

SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

“Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, Until I find out a place for the LORD, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob” – David (Psalm 132:3-5).

Introduction:

1. Though David desired to build a house for the Lord, God did not allow him to do this.
2. However, God promised that David’s son would build the Temple (2 Samuel 7).
3. Thus, David made preparations and plans for the building of the Temple (1 Chronicles 22, 28, 29).
4. Now the time has come for Solomon to oversee this mighty work.

- I. Preparing for the Temple (1 Kings 5)
 - A. Material had to be acquired for the building of the Temple (5:1-12).
 1. David had done some of the preparatory work.
 2. He had gathered much material (1 Chronicles 22:1-5).
 3. It seems that some of the spoils of battle were set aside for this work (1 Chronicles 22:14).
 4. David contributed some of his own wealth and invited others to do so as well (1 Chronicles 29:1-9).
 5. In the end, David had collected roughly 4,050 tons of gold, 38,000 tons of silver, and an uncounted amount of iron, bronze, and precious stones.
 - B. Hiram, King of Tyre, sent congratulations to Solomon when he became King of Israel.
 - C. In reply, Solomon informed Hiram of his plan to begin work on the Temple (cf. 2 Chronicles 2:3-5).
 1. He acknowledged God’s role in providing peace to Israel.
 2. He pledged to build a house to honor the name of Jehovah.
 3. Note that Solomon’s focus was on God – not David nor himself.
 - D. He also contracted with him to provide lumber for the construction.
 1. The servants of Hiram would fell the trees and float them from Lebanon down to Joppa in Israel (cf. 2 Chronicles 2:16).
 2. From there, Solomon’s servants would transport the wood to Jerusalem – about 35 miles to the southeast.
 - E. Solomon arranged to pay Hiram’s workers for their labor (2 Chronicles 2:10).
 - F. Furthermore, he gave a yearly payment to Hiram (1 Kings 5:11).
 - G. Next, workers had to be supplied for the building of the Temple (5:13-18).
 1. Solomon drafted 30,000 men to work in Lebanon.
 - a. The word for ‘levy’ refers to a tax, tribute, or burden.
 - b. Here, it is a tax of men rather than money.
 2. They were divided into groups of 10,000 each.
 3. Each group would work for 1 month in Lebanon and then spend 2 months at home.
 - H. Solomon also drafted 150,000 men to help with the work in Israel.
 1. Of these, 70,000 were to carry burdens.
 2. The other 80,000 were to be hewers in the mountains (of stones).

1 Kings 5 – 7

- 3. These men were not Israelites, but strangers in the land (cf. 2 Chronicles 2:17-18).
 - 4. They were overseen by 3,300 supervisors.
 - I. All of these were overseen by 250 of Solomon's officers (2 Chronicles 8:10).
 - J. This heavy yoke of taxation would become a cause of trouble and division in the land (cf. 1 Samuel 8:10-18; 1 Kings 12).
 - K. It is important to understand that both Jews and Gentiles were involved in the building of the Temple – “a house of prayer for all people” (Isa. 56:7).
- II. Building the Temple (1 Kings 6)
- A. 6:1 – The date of the beginning of the building of the Temple
 - B. 6:2 – The dimensions of the Temple
 - 1. 90 feet long (60 cubits)
 - 2. 30 feet wide (20 cubits)
 - 3. 45 feet high (30 cubits)
 - C. 6:3 – The porch at the front of the Temple (30 feet long and 15 feet wide)
 - D. 6:4 – The windows of the Temple
 - E. 6:5-6 – The chambers of the Temple would serve as storage and living quarters (cf. Ezra 8:28-30; Nehemiah 10:37-39; 13:3-9).
 - F. 6:7 – The stones of the Temple were hewn and shaped elsewhere.
 - G. 6:11-13 – The Word of God concerning the Temple
 - 1. God promised to see this work completed.
 - 2. God promised to dwell with the people of Israel.
 - 3. God promised to never forsake His people.
 - 4. If they would obey His will!
 - H. 6:14-35 – The interior of the Temple
 - 1. The walls were covered in cedar and the floor with fir.
 - 2. The interior was divided into two sections.
 - a. The Holy Place (30 feet X 60 feet)
 - b. The Most Holy Place (30 feet X 30 feet)
 - 3. The walls were overlaid with pure gold (as was the altar).
 - 4. In the Most Holy Place were two cherubim, each 15 feet tall and made of olive wood covered with gold.
 - 5. The floor was overlaid with gold.
 - 6. Two doors were made of olive wood and overlaid with gold.
 - 7. A veil separated the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place (2 Ch. 3:14).
 - 8. There was an inner court and an outer court.
 - I. It took seven years to build the Temple.
 - J. Hebrews 9:1-6, 24
- III. Furnishing the Temple (1 Kings 7)