

# Solomon's Temple

Solomon's Temple was built to be the dwelling place of God Himself.



**GOD'S STORY**  
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

1 Kings 5-8

July 12, 2020

(1 Kings 5:2-9) <sup>2</sup> Solomon sent back this message to Hiram: <sup>3</sup> "You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the Lord his God until the Lord put his enemies under his feet. <sup>4</sup> But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. <sup>5</sup> I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God, as the Lord told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.' <sup>6</sup> "So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians." <sup>7</sup> When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was greatly pleased and said, "Praise be to the Lord today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation." <sup>8</sup> So Hiram sent word to Solomon: "I have received the message you sent me and will do all you want in providing the cedar and juniper logs. <sup>9</sup> My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the Mediterranean Sea, and I will float them as rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate them and you can take them away. And you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household."

(1 Kings 6:11-13) <sup>11</sup> The word of the Lord came to Solomon: <sup>12</sup> "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. <sup>13</sup> And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel."

(1 Kings 8:27-30, 41-43) <sup>27</sup> "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet give attention to your servant's prayer and his plea for mercy, Lord my God. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day. <sup>29</sup> May your eyes be open toward this temple night and day, this place of which you said, 'My Name shall be there,' so that you will hear the prayer your servant prays toward this place. <sup>30</sup> Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive...<sup>41</sup> "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name— <sup>42</sup> for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, <sup>43</sup> then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

## COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- **What is the most amazing man-made structure that you have ever visited? What is it about the structure that you admire so much?**
- **Are there any buildings or monuments that are still on your "bucket list"?**

One of the best ways to see the creative powers of the human mind is to see the monuments and buildings that have been assembled throughout the ages. The Pyramids of Egypt, the Great Wall of China, the Burj Khalifa—all of these structures are marvels to behold. They both inspire and amaze us.

In this passage, we will study one of the most amazing structures ever built. The inside and outside of the structure were amazing feats of architecture, but beyond that, Solomon's Temple was built to be the dwelling place of God Himself.

## CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read 1 Kings 5:2-9

- **Why was Solomon able to build a Temple for the Lord when David wasn't?**
- **What do you think about Hiram's reaction to Solomon's proposed partnership in building the Temple?**

Solomon says that his father David was unable to build the Temple because "of the warfare all around him." In 1 Chronicles 28:2-3, we learn that "King David rose to his feet and said, 'Listen to me, my brothers and my people. It was in my heart to build a house as a resting place for the ark of the LORD's covenant and as a footstool for our God. I had made preparations to build, but God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for My name because you are a man of war and have shed blood.'" Solomon, a King whose reign was marked by peace and prosperity, would have the honor of building the Temple.

Hiram's rejoicing is encouraging. First, Hiram praises the LORD, the God of Israel, and he agrees to work with Solomon on the Lord's Temple. The partnership between Tyre and Israel demonstrate that the fame of the Lord and the glory of His Name are meant to go out into all nations, not just remain for Israel only. Hiram's partnership with Solomon foreshadows the time when both Jew and Gentile will come together to form the Temple of God by becoming the Church, the body of Christ.

Have a volunteer read 1 Kings 6:11-13

- **Why do you think the Lord came to Solomon to remind him of the promises that He made to David? Though Solomon became unfaithful, would God still honor His promises to David?**
- **What are the exact promises that the Lord made to David?**

The Lord wanted Solomon to remain faithful to Him and not to forsake the law of His Word. Sadly, we know that "when Solomon was old, his wives seduced him to follow other gods. He was not completely devoted to Yahweh his God, as his father David had been. Solomon followed Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites. Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight, and unlike his father David, he did not completely follow Yahweh" (1 Kings 11:4-6). Though Solomon was unfaithful, God still honored His promise to David, but Israel would pay a heavy price for Solomon's unfaithful behavior.

In 2 Samuel 7:16, the Lord promised David that his "house and kingdom will endure before Me forever, and your throne will be established forever." Hebrews 1:5 quotes from 2 Samuel 7:14 to indicate that this promise to David was Messianic in nature. The promise that the Lord was going to keep to David wasn't just that Solomon would build a Temple, but that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, would be David's descendant and would sit on the throne forever.

Have a volunteer read 1 Kings 8:27-30, 41-43

- **Why was the idea of God living on earth so far-fetched for Solomon? What is the astounding answer to this question?**
- **What was one of Solomon's hopes for the Temple? Why do you think Solomon was concerned with the "foreigner"?**

Solomon was amazed at God's promise to come and "live in" the Temple that he had constructed. After all, the universe itself could not contain all of God's glory because He is infinite, how could He possibly live in the Temple that was so small by comparison? The Temple was only a shadow of what was to come. As the writer of Hebrews teaches, "For the Messiah did not enter a sanctuary made with hands (only a model of the true one) but into heaven itself, so that He might now appear in the presence of God for us" (Heb. 9:24). God was not going to simply live inside a Temple built by the hands of men, He was going to live as a human being, a descendant of David himself.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt (*lit. tabernacled*) among us..." (John 1:14)

Just like the Old Testament priests, Solomon's Temple is a foreshadowing of what Jesus would accomplish – bringing the dwelling of God to earth. In Jesus, we have a Great High Priest and Temple that allows us direct access to our Father anywhere, anytime.

The Temple was to be a beacon for all nations, not only for Israel. Solomon desired for all nations to hear of the glory of God, and he hoped that all nations would gather and worship the God of Israel. The message of the greatness, mercy, and power of God has always been for all nations. God wanted the "foreigners" to call on the name of the Lord.

For more reading on the New Testament Temple and Jesus see Hebrews 9 and John 2:18-22. For the fulfillment of the Temple in Heaven see Revelation 21.

### COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- How does understanding the Lord's faithfulness to the House of David help us as a group today?
- What does studying passages like the dedication of Solomon's Temple teach us about the importance of Bible Study in small groups?
- Why might showing others that the Temple was meant to be a sign for the nations help us in sharing the gospel with them?

**PRAYER:** In a time of group prayer, ask the Father to help us have the wisdom to understand the Scriptures. Pray that the Father will help us see how the entirety of the Bible points us to the person of Jesus Christ.

### CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Proverbs 1-2  
 DAY 2 – Proverbs 3-4  
 DAY 3 – Proverbs 16-18  
 DAY 4 – Proverbs 31  
 DAY 5 – 1 Kings 11-12

KEY VERSE: Proverbs 3:5-6

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.  
 Explain what the text means.  
 Apply the verse to your life.  
 Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit [chetscreek.com/gods-story](https://chetscreek.com/gods-story) for videos, study guides, and more.

#### OUR VISION

To be a church  
 for the unchurched,  
 here and around the world.

#### ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW  
 GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a  
 way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

**1 Kings 5:2-9**

5:3-5 These verses state several major themes in biblical theology. (1) God had given rest to His people. Throughout the Bible this rest is given in various degrees and in various ways that finally culminated in the eternal rest described in Hebrews 4. (2) It gave a different perspective on David as a "man of war" (1Ch 28:3), since his wars were presented as defensive necessities. (3) Since no temple can contain God, this temple was to be the dwelling for the name of the Lord. And (4) this temple was built in response to the promise of a dynasty for David and his descendants.

5:6 The Israelites, as well as the Egyptians and Assyrians, used both the cedar and cypress lumber of Lebanon for their fine buildings. Phoenician artistic skills and manufactured products were also prized throughout the ancient world.

5:7 Hiram's praise for God probably did not represent real conviction or faith on his part. More likely the Bible writer was paraphrasing Hiram's diplomatic courtesies to express truth about God.

5:8-11 These were the terms of the business arrangements. Solomon bartered food for lumber and other products as well. Hiram's men would cut the lumber, bring it to the sea, and lash it into rafts. Then the rafts were floated south and beached, probably at Joppa, the port nearest Jerusalem. From there they were taken to Jerusalem by the road that passed near Gezer. The amount of grain mentioned here was somewhat more than half the amount of grain collected for Solomon's governmental structure (4:22-23). However, the book of 2 Chronicles adds an equal supply of barley to this amount (2Ch 2:10).

**1 Kings 6:11-13**

6:11-13 God blessed the temple with the promise that He would live among the Israelites if they kept His commandments.

**1 Kings 8:27-30, 41-43**

8:27-30 After acknowledging that this house could not contain God, Solomon stated the major theme of this prayer: that God would confirm His covenant by being attentive to the prayer of His people, directed to this temple for the following concerns. This attentiveness would lead to forgiveness and restoration, recurrent themes in the remainder of this prayer. In effect, this prayer argued that God's covenant response to prayer, directed to this temple, guaranteed God's interest in all aspects of Israel's life.

8:41-43 Solomon states the theology of missions that is implicit in God's great works of witness. The foreigner should hear of God's works and then pray toward the temple to God. And God would hear that foreigner's prayer. The popular Christian misunderstanding that the OT was purely a Hebrew document, written by and for Hebrews alone, can easily miss this point. The intended result of OT revelation was the spread of the knowledge of God to all the people on earth.