

The King's Highway

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The Queen of the South

by Rev. F. A. Dunlop

"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." Luke 11, 31.

You will recognize these words as ones spoken by Jesus Christ. They contain a Comparison, a Complaint, and a Condemnation. The Comparison, arising out of the words: "A greater than Solomon is here"; the Complaint: "The Queen of the South came from the utmost parts of the Earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon"; The Condemnation: "The Queen of the South shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and shall condemn them."

Solomon had set the standard of wisdom in this World for upwards of One Thousand Years. His proverbs were quoted, his amazing insights into deep, dark problems were related and admired by earth's greatest, and yet Jesus, without embarrassment, speaking of Himself said, "Behold, a greater than Solomon is here."

If we were to explore the ways in which Jesus is greater than Solomon, we would find Him greater in Humility. Solomon's mission to Israel called for no abasement. Each step he took from a son born of royalty to the Kingdom was an exalted step. No manger marked his birth; no humble peasant guarded his infancy; no shameful cross cast its shadow over his life. Reigning, as Israel's honored king during the brightest period of her history he gave little evidence of humility, but how different was the history of Jesus! "Though He was in the form of God, He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death, even death on a Cross."

Milton, says of Him: "That glorious Form, that Light insufferable He laid aside: and here with us to be, Forsook the courts of everlasting day, and chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay."

The shouts of the multitudes neither flattered nor fooled Him. When they would take Him by force and make Him King, He refused on the grounds that He sought not men's honors but hearts. Dressed like a slave, with towel and basin, we find Him washing the disciple's feet. Thus His Incomparable greatness rests in part in His Humility.

Jesus was greater in Mercy. Solomon seemed almost void of this. Adonijah, Joab, and Shimei suffer death at his command. Their pleas for mercy were unheeded. They were torn from the Altar where they fled for refuge, and were cruelly put to death. Jesus wept when He beheld the Multitudes; He saw them as sheep having no Shepherd; He waited for the wrath of men to cool that He might speak forgiveness to an adulteress; He responded gratefully to the devotion of a social cast-away, who had nothing to offer but a broken life and a broken heart. While she washed His feet with her tears, He washed away her sins

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with His blood. Jesus is greater in Mercy.

Jesus, is greater in Purity. He challenged His enemies to convince Him of sin. The verdict of Rome, given on the day of His trial was: "I find no fault in Him." He was so holy that devils fled from His presence, screaming: "We know Thee, whom Thou art, the Holy Son of God." Sinners forsook their sins when Jesus drew near, and Angels ministered unto Him. Yes, Jesus is greater in Purity.

Jesus, is greater in Wisdom. He is the Fountain of Wisdom, the Divine Logos. He came to bear witness to the Truth and He is Truth. There are some things we have a right to believe because Jesus Christ endorsed them. The writings of Moses take on Infinite value not because Moses wrote them but because Jesus endorsed them. I dare not call the story of Adam and Eve, as recorded in the Pentateuch, a myth, because Jesus referred to it as fact. I accept the story of the Flood because Jesus accepted it. Likewise the record given concerning the Cities of the Plain. I believe in Heaven, because Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many Mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." I believe Christ is coming again, because He said He would. Jesus never stated an opinion. He never sought knowledge of Earth's great, or acted in error. Literary men tell us that the only perfect piece of literature written is The Sermon on the Mount. They affirm that not one thing can be added which would improve it, and not one thing can be taken away without doing it injury. Solomon excelled in but one virtue — wisdom, but Jesus Christ is the embodiment of all human and Divine excellence. Solomon came to power with every earthly advantage provided for him, and the course he followed, notwithstanding his wisdom, wrote a dark shadow over Israel's history. But Jesus Christ came to His place of greatness through obscurity, poverty, and want, but in thirty-three years, He lived, taught, and ministered in such a way that men have not ceased during Two Thousand Years of World history, to call, and believe Him to be, the very Son of God, Most High.

The Queen of the South travelled from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; my friends, may I ask you, How much have you inconvenienced yourself to know Jesus Christ?

(To be continued)