

# 1 Chronicles 1:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ebal, and Abimael, and Sheba,

## Analysis

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**Ebal, and Abimael, and Sheba**—these sons of Joktan represent Arabian tribal founders descended from Shem. The Hebrew עֹבָל (Obal/Ebal) possibly means 'bare' or 'stripped,' while אַבִימָאֵל (Abimael) means 'my father is God,' and שְׁבָא (Sheba) denotes 'seven' or 'oath.'

Sheba particularly matters: this Arabian kingdom (modern Yemen) produced the Queen who visited Solomon (1 Kings 10), testing his wisdom with hard questions. These Semitic peoples, though outside Israel's covenant line, shared linguistic and cultural connections, and some like Sheba acknowledged Yahweh's supremacy through Solomon.

## Historical Context

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The Joktanite tribes settled southern Arabia, establishing trade networks dealing in spices, gold, and incense. Sheba became wealthy through controlling trade routes, evident in archaeological remains at sites like Marib. The Queen of Sheba's visit (c. 950 BC) represents these kingdoms' recognition of Israel's God during Solomon's zenith.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the Queen of Sheba's seeking wisdom from Solomon challenge you to pursue spiritual wisdom with equal diligence?
2. What does it mean that even peoples outside the covenant line could recognize and honor Yahweh?

## Interlinear Text

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שְׁבָא: וְאֶת אַבִּימַאֵל וְאֶת עַיְבָּל וְאֶת  
H853 And Ebal H853 and Abimael H853 and Sheba  
H5858 H39 H7614

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 10:28** (Parallel theme): And Obal, and Abimael, and Sheba,

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