

The Half Has Never Been Told

No. 131

Introduction.

I. These words are recorded in 1 Kings the 10th chapter.

1KI 10:1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions. 2 So she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue [caravan], with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. 3 And Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her. 4 When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. 6 Then she said to the king, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. 7 "Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. 8 "How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom. 9 "Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

II. The holy Scriptures tell us here that the queen of Sheba came to Solomon to prove his acclaimed wisdom with hard questions and to see his reputed wealth. After listening to his wise answers and seeing his fabulous wealth, she exclaimed, "The half has not been told me: your wisdom and your prosperity exceeds the fame which I heard." (1 Kgs. 10:7).

III. The words "the half has not been told me" describe not only Solomon's vast wisdom and wealth, but these pointed words describe the great blessings and punishments of Jehovah.

I. **The Love Of God** - The half has never been told about the love of God.

A. The love of God has been the theme of many a lesson and many a hymn, but no man has ever been able to fully describe God's amazing love nor am I able to fully describe it.

B. His infinite, boundless love has been manifested in numerous ways.

1. God has manifested His marvelous love by giving us **material blessings**. (Matt. 5:45; Jas. 1:17).
 2. God has manifested His marvelous love by giving us **children, mates, friends, and other loved ones**.
 3. He has manifested His marvelous love by **always be present in time of need**. (Psa. 46:1).
 4. God has manifested His marvelous love by **giving His precious Son** on the cross for our sins. (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:1; 4:10).
- C. The story is told of **a wealthy man who lived in Boston**. He married a beautiful woman and gave her every luxury of life. She fell before the sin of strong drink, and finally went away, never to return. She left a note saying that her life was not in keeping with his sterling character. Heart-broken he immediately employed men throughout the country to search for her, but she was not found. Years went by. Copies of her picture, with these instructions were finally left in funeral establishments throughout the nation: "If her body should come to you, buy the finest clothes, give her the finest casket - bank it with flowers and call for me." When at last he was sent for and stood looking at her body through tears, he cried, "Oh, Nellie, if you had only known how I loved you, you would have come back to me." When asked at the marble works what to inscribe on the gravestone, he replied, "Forgiven."
1. **This story in a feeble way portrays God's love**. God pleads for man to make his return home with the promise that His heart is bursting with love for him. He wants to be able to say "forgiven" to every son and daughter of the universe. God wants to say "forgiven" to you and to me. He does not want even one of us to be lost.

2. Oh, the half has not been told about God's love.

II. **The Sacrifice Of Christ** - The half has not been told about the sacrifice of Christ.

- A. Volumes have been written, millions of sermons have been preached, orators with "silvery-tongues" have captivated listeners, but the half has not been told about the intense, agonizing suffering of Jesus in our behalf.
- B. Jesus, the eternal and glorious Son, left the glories of heaven and came to earth to die for all who are lost in the filth and mire of sin. After living 33 sinless years in the flesh, Jesus was mocked, spit upon and scourged. He was then led outside of the city of Jerusalem to Calvary's hill. There they nailed Him to a cross and scoffed at Him as He hung in unbelievable and incomprehensible pain. Jesus could have called more than 72,000 angels to rescue Himself and justly destroy His enemies, but Jesus stayed on the cross suffering for our iniquities that we might have eternal life. (Isa. 53:5, 6).

1. No, the half has never been told about the sacrifice of Christ.

2. We will never fully fathom or describe the great pain and anguish Jesus experienced because He loved us. We can only accept it and love Jesus with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

III. **The Present Happiness Of The Believer** -The half has never been told about the present happiness of the believer.

- A. The Christian, who sincerely serves the Lord and puts his heart and trust in Him, knows happiness and peace which passes all understanding. (Phil. 4:4, 6-7).
- B. The true Christian is happy because he has turned his life over to a wonderful Savior. He follows the One who said. (Jn. 10:10).

1. **A Hindu** once asked a native Christian of India, “**What medicine do you put on your face to make it shine so?**” “I don’t put anything on it,” said the Christian. The Hindu said, “Yes you do. All you Christians do. I’ve seen shining faces wherever I have met Christians!” Then the Christian said, “I will tell you what ‘medicine’ makes our faces shine - it is the joy in our hearts because Jesus dwells there.”
2. Yes, the fact that Jesus dwells in the heart of the Christian. This fact along with the fact that Jesus guides and blesses and saves the Christian gives him great happiness.

IV. The Future Happiness Of The Believer -The half has never been told about the future happiness of the believer.

- A. Jesus said. (Jn. 5:28, 29; 6:47; 11:25; 14:1-3).
- B. At the coming of Christ all who have lived for Jesus will be raised from the dead. They will ascend to the home Jesus has prepared for His followers.
 1. This home is beautiful and wonderful beyond our imagination.
 2. The Bible teaches that sorrow or pain or disease or death will never fall upon the citizens of this glorious city who have their names written in the Lamb’s book of life. It will be a place that is filled with joy and happiness that will last, not for a day, not for a week, not for a month, not for a year or even for a hundred years, but for all eternity! (Rev. 22:5).

V. The Agonies Of The Unbeliever - The half has not been told about the agonies of the unbeliever.

- A. The unbeliever suffers many agonies here and now.
 1. The Bible says, “The way of the transgressor is hard.” (Prov. 13:15).
 2. The Bible says. (Hos. 8:7).
 3. The Bible says. (Gal. 6:7, 8).
- B. The unbeliever will suffer much more in the life to come.
 1. Some day he will hear the horrible, crushing words. (Matt. 25:41).
 2. Jesus asserts the wicked will be cast into the eternal fires of hell. They will suffer intense agony forever and ever in the last of fire. John says is “the second death.” (Rev. 20:14).
- C. **A preacher** once gave a curious lesson on the thought-provoking subject, “**Born once, die twice; born twice, die once.**”
 1. It was simple and plain. The one who is born into the world but never into the kingdom of God, dies not only the natural death, but the eternal death as well. He experiences utter and complete banishment from the presence of God. How tragic! How horrible!
 2. But on, the other hand, the one who is born into the world by natural birth, then by acceptance of the truth is born into the Lord’s family, dies only once. His body must repose in the dust (like all others), but the immortal spirit is not touched by the second death of eternal fire. He only dies once. How very sad that so many insist on dying twice! How very sad that so many reject the Savior and His words of salvation!

D. **Some years ago a man brought forth his strong argument against the existence of hell**, declaring, “I am seventy years of age and have never seen such a place as hell, after all that has been said about it.” His little grandson about seven years old, who as all the while listening, asked him, “Granddaddy, have your ever been dead yet?”

1. No, he hadn't “been dead yet.”
2. Yes, there is a hell and mockers will find this out when death comes.
3. The wicked dead immediately go to the fires of Hades and later will be cast into the eternal hell.

Conclusion.

- I. Jesus said that the queen of the South, the queen of Sheba would rise up in the judgment and **condemn those of His generation**. She came from the uttermost part of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon and those of His generation were refusing to hear a much greater than Solomon who was in their midst. (Matt. 12:42).
- II. The queen of the South will have cause to stand in the judgment an **condemn many in our generation**. She went to hear Solomon uninvited, but One much greater than Solomon invites us to come to Him and enjoy His sweet blessings, but many spurn His loving, tender call and refuse to hear and obey Him.
- III. We urge and beseech all out of Christ to hear and heed the glorious Savior. Jesus will bless you here and in the hereafter. Those who are buried with the Lord in baptism and serve Him will sing forever the glad refrain, “The half has never been told.” Come to Christ as we sing.

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