SECTION III: Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

TIME LINE: Tenth century BCE

Solomon ⇔ Makeda (Queen of Sheba)

Menelik I (Emporer of Ethiopia)

The Queen of Sheba (Makeda) was ruler of the Sabeans and contemporary with King Solomon whom she visited to test his wisdom. “Impressed with his wealth as well as his wisdom, she blessed both Solomon and the God of Israel for such splendor. She gave Solomon 120 talents of gold in addition to other precious items, and Solomon in his turn bestowed rich presents upon her, prior to her return to her own land.” (HarperCollins)

“Her appearance in the narrative of I Kings is intended to glorify the figure of Solomon rather than give information about this wealthy queen, who is otherwise unknown in the Old Testament.” (HarperCollins)

In the Constitution of Ethiopia (Art. II) she is referred to as the mother of Emperor Menelik I by way of a liaison with King Solomon.

Solomon [sol’o-mon] (the peaceful)

TIME LINE: 961-922 BCE

David ⇔ Michal (Saul’s 2nd daughter)
 ⇔ Ahinoam (the Jezreeliteess)
   ⇔ Amnon (eldest son)
 ⇔ Abigail (widow of Nabel)
   ⇔ Chileab
 ⇔ Maachah (daughter of King Geshur)
   ⇔ Absalom (killed Amnon)
   ⇔ Tamar (violated by Amnon)
 ⇔ Haggith
   ⇔ Adonijah
 ⇔ Eglah
 ⇔ Bathsheba (Uriah’s wife)
   (Brother, died in infancy)
   ⇔ Shammua
   ⇔ Shobab
 ⇔ Nathan (NOT THE NATHAN IN THIS WEEK’S LESSON)
   ⇔ Solomon (youngest son) ⇔ (Daughter of Pharaoh, king of Egypt)
   ⇔ Queen of Sheba
Solomon was a child of David's mature age and enjoyed all the privileges of being “born to the purple.” His name, Solomon, means The Peaceful, one whose reign was foretold to be a reign of peace and quietness. He was brought up in luxury and wealth and knew nothing of the hardships which developed much of the character of his father. He received a good education and was placed under the care and training of Nathan, an eminent Hebrew prophet.

Intrigue for the Succession. Solomon did not ascend to his father’s throne without opposition. David honored a promise to Bathsheba and chose Solomon to succeed him because the other sons born in his warriors days were not fit for the throne. Until David’s death, it might be said of Solomon, as of many an adolescent, that he lived by his father David’s God. During Solomon’s reign the kingdom of Israel took its place among the great monarchies of the East. Large treasures, accumulated through many years, were at his disposal.

The Dedication of the Temple (I Kings 8: 22-53/II Chron 6: 12-42) The dedication feast coincided with the Feast Of Tabernacles.

Solomon formed alliances with other countries that improved the economic success of the kingdom. The most significant were with Egypt and Tyre. However, Solomon is best known for taking action on a dream of repentance when he chose wisdom as the gift of God in preference to wealth or long-life.

Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Through the years Christian scholars have found in Solomon’s wisdom and greatness an illustration of the infinite greatness and wisdom of Jesus Christ. They have likened the Queen of Sheba to the seeking soul who comes to Christ with hard problems of life and many questions.

He was the author of much of the Book of Proverbs and perhaps also the author of the Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes

Hiram/Huram/Horam (“high-born”)

TIME LINE: 981-947 BCE

Hiram was king of Tyre. He entered into an alliance with David, and assisted him in building his palace by sending him able workmen, and also cedar-trees and fir-trees from Lebanon. After the death of David he entered into a similar alliance with Solomon, and assisted him greatly in building the temple. He also took part in Solomon’s traffic to the Eastern Seas.


Who loves the most ’tis he possesses most;
Who loves the least ’tis he possesses least.
Indifference is ignorance, and hate
Informs with falsehoods. Love the teacher is
Of all that’s true. Love gives us sole dominion
Of all that we can hold of earth or sky,
Save as the beasts.

We cannot understand save as we love;
We cannot even see save as we love.
Who owns most of the valleys, hills, and woods,
The streams, the grazing flocks? 'Tis the same man
Who owns most of the sunsets, clouds, and stars.
And who is he? 'Tis he who loves them most;
For only by the measure of his love
Can he discern their perfect loveliness,
And know the joys of their companionship….


--How many of us have wandered in the wilderness of materialism, seeking happiness in self-gratification and self-love, until the truth dawned upon our mental vision, through Christian Science.

  • Daily I thank our dear Leader for the truth given to us through Science and Health.
    ---It came to me after many years of ritualism and creed.
    and I had much to unlearn before I was ready for the revelation.

  • Like Solomon, I had to learn that human philosophy and experience are vanity and nothingness.
    ---Then, and not till then, was I ready to accept Mrs. Eddy's inspired and inspiring words, "All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all" (Science and Health, p. 468).

  • Christian Science takes up the life-problem where Solomon left it,-proclaiming material belief as vanity, nothingness,-with the declaration that God is All.

--Christian Science…..is opening the flood-gates of Love, and bringing peace and joy to the disappointed searcher for Truth, who like Solomon had found that neither riches nor pleasure could satisfy.


--The world for ages has sought for, and is still seeking after, wisdom, but it has yet to learn that some of the knowledge it has gained is not true wisdom, for the result of this so-called wisdom is not the understanding that enables the learner practically and scientifically to prove that it can save him from his destroyers, sin, sickness, and death.

--The "pearl of great price" is what I call an, understanding of what one knows of the truth; in just the degree of this knowledge it can be demonstrated, and the ability to prove it is certainly a proof of understanding.

  • This is indeed the one great secret of really knowing what one knows.
    ---Christian Science is Scientific Christianity, because its understanding reveals a scientific Principle that is as changeless as God, and shows that divine Principle is God, and by knowing the Principle one can see its rule and can work out his salvation (saving) from all error, by this conception of the simple law of overcoming evil with good.

  • Truth is being sought after as never before in the history of time, and all forms of belief without understanding will go down before the great avalanche of proof that follows the understanding of true Christianity and results in healing the sick, saving the sinner, and casting out all forms of evil.


--The letter of the Bible has always been with us, but its spirit has too often been lacking.

  • The well-known story told by Cornelius à Lapide, beautifully illustrates how, through the material prosperity of the Church, its vital functions were eventually lost sight of.

  • He relates how Thomas Aquinas once came to Pope Innocent IV. at Rome, and was shown through the sumptuously furnished rooms of the Papal Palace.
    ---He became almost as much fatigued and dazed as was the Queen of Sheba when she beheld the riches of Solomon's temple.
"See, Thomas," said Innocent, "see, the Church can no more say, as it did in those first days, 'silver and gold have I none.'"

---"True, holy Father," replied Thomas Aquinas, "but neither can she say to a lame man, 'Arise and walk!'"

- In this twentieth century the signs of primitive Christianity are again appearing.

---On all sides we hear of people who have been restored to health without drugs or material remedies.

SECTION V: A miracle at the pool of Bethesda

"a certain man..which had an infirmity"  (John 5: 1-9)

TIME LINE: The Year of Popularity (Jesus’ 2nd year of ministry)

“This miracle may be regarded as a parable illustrating the deadly effects of sin, and the power of the Saviour to deal with the most hopeless cases. This poor man in his youth had shattered his nervous system by a life of sensual indulgence (v. 14) and had lain for thirty-eight years a hopeless paralytic (v. 5). This being an extreme case, the usual order of Christ’s miracles is reversed. Instead of being wrought as a reward of faith (see v. 13), the miracle is wrought to produce faith. The man was too much broken down in mind and body to believe, until some signal mercy was vouchsafed and repentance and faith followed (v. 14).”  
(Dummelow)


Have you ever felt like
the man by the pool of Bethesda?
Powerless, twiddling away the day,
anticipating the out-of-reach?
I have.

My completeness—
purpose joy, health—
felt bound to something,
someone, somewhere “out there.”
I was waiting for the mysterious
“moving of the water”
to make me whole.

But nothing happened.

Then the Christ
quietly invited,
“Wilt thou be made whole?”

And I was up!…


--The ministry of Christ was to reform the sinner and heal the sick.

- If he only reformed the sinner, he could not say — “Thou art made whole;” He could only say, Thou art made half.

---But he did both and his command is more emphatic that we
do likewise. "The things that I do ye also shall do," and, "If ye believe on me, these signs shall follow."
--"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."
- Shall see God, or as the original reads, shall see good.
--Before peace and good-will shall come to the sons of men, there must be a change of belief in the pleasures of the senses, and we must understand that the only real pleasures are those that come through the avenues of Soul.

SECTION VI: Peter and the Gentiles

Cornelius [kor neel’ yus]

Cornelius was a centurion whose history is narrated in Acts. He was a "devout man," and like the centurion of Capernaum, believed in the God of Israel. His residence at Caesarea probably brought him into contact with Jews who communicated to him their expectations regarding the Messiah; and thus he was prepared to welcome the message Peter brought him. He became the first fruit of the Gentile world to Christ. He and his family were baptized and admitted into the Christian church.


--visions [are] not so much prophecies of something new to come at some later date as they [are] confirmations of a present spirituality that underlies, and in fact constitutes, all real existence.
--Catching the vision does require redemption and regeneration.
--We catch the vision as our lives become more spiritually oriented, open to farther horizons of thought.
--As we catch the vision, God becomes to us more of what He always has been, the central fact of our existence.
- Catching the vision, then, is an opening up to who we really are, spiritually--the way God knows us.
--Catching the vision carries with it a demand for action, a responsibility to put what we know into practice.
--Catching the vision of Science and Health impels a sharing--selflessly, impartially, winningly.


--Peter, one of the twelve chosen by the Master, devoutly believed that salvation was for the Jews only and that Jesus' mission did not extend to the Gentiles.
- The apostle did not stand alone in this matter, neither was his belief the result of the Master's teaching.
---It was a conviction so deeply rooted in the Jewish consciousness that its truth was never questioned.
- Had Peter sufficiently comprehended the teachings of Jesus he would have seen the error and departed from it, even as he did forsake it when he was convinced that among the Gentiles were to be found those who worshiped the God of Israel "in spirit and in truth."
---He was, however, faithful to what he knew, and the time came when he was called to go and preach Christ to Cornelius and the members of his household.
- At first he was unwilling to do so, but in a vision it was shown him that he should call no man common or unclean.
---When Peter beheld the company to whom he was sent and heard the testimony of Cornelius, he said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness is accepted with him."

Peter (Aram. “rock”)
TIME LINE: - 65 CE

Jonah [Jonas/John] (father)

Simon Peter [Cephas/Petros] ⇔ Unknown (Gospels refer to
mother-in-law)

Andrew

The original name of this disciple was Simon. Peter was the most prominent of Jesus’ twelve apostles. The Bible gives a more complete picture of Peter than any other disciple, except Paul. He is often considered to be a big, blundering fisherman and is attractive for his constant mistakes and forgiveness, his boisterous and impetuous enthusiasm, and for his good intentions and self-confidence that so soon seemed to disappear. He became one of Jesus’ closest friends and was the first to recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

He was a native of Bethsaida (modern Golan Heights of Syria), and his family probably lived at Capernaum (modern Lake Galilee). They were fishermen; Peter was even referred to as a master fisherman. Living in the district of Galilee (modern northern Israel) surrounded by Gentiles, Peter may have spoken colloquial Greek, but his native language would be Aramaic and his Galilean accent was quite obvious in Jerusalem at the trial of Jesus. Both Peter and his brother Andrew were followers of John the Baptist before knowing Jesus. Peter’s house at Capernaum became the headquarters of Jesus’ lakeside ministry, and Peter’s boat was always at his disposal.

Peter is the first named in every list of the twelve Apostles, and was apparently the strongest individual in the group. With James and John, Peter formed an inner circle of three, who alone were allowed to accompany Jesus into the house for the raising of Jairus’ daughter, to witness the transfiguration, and to share the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was always a man of action, but from his calling by Jesus to his denial of Jesus he was a man of impulse and aggressive energy, of childlike simplicity and daring, alternating with a weak and cowardly instability. It was not surprising that he was the first ready to walk to Jesus on the water. He is particularly remembered for his three-fold denial of Jesus, his repentance, and his three-fold commission by Jesus to “feed my sheep.” He was the first to witness Jesus’ resurrection—to see the risen Lord—and to recognize him as the Messiah.

In John 21 we have the account of a full re-instatement into the place of an apostle. From this time he became what his name signified, a rock—and his boldness in the face of persecution formed a sharp contrast with his previous timidity.

After Jesus’ ascension, at which he “sent out” his apostles into the world, Peter at once assumed the leadership of the apostles. The first 11 chapters of Acts are built around the activity of the Apostle Peter. He was the first of the apostles to perform a miracle in the name of Jesus—healing the cripple at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. He conducted the defense of John and himself before the Sanhedrin, and pronounced the condemnation of Ananias and Sapphira.

It was Peter who healed Aeneas, the paralytic at Lydda [modern Lod], and he raised to life Dorcas, the woman of many good works in Joppa [modern Jaffe, close to Tel Aviv]. He proclaimed salvation to the churches, and the event that concluded Peter’s story in the New Testament was the preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles. We know little of Peter’s work outside Palestine, but he continued the healing ministry of Jesus throughout the Middle East.

After remaining for some time at Caesarea, he returned to Jerusalem, where he defended his conduct with reference to the Gentiles. Next we hear of his being cast into prison by Herod Agrippa; but in the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison gates, and he went forth and found refuge in the house of Mary.
Although there is no evidence directly linked to the event, it is highly probable that Peter was martyred in Rome @ 65 A.D., when Nero made the Christians the scapegoats for the burning of Rome, which he had himself initiated. According to early Christian tradition, Peter, as an old man, suffered martyrdom by crucifixion head downwards.

The only written documents which Peter has left are the First Epistle—about which no doubt has ever been entertained in the Church—and the Second, which has been the subject of earnest controversy.


--“What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.” (Acts 10: 15)

• This message came to the Apostle Peter as he prayed.
  ---It puzzled and disturbed him, for it challenged the conventional attitudes toward Gentiles that he had entertained throughout his life.
• However, his deep desire to obey God step by step to the liberating realization that, in his own words, “God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” (Acts 10: 34 God, 35)

--How wonderful for Peter to discover that those he had considered “common or unclean” by virtue of the religio-cultural differences, were in fact his brothers, heirs to the same promise that God had bestowed upon him!
--With his new conviction of the essential worth of every individual in God’s sight, Peter preached the gospel of Christ to the Gentile Cornelius and his household and friends.


--Until after Paul became a Christian, Peter was the foremost follower of Jesus.
• Apparently, also, it was Jesus who gave him this position.
  ---For these reasons, and because Peter continued until he was martyred to be one of the two most prominent Christians of that time, his concept of Jesus is particularly important.
--Peter loved Jesus as the Christ, and gave promise of ability to carry on the Christly work during the difficult time which was to follow the Master’s crucifixion and his ascension above human life.
--Peter regarded [Jesus] as a man and not as God.
--Peter regarded Jesus as the Christ, as “he that should come.”
• In other words, Peter recognized Jesus as fulfilling the hope of the Jews for a Messiah or Saviour.

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The Bible contains works of poetry, religious-themed narratives, philosophical musings such as The Book of Ecclesiastes, epistles, and the apocalyptic masterpiece known as The Book of Revelation. The books of the Christian Bible were arranged in the sequence one finds them in today to tell the story of the creation of the world by a supreme deity, the fall of man from paradise, and humanity's redemption by the Son of God but these books were not written in that sequence nor would the original authors of the Old Testament. Bible principles are rules or laws based on the character of God which never change. Focusing on living out the fruits of the spirit in our lives will build Godly character. Remember Noah? What command is given in Galatians 5:16-18? Walk in the spirit. If we seek the kingdom of God, what is the results? We will receive all the other things we need. Demon mentioned frequently in apocalyptic literature: identified in the Christian tradition with the devil or Satan; Belshazzar; 6th century BC, the son of Nabonidus, coregent of Babylon with his father for eight years: referred to as king and son of Nebuchadnezzar in the Old Testament (Daniel 5:1, 17; 8:1); described as having received a divine message of doom written. Nearby words of: Bible: characters in the Bible. Bible: Books of the Apocrypha. Bible: Books of the New Testament. Bible: Books of the Old Testament. Bible: characters in the Bible. Bible: place names in the Bible. bicycle: parts of a bicycle. bicycle: types of bicycle. Contact Christian Science Bible Lesson on Messenger. Community Service. Page Transparency See More. Facebook is showing information to help you better understand the purpose of a Page. See actions taken by the people who manage and post content. Page created - March 10, 2019. People. 310 likes. Related Pages. Christian Science Church Knoxville. Religious Organization. Christian Science Church, Vincennes, In. Religious Organization. Christian Science Church - Chester. Dear loves- We created this page so my kids would read the Christian Science Bible Lesson to the world. One kid is at second year in College now and the other three are getting ready for college so I have not been able to get them to all sit down together! That's why we have not been active.