

# 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** (βασιλίσσα νότου ἐγερθήσεται...καὶ κατακρινεῖ αὐτούς...ἰδοὺ πλεῖον Σολομῶντος ὧδε)—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	μετὰ	
The queen	of the south	shall rise up	in	G3588	the judgment	with	
G938	G3558	G1453	G1722		G2920	G3326	
τῶν	ἀνδρῶν	τῆς	γενεᾶς	ταύτης	καὶ	κατακρινεῖ	αὐτούς
G3588	the men	G3588	generation	G3778	and	condemn	them
	G435		G1074		G2532	G2632	G846
ὅτι	ἦλθεν	ἐκ	τῶν	περάτων	τῆς	γῆς	ἀκοῦσαι
for	she came	from	G3588	the utmost parts	G3588	of the earth	to hear
G3754	G2064	G1537		G4009		G1093	G191
τὴν	σοφίαν	Σολομῶντος	καὶ	ἰδοῦ,	πλεῖον		
G3588	the wisdom	Solomon	and	behold	a greater than		
	G4678	G4672	G2532	G2400	G4119		
Σολομῶντος	ᾧδε						
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?