

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 10:14-29

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1 Kings 10:14-29

Verses 14-15

¹⁴ The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents, ¹⁵ not including the revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the territories.

- When Solomon became Israel's king, God told him to "ask for whatever you want me to give you" (see 1 Kings 3:5). Solomon asked God to give him a discerning heart to govern Israel (see 1 Kings 3:9-10). God was pleased by Solomon's request and promised to give Solomon that for which he asked and also "riches and honor" (see 1 Kings 3:12-13). God was faithful to his promise. He gave Solomon wisdom to govern and, as this passage establishes, great wealth.
- Solomon's annual income was 666 talents of gold or about 800,000 ounces. That is 25 tons of gold. The current value of 1 ounce of gold is \$4,266. So, Solomon's annual income would have been nearly 3.5 billion dollars in gold alone. And there were other sources of income.
- The details given in these verses remind us that God is always faithful.

Verses 16-17

¹⁶ King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. ¹⁷ He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three minas of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon.

- Solomon made 200 large shields, each containing 15 pounds of gold. He also made 300 smaller shields, each containing about 5 pounds of gold. He put these on display in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon (see 1 Kings 7:1-12).

Verses 18-20

¹⁸ Then the king made a great throne covered with ivory and overlaid with fine gold. ¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and its back had a rounded top. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them. ²⁰ Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom.

- Solomon's throne was elaborate. It was constructed from ivory which was covered in gold.

Verse 21

²¹ All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days.

- All of the eating utensils in Solomon's household were made from gold.

Verse 22

²² The king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons.

- Solomon had a fleet of ships that traveled the world trading in his name. The ships brought all kinds of treasure to him.

Verses 23-25

²³ King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. ²⁴ The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart. ²⁵ Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules.

- The whole world knew of Solomon's wealth and sought his counsel.

Verse 26

²⁶ Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem.

- Solomon had many horses and many chariots. He had established cities to care for his many horses.

Verses 27-29

²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. ²⁸ Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue at the current price. ²⁹ They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty. They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans.

- The entire nation benefited from Solomon's great wealth. His reign was a time of rich abundance.

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