit their needs
- ▶ Don't mind sharing their blessing helping others



What was the Queen of Sheba name?

