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Solomon's Gold Series - Part 8: Not Ophir

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In Part 8 of our Solomon's Gold series we challenge the other areas claiming to be Ophir, Sheba, and Tarshish head-on. Once you view this, you will find there is no coherent claim to Ophir except the Philippines according to the bible. Thank you for watching and don't forget to subscribe to our YouTube Channel and check out our website at thegodculture.com. Remember to prove all things for yourself.

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Transcript

In our research this was actually the first step as we wanted to know if there was a possible valid claim. However, we have found that outside of the Philippines there is little biblical nor historical nor geographical support for any of these areas to really be taken seriously and we will show you why we say that. We know biblical scholars latch on to some of these even occult-inspired myths. But they are not really following the Bible in these cases. Whenever there is a real revelation, though, we have typically watched some scholars ignorantly bear down on their position even though it's clearly wrong. We recently watched a video about the location of the temple in the city of David, not Jerusalem which was well supported biblically yet then a so-called scholar responded with a video basically quoting scholars and hardly any actual scripture. He maintained quite the attitude as he pontificated his credentials and those

who he quoted and demeaned. The gentleman who provided real research because he was not a scholar but a mere police investigator. Pardon us for noticing this, but wouldn't a police investigator be more credible than a blowhard scholar any day? Well, we think so. Who knows? You may see similar responses to some of our own videos at some point. If so, do as we challenge you: "prove all things for yourself" as we're not perfect either. Whenever you challenge tradition there will likely be blowback but truth stands the test. One other quick thing: we had an email come through asking what references we used for our videos. You may have missed it, especially if you're viewing this on a cell phone, but we try to source each slide throughout the presentation, offering each reference for every slide that we present. If we've missed any we apologize as this project has been quite an undertaking. But we are not claiming perfection here but are striving for excellence in our research and we hope you find the same. Let's take a look at the first claim which actually includes two of the largest claimants, which many scholars actually side with because they attend seminaries and travel in groups who are taught to think alike in an organizational paradigm. The Land of Cush, Ethiopia, and Yemen. Just who was Cush and who was Joktan? Let's dive in.

In the U.S there is an educational channel called PBS -- Public Broadcasting System, I believe. They produce children's programming, as well as documentaries on history. They are supposed to be credible. In this case they characterize a very common opinion as to the location of Sheba. However they fail to actually provide scriptural references. They misquote the Bible and they link the Queen of Sheba with other occult stories. And it's not an occult story, at all. It's from the Bible. "The story of the Queen of Sheba appears in religious texts sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims," they say. Which ones? Well, they don't say, do they? Less than you think, by the way. Described in the Bible as simply a "queen of the East." What? Okay. So we went back and re-read the story of the Queen of Sheba in First Kings chapter 10:9-10 as well as Second Chronicles and all the passages we could find. Not one time does the Bible say, at least that we can find, that the Queen of Sheba is "the queen of the East." The only time we can find where Sheba is referenced as the queen of a direction like that, is in Matthew 12:42 and it's paralleled in Luke. We find a quote from Jesus himself referring to the Queen of Sheba as "the queen of the South." However, we agree, if you consider the actual story -- Sheba is clearly in Ophir and it is definitely in

the East -- the southeast Pacific. But this could be a simple mistake in the article. No problem. Of course, they could have remedied this by actually citing the scripture they are referencing, but they failed to do that also. Jesus also says she came from the uttermost parts of the earth and here is the map again from Eratosthenes. I had to say that, again. Again, that is East but they don't cite this because it completely dispels the ridiculous notion that Ethiopia or Yemen even remotely qualify as Ophir, Sheba, or Tarshish, as far as the Bible history and geography are concerned, anyway.

Modern scholars believe she came (the Queen of Sheba) from the Kingdom of Aksum in Ethiopia, the Kingdom of Saba in Yemen or both. Well, how's that for a choice? Those are great options. I guess it's settled. No! Far from it. It's not settled. We'll address this further. But let's keep going in this article. "Their main clue is that she brought bales of incense with her as a gift." Now that is true. "Frankincense only grows in these two areas." Wait. Is that what the Bible says? Frankincense? We don't remember that First Kings and Second Chronicles both say the Queen of Sheba came on camels that bear spices. The Hebrew word used is "besem." It is a general term for spices. What are they talking about frankincense? It doesn't say frankincense. It merely says generically "spices." From a National Geographic documentary called "The real Queen of Sheba," as if they would know. We found the scripture they are referring to. No, it's not actually one from the actual story and, just as PBS did, they don't actually reference the original story in the Bible but other scriptures and jump to conclusions based on that. Not exactly a scholarly move in our opinion.

They are referring to Jeremiah 6:20.

"To what purpose cometh there to me frankincense from Sheba, [uh oh, That settles it, right? No, no, no, no. We'll talk about this.] and the sweet came from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me."

This passage does say "frankincense" but the Queen of Sheba story does not. It mentions the name "Sheba" but which Sheba? Do you know there are three Shebas in the Bible? And we'll cover this later in this video. Every time Sheba is mentioned, though, it does not refer to the same Sheba necessarily.

But first, what is the Hebrew word for "frankincense" used here? Is it "besem"? -- which is used in the Queen of Sheba story both times for the word "spices." "Frankincense" -- "lebownah." That's not "besem," is it? This is used at least 15 times in the Old Testament and the Greek "libanos" is used in the New Testament. Gee, wouldn't a scholar know this? Well, it should be the first thing they research, of course. Maybe Jeremiah doesn't know when to use "lebownah" -- the word frankincense or "besem" -- the word spices.

Many references say Jeremiah is actually the writer of First Kings meaning he wrote the Queen of Sheba's story because Chronicles is known to be a copy of the story. So the origin is First Kings. So if Jeremiah wrote First Kings then he knew the difference between frankincense and spices. Regardless, though, frankincense was a very precious spice. But it is simply not identified as such in the Queen of Sheba story. Hopping on a plane as this guy from National Geographic did immediately after hearing with no further research at all. It's just nonsense and I guess what they call good TV. Anyone searching for truth from an actual Bible story would certainly look at the Bible first before taking a trip.

But back to our PBS article which is just about to get interesting. Remember we told you in our Queen of Sheba Part Two segment about the Kebra Negast from Ethiopia? Well, they buy into this occult story and you'll see why. It says King Solomon has heard of Sheba and her great Kingdom. He has also heard that she has a strange feature, a left foot that is cloven like that of a goat and a hairy leg. What? And some of you thought we might be making this up I guess. Yep. These scholars actually buy into this junk. They, of course, don't even mention where this occult legend comes from in this article but we will. Certainly not the Bible or even the Quran.

We mentioned in Part Two "The Queen of Sheba Revisited" that the Ethiopian Kebra Negast is the source of the occult story that some scholars are using in which the Queen of Sheba in Ethiopia is a goat lady. Beautiful! This would make her a hybrid creature, not fully human, and a product of the Genesis 6 Fallen Angel manipulation of God's creation that brought about the flood in the first place. We will go deeper into this in our upcoming Flood Series which we are working on now.

Oh, and then the goat lady of Sheba slept with Solomon because he just couldn't resist, I imagine. Not according to the Bible, of course.

And miraculously she birthed Solomon's child on the way home. Must have been a much longer trip than the Bible claims. Since she was not fully human, though, perhaps she conceived and bore a child in just weeks or days but that doesn't even fit the goat pregnancy cycle, does it? Now this is just a ludicrous occult story which ultimately justifies ruling bloodlines claiming they descend from Solomon. Oh, and that goes much higher than you think. He teaches her about his God, Yahweh. The Bible does not say she serves a different God, by the way. What an assumption! Rather despicable assumption. And she becomes a follower. This is how some Ethiopians believe Christianity came to their country. What? Okay. Except this was 1000 BC and Solomon was not a Christian because this was one thousand years before Jesus Christ. Of course the media can say just about anything by starting with the words, "Some say..." Who is "some"? You and your producer and maybe the guy you met in the hallway? Beware of anything that comes after "some say..."

So back to the claim that Ethiopia and Yemen both are the kingdom of Sheba. There are two Shebas in the Table of Nations and also a Seba who are being confused in the interpretation of this story. And again, scholars should certainly know better. First mentioned in the Table of Nations is Noah's son, Ham's lineage. He had a son named Cush who is well known to be the founder of Ethiopia. Cush has a son named Seba, his first son, (remember this name), and a grandson named Sheba. There it is. So there is a Sheba in Ethiopia we agree. However if one looks no further than this and draws the conclusion that this is the Queen of Sheba's Kingdom, they are certainly not Bible scholars, at all.

Even Abraham had a grandson named Sheba. So we need to be careful here. So does the actual story of the Queen of Sheba tell us which Sheba we should be looking for here? Yes, it does but not if you cut off three verses of the story because it actually starts in First Kings 9:26 not 10:1 as the nice header indicates in the King James.

First Kings 9:26 through 10:1

"And King Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of ~~Eden~~ Edom. And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea,

with the servants of Solomon. And they came to Ophir and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents and brought it to king Solomon. And when the Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to prove him with hard questions."

Where is her own land? Because in First Kings 10:6 later it says

"It was a true report that I heard in my own land."

Her own land is Ophir. So which Sheba are we talking about here? We're talking about Sheba, the brother of Ophir. Does this passage say, "Solomon's navy stopped in Ethiopia or Yemen and told their queens? Some scholars speculate that because she arrived on camels, she lived in the desert. But if she came by ship to Ezion-geber on the Red Sea, which fits the story, she still needed to journey by land to Jerusalem -- thus the great train of camels. One cannot make that assumption but this is not just mentioned at the beginning of the story.

First Kings 10:10-13 the end of the story:

"And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold... which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon. And the navy also of Hiram, [okay, so they're there at the same time, yes] that brought gold from Ophir, [Where? from Ophir, from Sheba] brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, [We prove that that is the Naara tree, the Philippine national tree, which is a Hebrew word, by the way] and precious stones ... And king Solomon gave unto he queen of Sheba ... So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants."

That's the end of the story, by the way, and there is no further mention until Jesus brings up the "queen of the south" in prophecy later. So, the Queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's wisdom and God in her own land Ophir from Solomon's navy who came to trade for resources. That's what the story is saying here. The queen arrives in Jerusalem at the same time that Solomon's navy arrives and they give their gifts to Solomon basically together. Then the queen leaves. Does it say she slept with Solomon and turned and went? No. Does it say on the return journey home she bore a child? No. So she just went probably on one of Hiram's ships to return to Sheba in the land of Ophir.

We break this down in more detail in Part Two "Queen of Sheba Revisited." This is obvious, yet it seems to have been misused for so long. It's maps like these that really highlight wrong thinking. Sheba, son of Joktan, did not live with Sheba, son of Cush, nor did Havilah, son of Joktan with the son of Cush named Havilah, as well. But Ophir is the key here. There is no Ophir in the line of Cush and Ham -- only in the line of Shem and Joktan. And we know where Joktan's sons went because the Bible tells us so -- from Meesha which is Masshad, Iran, to Sephar, a mount of the East. We believe this to be the mountain named after Joktan's brother, Mount Pulag in the Philippines which is a Hebrew variant of Peleg, bearing the exact definition of Peleg's purpose: "it was divided." Because in his days the whole earth was divided according to the Table of Nations. And let's not forget the Bible tells us the ships of Tarshish, which go to Ophir in multiple passages, take a three year journey.

Again, Ethiopia and Yemen were at most three to four months round-trip journey -- probably less -- because you didn't even have to leave the Red Sea, at all. The Philippines, however, would take the required three-year journey -- one year at sea, one year to plant, harvest, and trade and one year back at sea -- which actually fits the narrative unlike Ethiopia and Yemen.

And we showed you a reference that claims Sheba is, in fact, Ethiopia which we have no problem with because it doesn't matter. That's Sheba and it is Sheba, the grandson of Cush and ineligible for the Queen of Sheba because that's not Ophir's brother from the Far East.

Of special note, this article is lumped in with three other occult stories. Notice them on the right. I wonder why.

Now, let's talk about Yemen specifically because Yemen is known as the land of the Sabeans or Saba, which is also cited in the National Geographic documentary on Sheba, as well. But it is assumed that Saba is Sheba. Well, that's just not true and we'll prove it. Even Encyclopedia Britannica says Saba, ancient Yemen, is biblical Sheba. Somehow they note that Saba is frequently mentioned in the Bible, however. But does anyone ever cite any of these scriptures in their claims? Because the Bible tells us what Saba is. Does anyone pay attention? Of course not -- not these scholars. Again, this would be the wrong Sheba, anyway. But

let's see what the Bible says about Saba and the Sabeans. Did Solomon and the writer of First Kings know who the Sabeans of Saba were?

In Job 1:14 and 15

"And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: and the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."

Whoa! So, long before Solomon and David, Job knew who the Sabeans were. The people of Saba. Oh, he knew all too well. They are the ones who Satan used to execute his wrath when God removed Job's hedge of protection. They are the ones who took his cattle and killed his servants. This was hundreds of years before Solomon. They encountered and traded with them beginning around 1200 BC or earlier. There is no mystery. And Solomon would have called them by their name, just as Job, Ezekiel, and Isaiah did.

Is there further evidence of the Sabeans from Saba, though?
Here are two verses that really spell this out.

Isaiah 43:3

"For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee."

Notice just two chapters later Isaiah says,

Isaiah 45 14. "Thus saith the Lord, The labor of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine:"

Could the Bible be any clearer? Egypt, Ethiopia, and Seba equals Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Sabeans (Saba). Seba equals Sabeans, not Sheba. It equals Saba, not Sheba.

Not convinced? The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia renders Seba, again, remember Cush's son from the Table of Nations, Sheba's uncle from Ethiopia. In that area as Saba Saban and the subaians and

Sabah are the area of Cush's first son, Seba, not Sheba. But here's another source: Strong's Concordance says the word "Seba" originates from the word "Saba." So who are the Sabeans of Saba? They are from the line of Sheba's uncle, Seba and we cannot find a Hebrew variant of Sheba that is Seba. It doesn't exist. They are not the same word nor person, which is why they are listed separately in the Table of Nations. Ready for more?

Psalms 72:10

"The kings of Tarshish and of the Isles [what Isles? Ophir and Sheba] bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts."

Okay, this is another verse used to say Sheba and Seba are the same place. But look at the whole thing. We know Tarshish and the Isles are in Ophir and his brother is Sheba. But now there's a mention of Seba and it confuses things. We believe that Seba, which is a variant of Saba, (Yemen) is likely referring to the kingdom of Saba. We haven't mentioned this yet, though, but there is a Saba which is a disputed area of the Philippines in Southeast Asia. It doesn't matter though for the purposes of this video because if it's the one in Ethiopia, it's the wrong Sheba for the queen, anyway.

Even traditional genealogies of Yemen show Saba isn't even the biblical Saba ñ showing it was named for yet another Saba and they further confused this by saying maybe not even that Saba, but **another** Saba. Would the real Saba, please stand up. And scholars treat this as an open and shut case. Saba is Sheba. Bull. Saba is Seba, not Sheba.

Search the internet long enough and you will find all kinds of gold mine discoveries in Africa, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. None of them will show you a date in which they existed because you can't date gold, nor most rock, without some other marker, which will be difficult to find in a gold mine. They will release what looks like a press release announcing the great archaeological find, but they will fail to prove anything because they are looking in the wrong place. And where in the Bible does it say there were gold mines in this story? Yes, there's gold and it came from somewhere, however the Philippines had gold near the surface according to the king of Bhutan. And it did not require digging deep into the mountain with major excavation equipment.

Here's one that was sent to us from one of our viewers and we appreciate it.

Ophira it seems Sharm el-Sheikh in Sinai used to be called "Ophira" and now there is a strait next to it still referenced by the name Ophira. Ophira equals Ophir? Could be, right? Except the definition of Ophira is "towards Ophir," meaning "you're not there yet" because Solomon's navy passed by Ophira towards Ophir. Also we came across a copyrighted video we cannot show you which asserts that Africa was Ophir because the word "Africa" comes from the word Ophira. If this is true, then Africa means "towards Ophir," not that it **is** Ophir. Why make a claim without understanding the root word in the first place?

We keep coming across references, as well, that the Qu'ran supports that the Queen of Sheba is from Ethiopia or Yemen and Yemen either way and even gives their names but this is more disinformation.

Here's the passage in the Qu'ran where a queen of Saba which is referenced but not the Queen of Sheba. We cannot find this in the Qu'ran nor any reference to a name for this queen of Saba, either. We know Solomon knew the Sabeans and they were referenced way back in the times of Job, even. So we do not doubt he may have met their queen at some point, but that's not Sheba, brother of Ophir, from the Far East which is the right Queen of Sheba. But let us not forget that Islam was not even founded until the 7th Century CE. That's 1700 years after the Queen of Sheba.

This website goes on to say "the people of Sheba or the Sabeans, as they were called." By whom? No, they were not called "the people of Sheba." -- the Sabeans. That's not what it says. And then later it says, "...the kingdom of Sheba, i.e. Saba". No, it was not Saba. Sheba and Saba are not the same word. Seba is from the word Saba, not Sheba. This is conjecture way after the fact -- way after the fact -- to try to stretch a justification that's just not there. They illustrate from the very Qu'ran that this is the queen of Saba and try to make the connection. But no evidence for the association of Saba and Sheba is referenced. It is assumed. And that is not scholarship.

Some scholars were really reaching into thin air and pulling this one out. They claim Ophir is the Indus Valley. People in India. Problem is the Indus Valley Civilization fell apart 700 years before Solomon, so why would they even mention such a (sorry) stupid idea?

In order to counter the Spanish find of Ophir in the Philippines, the British named the mountain Ophir in 1801. Even the Malays refer to the mountain as "Gunang Ledang" and always have, and not Ophir. They never adopted that name. There is no coherent claim of Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, or any of the other Pacific Islands as being the location of Ophir, not even the Solomon Islands.

So let's deal with Tarshish. One of our viewers sent us a video of claiming Goddara, Spain, was Tarshish. Thank you for that, by the way. Wikipedia suggests it may have been Tartisus, Spain. Both in Spain. Really? Did someone forget to tell this to the king of Spain, who hired Explorer Sebastian Cabot to find a West route to the Far East to Ophir and Tarshish, which is in writing in the actual contract? We mentioned this before in our History Series. No. Spain is in the wrong direction. The only scripture that scholars use to justify this one is the story of Jonah but they failed to read all the rest of the Tarshish scriptures that is Ophir, Orient, East, Three Years Journey, the Isles afar off, beyond the sea. They also failed to realize that the Red Sea port was broken up in the days of Jehoshaphat just before Jonah. So the Red Sea was no longer an option to go to Ophir and Jonah was running from God not looking for the shortest route but more so, the longest. We cover this in detail in our Jonah's Journey Corrected Part Three video.

Do you see any legitimate claims to Ophir, Sheba, or Tarshish here? We do not. We see desperate attempts to cover up the real history of the Philippines which is a perfect match for these areas in every respect we have researched. Again, we have drawn our conclusion that Philippines is Ophir, Sheba, and Tarshish and even ancient Havilah with overwhelming evidence from the Bible history, geography, Hebrew names, etc. Now for our final video in the series, Part 9 Prophecy of the Future Philippines. If modern prophecy scares you, though, don't worry. For this segment we are not going to prophesy our words to you but we are going to point you to scriptures where Jesus and the prophets literally prophesy about the future of Ophir, Sheba, Tarshish, the Philippines. They are speaking to you, Philippines, Ophir, Sheba,

Tarshish. Frankly this is the real point of this whole series. Now that you have absorbed all of this, we will challenge you to become what the Bible says you will become. We believe the Philippines is rising. Thank you for watching our Solomon's Gold Series. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel and view our website at thegodculture.com. Always remember to "prove all things for yourself."