



The Fame of the Lord

By Matthew K. Boyle on June 5, 2024

TODAY'S READING: 1 Kings 10

When one thinks of the word “fame,” images of Hollywood stars or popular music artists come to mind. Those that have met one of these famous actors or singers will be sure to let you know. These are “glorified” in the eyes of the world. They have a “name” in the world.

The idea of “fame” in the bible is not far from this idea. Solomon is touted as a renowned king, his fame of which is widespread the world over. His reputation of lofty wisdom, immense riches, and a lavish palace with a myriad of servants was thought by some as too good to be true. The Queen of Sheba was one such person. After seeing all the glory of these things, she says: *“The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, **but I did not believe the reports** until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard”* (vss. 6-7, bold mine).

Why all this fanfare for one man? What was God’s aim in setting Solomon in a position to garner such a reputation in that time? In our day and time, have you given glory and honor to those in the world without reference to God?

God raised up Solomon not to bring attention to Solomon as an end, but as a means of magnifying His own name among the nations. Verse 1 connects the “fame” of Solomon with the name of the Lord. In other words, the fame of Solomon was not separate from God’s glory, but derived from it.

Notice up to this point I have used the words, “fame,” “glory,” “reputation,” “honor,” and “name” all signifying the same concept. God’s glory among the nations is his aim. Just like he had drawn the Queen of Sheba to see how great he is, so he seeks to do this through our own lives.

This does not mean that we need riches and fame ourselves, but we do draw others to God when we verbalize the blessings he has given us *“so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus”* (Ephesians 2:7, ESV).

Who or what do you glory in?

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36).

PRAYER: Lord, help me to glorify you in all that I do. May I never place others before you as holding a higher place of honor in my heart and mind. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Kings 17

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