

1 Kings 10:14-29

Solomon's Splendour

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.

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.

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. 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. 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.

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.

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. 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.

Matthew 6:19-21

Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Please **turn** your **Bibles to 1 Kings chapter 10**, starting at v14.

You can use the **sermon outline** to take notes if you wish.

Let me **ask for God's guidance** before we go any further.

Let's **pray**...

[Sermon: Where is your Treasure?](#)

[Sunday 28th Nov-21](#)

Intro

- Where is your treasure?
- What do you **treasure most** in your life?
- Your **husband** or **wife**? Your **children**? Your **grandchildren**? Your **Mum** or **Dad**?
- Maybe your **home**? Your **car**? Your **boat**? Your **caravan**? Your **holiday place**?
- Or maybe you have a **treasured possession**?
- Or maybe you **collect stuff**?

- Since I've arrived in Australia, I've noticed **Aussies are great collectors** (hoarders?)
- Not sure why? **Perhaps** originally it was because of **Australia's remoteness** - so people hang on to stuff as their **security**?
- But with the **world more accessible** through travel and technology – perhaps **collecting stuff** is just part of **Aussie culture** now
- Now - it's **okay to have treasures** - **but** - what if those **treasurers** begin to **replace God** and to **replace** His Son, **Jesus**?

(pause)

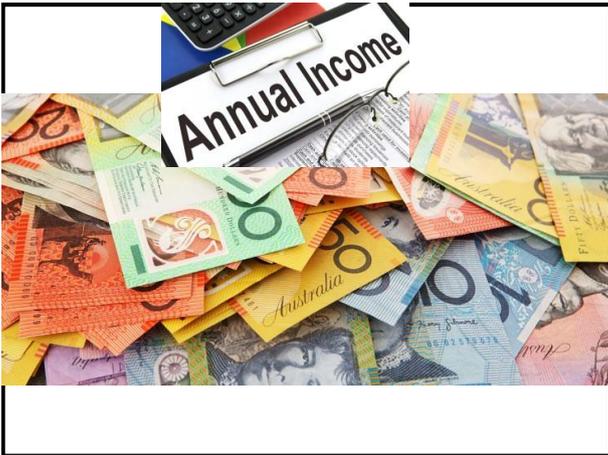
- As we look at our passage this morning from **1 Kings 10:14-29** – we see **Solomon's treasures**
- And let's be clear from the start – everything Solomon has - is a **blessing from God**
- Remember **back** in **chapter 3** – **God told Solomon** he could ask for **anything**
- Solomon **asked for wisdom** – and **God answered** – and **gave** Solomon **wisdom** – and God also **gave** Solomon – **wealth** and **honour** as well!
- So, we **can't really blame Solomon** for being blessed with all this treasure
- But what if **Solomon loses his heart to this treasure** and his heart is no longer for **God**?
- Well, let's **look at Solomon's treasure** and see ...

Solomon's Treasure (1 Kings 10:14-29)

Annual Income (vv14-15)

- First then, **Solomon's annual income**

[PowerPoint 1-Income]



- He receives **666 talents of gold** – **25 tons** (800,000 oz.) = almost **\$2 billion dollars at today's prices** – but remember **gold is a lot more expensive now** than it was in **Solomon's day**
- Solomon's **annual income** doesn't include **other revenue** from **merchants and traders** - and **royal taxes** from **Arabian kings** and **governors** of the **territories**
- In comparison, today, the **Queen** gets an **annual income** of about **£8 million** (\$15 million) from the British government
- **PM** gets **\$526,000** per annum
- **Premier** gets **\$407,000** per annum
- And the **Minimum wage** in Australia is **\$40,000** per annum
- So, we can see Solomon's income and wealth is breathtaking – [however Elon Musk [CEO of Tesla and SpaceX] gets \$6.6 billion dollars per annum]

Shields (vv16-17)

[PowerPoint 2-Shields]



- **Solomon's treasure** also includes **200 large shields** of **hammered gold** and **300 small shields** of **hammered gold** – the **large shields** are worth **\$602,000** each and the **small shields** are worth **\$148,000** each

Throne (vv18-20)

- Solomon also had an **amazing ivory throne** overlaid with **gold**

[PowerPoint 3-Throne]



- Note that: **elephants** would have to **die for** this ivory to be used!
- The throne had **lion armrests** and **six steps** with lions on each step
- As people entered the Palace – **Solomon would be looking down on them** from his throne – in a **position of power and authority**

Other Treasures (vv21-22)

- And Solomon had other treasures

[PowerPoint 4-Other]



- **Everything** in the **Palace** was made of **gold** – nothing was made of silver – because **silver was so cheap and common** in Solomon's day
- As well as all of that - **every three years** Solomon's **fleet of trading ships** returned with more gold and **silver, ivory, apes and baboons**
- We are meant to go WOW! That's why the writer is describing it!
- **Wow wow wow!**

The Assessment of Solomon (vv23-25)

[PowerPoint 5-Assessment]

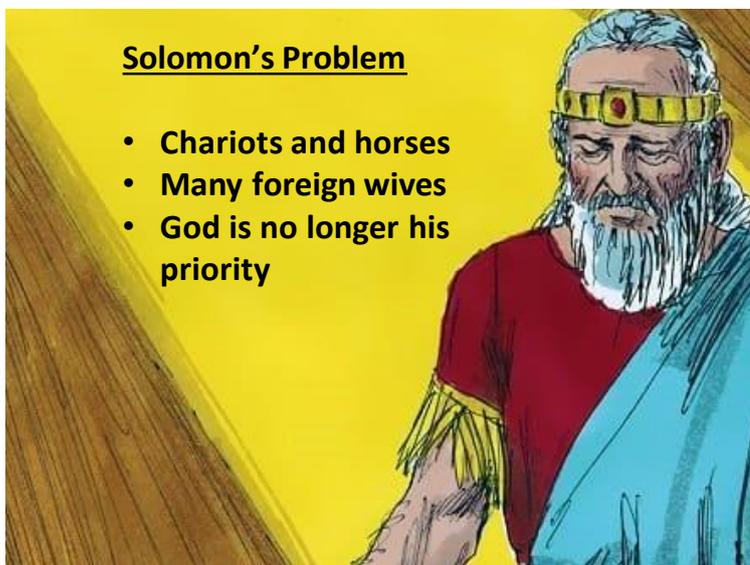
- And that's why the **writer makes an assessment of Solomon** in vv23-25
- He says - there is **no king richer or wiser than Solomon** anywhere in the world – v23
- The **whole world** (hyperbole) **came to Solomon** – to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart – v24
- Where did **Solomon's wisdom come from? God!**
- It begs the question – where do we go for our wisdom?
- Remember that according to the Apostle Paul – **In Jesus** – *is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge* (Colossians 2:3)
- And because **Solomon is the richest and wisest man in the world** – v25 – people keep coming to him – and **he is given even more treasures**

- Blessing upon blessing
- As I say – **we are meant to go – WOW!**
- But maybe we're feeling a bit uncomfortable about all this treasure? Or even jealous?

The Problem with Solomon's Treasure (vv26-29)

- And just as we are feeling a bit uncomfortable
- We **hit** a **problem** in vv26-29

[PowerPoint 5-Problem]



- We read that **Solomon accumulates a whole heap of chariots and horses – 1400 chariots and 12,000 horses**
- What's wrong with that?
- Well back in the book of Deuteronomy 17:16-17 – way before Israel ever had a king – God warned the people through Moses

The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are

not to go back that way again.” He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

- So, any King of Israel was not to accumulate horses – **they were to rely on God’s strength** not their **army’s strength** – and they were **not to return to Egypt** for them
- Where does **Solomon get his horses and chariots from?** V28 – **from Egypt!**
- **Any King of Israel** was not to accumulate silver and gold – because it will become **something to worship** and **obsess about**
- Also, **any King of Israel** was not to take many wives - or **his heart will be led astray**
- If we skip to the next chapter **1 Kings 11:4** – **we read...**

As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

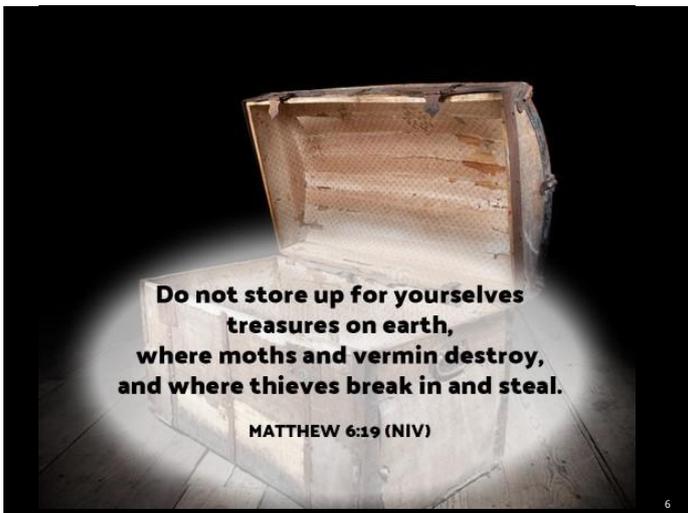
- So, what we are meant to see here in this **chapter (10)**
- Yes, **Solomon has been blessed greatly** – BUT – he’s also disobeying God’s commands – he’s **gone back to Egypt and got horses** – He’s **accumulated silver and gold** - He’s **taken many wives and they are foreign wives worshipping foreign gods** – and they are princess from other nations – all wanting their own luxurious lifestyle and wanting their own stuff (treasures) – and wanting their own gods
- And **Solomon can pretend he won’t be influenced by them** – but it’s impossible not to be!
- And yes - **Solomon could justify accumulating horses and chariots and say** – Yes, I imported horses from Egypt but look at v29 – I exported them – I **didn’t keep them for myself**
- But **I bet he made a nice profit from them!** And he is still breaking God’s rules!
- You see once we start watering down God’s rules – we are on a slippery slope

- For example, we've watered down sexuality and marriage in the last few years – where's that got us?
- So, what we are meant to see is Solomon's heart is subtly and gradually being stolen by earthly treasures – and he is no longer making God his number one treasure
- And we are meant to see – **that this could easily happen to us too!**

Jesus – our Treasure (Matthew 6:19-21)

- Jesus has **something to say** about treasure in our NT reading from Matt 6:19-21
- [Please turn there now]
- Look at v19

[PowerPoint 6-Matt 6:19]



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

- Here's **my treasure box**
- I may have some treasures in there
 - **Photos of my parents and grandparents** – but they are starting to look a bit faded and cracked – and you know what - **I can't really make out the faces**

that well anymore – you might say – store them on a computer – oh yeah – what happens when the **hard drive goes – **I have a backup** – **oh what happens when the backup disappears** – I still have them on a floppy disk somewhere – but oh, we don't use them anymore**

- I have some **letters from my mum and dad** – but every time – I take them out – they are **falling apart more and more**
- I used to have a gold watch of my dad's – but about 15 years ago – just before Christmas – we had a break in at home – and the **burglars stole it**
- I hung on to some of **Dad's tools** – but **they're all rusty now**
- That's Jesus' point we can hang on to stuff (our treasure) in our life on Earth – but everything we have on this Earth is temporary – all our stuff doesn't last – even we don't last – **we start breaking down** – and **need new hips and knees and transplants** – and **glasses** – and **walking sticks** – and **walkers**
- And notice Jesus says “*do not store up treasures for YOURSELVES on earth*”
- In other words – it's **okay to have treasures on Earth** – but don't be selfish about it and in doing so - **lose sight of God**
- Isn't that what Solomon ended up like – **he became selfish** – yes, **his whole country was thriving** – silver was cheap as chips – everyone was thriving – but the more we have – the more selfish and greedier we can become – and **the further away from God we become**

[PowerPoint 7-Matt 6:20]

BUT STORE UP FOR YOURSELVES
TREASURES IN HEAVEN, WHERE
 MOTHS AND VERMIN DO NOT
 DESTROY, AND WHERE THIEVES
 DO NOT BREAK IN AND STEAL.
 MATTHEW 6:20

- So, **Jesus says** we are to do something else instead - in v20:
- *But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.*
- What might be - the **treasures** we can store in heaven?
- Well, **I have my treasure box for Heaven** – let's see
 - I will commit my time to God – and **share my faith in Jesus with others** – so they believe in Jesus too – and they get to be **forgiven and live forever with Jesus in Heaven**
 - I will commit my time to praying for people who don't know Jesus – so that **they get to know Him and get to Heaven**
 - I will commit my time to reading the Bible - so I can **explain to people why I believe in Jesus** – and **how to get to Heaven**
 - I will commit to pleasing God first and valuing His opinion of me – and **not pleasing people and valuing their opinion of me**
 - I will commit to giving money to the **church** – and to **missions** – and to **those in need**
 - I will commit to being rich towards God – and **not rich towards myself**
 - I will commit to sharing my stuff (my treasure) with others – **my house is their house – my car is their car – my clothes are their clothes – my food is their**

food – we only have our stuff (our treasure) in the first place – because God allows it!

- I will commit to showing the love of Jesus – showing **forgiveness to those who hurt me** – and as far as it depends on me, I will commit to living at peace with everyone I know
- I will commit to using my God-given talents to help and teach others
 - If I'm good at teaching the Bible – I'll **volunteer to teach scripture at school or teach kids in youth ministry**
 - If I'm good with finance and business – I'll **volunteer on the COM** – or **help others with their budgeting**
 - If I'm good at music – I'll **teach others to play an instrument or to sing**
 - If I'm good at hospitality – I'll **cook food for those sick in our church** – or **provide morning tea** – or **donate to the food hampers**
 - If I'm a good listener – I'll **phone or visit someone** – who is sad or **grieving or lonely**
 - If I'm good at praying – I'll **commit to praying for others**
- God wants us to use and share our talents – **not keep them to ourselves**
- As Jesus reminds us in Matt 10:42

And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

- Storing up treasures in Heaven means **bringing glory to God** – **not glory to ourselves**
- It means being a sign-post to Jesus – **not a sign-post to ourselves**
- As Jesus reminds us in Matt 25:40

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me

- Jesus is saying that the things we do for others - He sees them from Heaven and they last forever – these are heavenly treasures
- Jesus finishes his short teaching on treasure by making a very telling remark in v21
[PowerPoint 8-Matt 6:21]



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- And so, we come back to my first question
- Where is your treasure?
- Jesus is saying - whatever you treasure most in life – that's where your heart really is
- Can we do an honest assessment this morning?
- Is our first treasure Jesus? Or is something or someone captivating our heart - and leading our heart away from Jesus?
- Remember – Jesus left His Heavenly glory to come to this Earth to lay down His life – so we can have the treasure of eternal life in Heaven!
- Let's pray...

Father God,

We're sorry for the times we have got sucked in by the treasures and trappings here on Earth

We're sorry for the times we haven't shared our stuff with others

We're sorry for being a bit slow or reluctant in sharing our faith in Jesus

Help us through the power of your Holy Spirit to build treasures in Heaven by sharing the love of Jesus to others – and by sharing with people the reason for the certain hope of Heaven we have – because of Jesus' grace and mercy in dying on the cross for our sins to be forgiven and rising to life – so we can live forever with Him in Heaven.

In His name, we pray. Amen