

Luke 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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 (βασίλισσα νότου ἐγερθήσεται...καὶ κατακρινεῖ αὐτούς...ἰδοὺ πλεῖον Σολομῶντος ὁδε)—Jesus invokes the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-13) as eschatological witness against his contemporaries. She will witness against Jewish unbelief at final judgment. Her condemnation derives from comparative advantage: she traveled vast distances for Solomon's wisdom, while they reject **a greater than Solomon** despite his presence.

The neuter pleion (greater thing) suggests Jesus refers not merely to his person but the entire Christ-event—his teaching, miracles, redemptive work surpass Solomon's glory. The queen's expensive journey contrasts with Israel's casual dismissal of divine wisdom incarnate.

Historical Context

The Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon became legendary in Jewish tradition. She represented the ultimate Gentile seeker—royalty from earth's end pursuing wisdom. Jesus's audience would recognize the implicit rebuke: Gentile nobility

traveled months to hear Solomon, yet they, possessing temple and Torah, reject God's ultimate revelation standing before them.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the Queen of Sheba's costly journey expose our casual approach to spiritual truth?
2. In what ways does Jesus claim to exceed Solomon—what does 'greater than Solomon' encompass?
3. How will unfulfilled privilege increase condemnation at judgment—what responsibility accompanies exposure to Christ?

Interlinear Text

βασίλισσα νότου ἐγερθήσεται ἐν τῇ κρίσει μετὰ¹
The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with
G938 G3558 G1453 G1722 G3588 G2920 G3326

τῶν ἀνδρῶν τῆς γενεᾶς ταύτης καὶ κατακρινεῖ αὐτούς²
the men generation and condemn them
G3588 G3588 G1074 G3778 G2532 G2632 G846

ὅτι ἦλθεν ἐκ τῶν περάτων τῆς γῆς ἀκοῦσαι
for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear
G3754 G2064 G1537 G3588 G4009 G3588 G1093 G191

τὴν σοφίαν Σολομῶντος καὶ ἰδού, πλεῖον³
the wisdom Solomon and behold a greater than
G3588 G4672 G2532 G2400 G4119

Σολομῶντος ὕδε
Solomon is here
G4672 G5602

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 9:1 (Parallel theme): And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

Romans 2:27 (Judgment): And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?