

# Matthew 12:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

## Analysis

**The queen of the south** (βασιλίσσα νότου, basilissa notou)—The Queen of Sheba traveled over 1,200 miles to hear Solomon's wisdom (1 Kings 10). Jesus emphasizes her extraordinary effort: **from the uttermost parts of the earth** (ἐκ τῶν περάτων τῆς γῆς, ek tōn peratōn tēs gēs), literally 'from the ends/extremities of the earth.'

**A greater than Solomon is here** (πλεῖον Σολομῶνος ὧδε, pleion Solomōnos hōde)—Solomon's wisdom was legendary (1 Kings 4:29-34), yet Christ is Wisdom incarnate (1 Cor 1:30). The queen sought wisdom; Israel rejected it when it stood before them in flesh. Her initiative condemns their apathy.

## Historical Context

The Queen of Sheba's visit (c. 950 BC) exemplified Gentile responsiveness to divine wisdom. Jesus's double witness—Nineveh and Sheba—established that even pagans would judge Israel's unbelief, a devastating rebuke to Jewish privilege and presumption.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What effort are you willing to expend to gain Christ's wisdom compared to the queen's 1,200-mile journey?
2. How does Christ's claim to be greater than Solomon's wisdom intersect with Colossians 2:3, that in him are 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge'?

## Interlinear Text

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

τῆς γενεᾶς ταύτης καὶ κατακρινεῖ αὐτήν, ὅτι ἦλθεν  
G3588 **generation** G3778 **and shall condemn it for she came**  
G1074 G2532 G2632 G846 G3754 G2064

ἐκ τῶν περάτων τῆς γῆς ἀκοῦσαι τὴν  
**from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear**  
G1537 G3588 G4009 G3588 G1093 G191 G3588

σοφίαν Σολομῶντος καὶ ἰδοὺ, πλεῖον Σολομῶντος  
**the wisdom Solomon and behold a greater than Solomon**  
G4678 G4672 G2532 G2400 G4119 G4672

ᾧδε  
**is here**  
G5602

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 17:5** (Parallel theme): While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

**John 1:14** (Parallel theme): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**Isaiah 7:14** (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Matthew 3:17** (Parallel theme): And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**John 1:18** (Parallel theme): No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

**1 Kings 5:12** (Parallel theme): And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

**1 Kings 10:24** (Parallel theme): And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

**1 Kings 3:9** (Judgment): Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

**1 Kings 3:12** (Resurrection): Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

**1 Kings 4:29** (Parallel theme): And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.