

SINGLE ALLIANCE

The Greater One- One Greater Than Solomon is Here!

03/01/09

I. Introduction

A. Last week we started a series on "**The Greater One**". Five times it is stated in the NT that the Lord is greater than someone or something.

B. Last week we looked at Jesus being greater than Jonah. They had similarities but their mission and message were different. Jesus' mission and message was greater. We are to carry on that ministry; unfortunately many are carrying on the ministry of Jonah!

C. This week I want to look at Jesus being greater than Solomon

II. Solomon

A. **[Matthew 12:42]**

B. As with Jonah, there are some similarities between Jesus and Solomon

1. Both had extra-ordinary wisdom- Jesus' has greater wisdom!

a. **[1 Kings 4:29, Col. 2:3]**

2. Both were rulers- Their wisdom carried authority- Jesus' authority is greater!

3. They both dispensed wisdom to those that sought them out

a. **[1 Kings 4:34, John 3:1]**

C. As with Jonah, there is a difference in the manner in which Jesus and Solomon operated

1. Solomon would only give His wisdom out in exchange for money- He would make people sign a financial contract and go under yearly tribute.

a. **[1 Kings 10:1-15]**- The Queen of Sheba came to inquire of Solomon but she brought a lot of treasures to give him in exchange. He received yearly tribute from Hiram and Arabia **[the homeland of the queen of Sheba]**. This was tribute money.

b. **1 Kings 10:24-29- (AMP) And all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom which God had put in his mind. Every man brought tribute: vessels of silver and gold, garments, equipment, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.**

c. God gave Solomon this wisdom and fame, but he started using God's gift for personal gain. He got rich and profited off God's gift

of wisdom. **He only shared His gift with others when others become obligated to him.**

D. By doing this Solomon got out of the will of God

1. **Deut. 17:15-19-** Under the Law the king was not to collect horses from Egypt, multiply wives, or multiply gold and silver. Solomon knew better because this was read to him when he became King.

III. Jesus is Greater than Solomon

A. Solomon only gave out of His wisdom to those who would become obligated to give back to him and serve Him.

B. Jesus is greater than Solomon. Jesus does not withhold from us until we promise to give back to Him and serve Him or become obligated to Him.

C. The Law was under the principle of obligation. You were obligated to serve God before He would give to you. God does not want us to be motivated by obligation. He wants us to be motivated by love for Him.

D. In the NT covenant of grace God gives to us freely with no strings attached. He does not make us sign a contract before He will give to us. He does not put us under obligation. However, when we experience the goodness of God we are inspired to serve and love God back. His love inspires us to serve Him. Being under obligation brings bondage. **If we feel obligated to someone we will avoid them! Many avoid God or do not come to God because of a burden of obligation or guilt over failing to live up to an obligation.**

E. People came to Solomon to get wisdom to solve their many problems. They left his presence with the wisdom but they also left with a load of obligation and debt to be paid back. They became slaves of Solomon. God does not operate this way

F. We all need wisdom today. The world has wisdom but not the kind we need. Some around us have some wisdom we can glean from, but the only one who has all the wisdom we need is the Lord.

G. Many have a false understanding of God. They see Him like Solomon. They feel that God will only help them with their problems when they get their lives straightened out and promise to obey Him fully forever. They take on an obligation or debt which they are destined to fail to keep. They then will avoid God.

H. God desires we obey and get our lives straight, but this comes from receiving from God and from His goodness, not as an obligation or debt that must be promised first in order to receive from God.

I. **James 1:5**- If you lack wisdom ask the giving God who gives to all liberally and upbraids not, and it will be given to you. **It does not say, if you promise to pay God back he will give it to you!** Jesus is greater than Solomon! However, you must ask in faith- believe you receive it when you pray.

1. When we ask for wisdom we must believe he gave it to us when we asked. This does not mean you will know what to do at that moment. It will manifest when you need it. You need to rest in the fact that the wisdom was given to you and when you need it, you will know what to do! We need to say, "I have the wisdom of God, I will know what to do when I need to know!" If you do not know yet what to do then you do not need to know it yet!

J. **1 Kings 10:2**- The queen of Sheba came to Solomon to commune with him about all that was in her heart. The Lord wants us to do that with Him. He has wisdom and insight for you about each and every thing on your heart. He has answers and gifts to help you with your most difficult problems. He desires to be gracious to you and help you. This will cause your life to straighten out and bring Him glory. He gives to you with no strings attached, except for the strings of His love. God's love and goodness are cords that will hold us fast and cause us to never desire to leave Him!

K. Prayer to receive the gift of wisdom from the One greater than Solomon.