Answer: Let us examine the Scriptures carefully:

> 2 Chronicles 9:21 (ESV) states:
>
> For the king had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years they came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

Verse 22 continues:

> Thus Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

The question arises: Did Solomon keep monkeys?

The answer is yes—Solomon possessed monkeys (apes). However, he did not use them as food. According to the Mosaic Law, monkeys were considered unclean animals (Leviticus 11:27, KJV):

> And whatsoever goeth upon his paws, among all manner of beasts that go on all four, those are unclean unto you.

Thus, these animals could not be eaten.

So if Solomon did not use them as food, what was their purpose?

The evidence points to display and royal entertainment. While the Bible does not explicitly mention shows or exhibitions, the context suggests that Solomon’s palace contained exotic animals as a demonstration of wealth, prestige, and God-given wisdom. Peacocks and monkeys symbolized beauty, abundance, and the glory of God’s provision (Psalm 104:24, NIV):

> How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Even today, exotic animals in presidential or royal residences

serve a similar purpose—not for consumption but as displays of God’s creation and provision. Solomon’s reception of gifts from many nations—including animals—fulfilled God’s promise that his wisdom would lead to honor and blessings (1 Kings 4:29-34, NIV).

Are Christians today allowed to keep wild or exotic animals?

Yes, provided biblical and civil laws are respected. Ownership of such animals is not inherently sinful, but the intention matters. Animals should not be used for idolatry, occult practices, or harmful purposes. Christian stewardship calls for responsible care of God’s creation (Genesis 1:28; Proverbs 12:10, ESV).

Spiritual application: Just as Solomon’s wealth and wisdom were a testimony to God’s blessings, Christians are called to recognize and steward what God has entrusted to them, whether gifts, talents, or resources, for His glory and service (Matthew 25:14-30, NIV).

Finally, the greater question remains: Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

We live in the season leading to His second coming (Matthew

24:32-44, ESV), and the time for repentance and faith is now. Trust in Christ, turn from sin, and be ready.

May the Lord richly bless you and grant you wisdom, like Solomon, to glorify Him in all you do.

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