

THE QUEEN OF THE SOUTH

by Rev. F. A. Dunlop

May we now consider the **Complaint**. Christ rested His complaint upon the disadvantages this woman acted under. "The Queen of the South came from the utmost parts of the earth", and such a journey was not easy. It must have been expensive, difficult and dangerous. It meant a leaving of home-interests and affairs of State. It meant days of preparation and weeks of travel through desert Country.

Then, she was an heathen Queen, acting upon hearsay. News of Israel's illustrious king had reached that foreign court. The source of his wisdom, according to reports given, rested in Israel's God, and this heathen woman, desirous to know the truth would prove for herself the rightness of the claims. She had no Inspired Scriptures to support her faith, no direct communication from God; no miracle, no prophesy, no sign from Heaven. She had heard of wisdom that led to a better, happier way of life, and she would know the rights of it.

Again, this heathen Queen had taken the initiative. Solomon had made no approaches that we know about. He had sent no invitations and proffered no advice. This woman acted on her own desire, unaided and uninvited.

With these facts facing them, Christ would speak to the people of Jerusalem, yea, He would speak to us, to you, to me. First, the problem of distance has been eliminated by the love of God. That great Gulf, so long standing between God and man was bridged in Jesus Christ. The great fact of God's immediate Presence, He would impress upon them. No need to journey far: Infinite wisdom, Infinite power, and Infinite grace walked their streets, taught in their synagogues, healed their sick, forgave their sins. "The greater than Solomon is here," Jesus said. Nicodemus could find Him at the close of a busy day; Zacchaeus could entertain Him at his home; Mary could sit at His feet. It was easier to find Him than to escape Him.

Secondly, the people of Jesus' day could act on first-hand knowledge. Every where men turned, someone could be heard introducing the Christ. From the banks of historic Jordan rang clear the word: "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the World." Along the shores of Galilee, fishermen were spreading the glad news. "We have found Him of whom Moses and the prophets did write." At his birth, Angels shouted the news from Heaven; at His Baptism the Voice of God confirmed His Eternal Sonship. He put on prophecy like a garment. In the city of Nazareth, one Sabbath, He reached back across Seven Hundred years of Jewish prophecy and said, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Thirdly, In human Redemption Christ has taken the initiative. A loving, compassionate God has come to us in the Person of Jesus Christ. "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save." "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." "The Spirit and the Bride say, come." Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich." He came to us through the Womb of a Virgin, and we never can free ourselves from the responsibility His coming has placed upon us. He weeps over our indifference to this Complaint: "The Queen of the South came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom, of Solomon, and behold, a greater than Solomon is right here."

And finally, the **Condemnation**: The Queen of the South shall rise up in the judgment, with the men of this generation and shall condemn them." The Judgment

here referred to is the judgment of the World, the final judgment. It is stated as an accepted fact. "The Queen of the South shall rise up in the judgment." She has nothing to do with the event other than to be there with the rest of Earth's millions. She will be there to testify of her desire for truth, for God, and for an answer to the cry of her heart. She will speak of her pleasure with the king she met, with the things she saw, with the knowledge she gained. And with the men of Nineveh she will tell of repentance for sin, of searchings for God, of deep heart yearnings for peace and security in a world where there was no Christ, no Cross and no Saviour. She will rise up and condemn the men of this generation, for she travelled far to see the wisdom of Solomon, while we close our ears to the truth, our eyes to the Light, and our hearts to a pleading, all-powerful Saviour.

This text suggests a fact that is given support throughout the whole body of revealed truth, namely: That men shall be judged on the basis of privilege and opportunity. The Queen of the South travelled afar to see the wisdom of Solomon; the men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, and Behold, a Greater than Solomon, a Greater than Jonah, is here.

My friends, suffer me these questions: Does the Holy Spirit of God ever reprove you for your unbelief, for your lack of interest in things spiritual? Do you ever wonder at your indifference toward the sufferings of Christ? Do you ever contemplate your position at the judgment, if these things you so often have heard—the event at Calvary, the sufferings of Christ for human sin, His second return in judgment — if these things be true. What will be your answer? You cannot plead ignorance; the Bible, the churches of this City, the faithful pastors that have preached to you on Sunday and prayed with you on Monday will add to your condemnation. Your attitude toward the convicting ministries of the Holy Spirit, and the pardon offered you by a dying Saviour, will determine the sentence meted out to you when you stand before the Judge of all the Earth. Do your actions tally with your opportunities? If not, the Queen of the South will stand up to condemn you; the men of Nineveh will witness against you.

PRAYER CALENDAR AUGUST 1963

1. Evangelical Holiness Bible School opening for second term July 31, 1963--the Lord's blessing on students as they return from holiday.
2. Special course at E. H. B. S. conducted August 1-14.
3. Betty Kierstead - Birthday.
4. Communion Sunday Emondlo, Paulpietersburg Dist. Rev. J. Nkosi and Rev. Karl Gorman in charge.
5. Prayer of thanks that Rev. Glendon Kierstead has been able to hold Bible School classes for Rhodesian African workers-prayer for a deeping spiritual experience among our workers.
6. That Missionary Day at Riverside Camp may be a great blessing to our missionary work.
7. For Paul and Mary Sanders as they present the missionary challenge to our churches at home.
8. Prayer of thanks for good progress in building the Natalspruit Church, Reef Dist.
9. That a clinic site at Entungweni, Altona Dist., may soon be granted.

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The King's Highway