

FINAL STUDY NOTES – *1 Kings Chapters 4 - 6* 1/5-6/2026

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM PACIFIC STANDARD Time (US and Canada).

TUES MORNING MTG PLACE: 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions, suggest using (waze.com/live map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com), AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

1 KINGS – Chapter 4 – Solomon’s Administration – (vs. 1-19); Prosperity and Wisdom of Solomon’s Reign – (vs. 20-34); Chapter 5 – Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple – (vs. 1-18); Chapter 6 – Solomon Builds the Temple – (vs. 1-38)!

- **We pray that tonight the Holy Spirit might indeed inspire the word of God to our hearts**, and we might find inspiration in these issues that, many of them are just facts and figures as far as the size of the new temple and all.
- **Last week: (1Ki 3:27-28) So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."** [28] *And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*

Solomon's Officials

1Ki 4:1 So King Solomon was king over all Israel.

- **After Solomon, there was no king over all of Israel. (1Ki 11:9-12) So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him [10] and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, [11]"Because**

you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. [12] Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Solomon's son Rehoboam, made some foolish mistakes when he took over the throne. Immediately the kingdom was divided, and from then on, you had a king over the northern kingdom, and a king over the southern kingdom of Judah. Judah and Israel were divided into the northern and southern kingdoms. David, at the beginning of his reign, did not reign over all of Israel. The first seven years, David only reigned over Judah. Then, all of Israel was united, and for thirty three years, David reigned over all of Israel. But it can only be said of David, and Solomon, that they reigned over all of Israel. We then have a listing of the princes that shared with Solomon in the responsibilities. Men who served with him, in ruling over the country.

1Ki 4:2-4 *And these were his officials: Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest; [3] Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder; [4] Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, over the army; Zadok and Abiathar, the priests;*

- **The princes which he had;** Azariah the son of Zadok the priest, And Elihoreph and Ahiah, who were the scribes. These men were what you might call, the Secretaries of State. *Jehoshaphat was the recorder*, the one that recorded the history of the nation. *Benaiah*, as we have already met, was *head over the armies*. *Zadok and Abiathar were the priests*. In the last chapter, Abiathar was banished from being high priest. He was sent home. He likely retained the title of priest.

1Ki 4:5 *Azariah the son of Nathan* (not the priest), over the officers; *Zabud the son of Nathan* (possibly a son of David), a priest and the king's friend;

- **The king's friend.** That is a really neat position to be in. I like to think of myself as **My King's friend**. The friend of Jesus. Jesus said, (**Joh 15:15a**) *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.*
- **The king's friend. Can that be said of me, that my life demonstrates that Jesus is my Lord? My Savior! And that I am one of My King's faithful friends?**

1Ki 4:6-7 *Ahishar, over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda, over the labor force. [7] And Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each one made provision for one month of the year.*

- These men were probably governors over the territories. The territories did not completely coincide with the tribes of Israel, but the areas were more or less, divided into twelve sections, possibly based on their productivity to supply, and one of these men was over each section.

1Ki 4:8-19 *These are their names: Ben-Hur, in the mountains of Ephraim; [9] Ben-Deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan; [10] Ben-Hesed, in Arubboth; to him belonged Sochoh and all the land of Hepher; [11] Ben-Abinadab, in all the regions of Dor; he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as wife; [12] Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth Shean, which is beside Zaretan below Jezreel, from Beth Shean to Abel Meholah, as far as the other side of Jokneam; [13] Ben-Geber, in Ramoth Gilead; to him belonged the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, in Gilead; to him also belonged the region of Argob in Bashan—sixty large cities with walls and bronze gate-bars; [14] Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim; [15] Ahimaaz, in Naphtali; he also took Basemath the daughter of Solomon as wife; [16] Baanah the son of Hushai, in Asher and Aloth; [17] Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar; [18] Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin; [19] Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan. He was the only governor who was in the land.*

Solomon's Wealth and Wisdom

1Ki 4:20 *Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea* (innumerable, so many you cannot count) *in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing.*



- **Everyone was just happy. It was a glorious time of history**, under Solomon's reign. The nation of Israel came to the apex of its glory, and honor, and power, and wealth, under the reign of Solomon. David had set the foundation, Solomon moved in and built upon it, a powerful, and glorious kingdom.

1Ki 4:21-22 So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt (the whole Negev). **They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.** [22] **Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal,**

- **A kor is about ten bushels.** So you have three hundred bushels of fine flour. Someone has estimated that is enough to make about twenty thousand loaves of bread a day!

1Ki 4:23-24 ten fatted oxen (prime beef), **twenty oxen from the pastures** (commercial grade), **and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl** (probably geese). [24] **For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the River from Tiphsah even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him.**

- **Solomon reigned and ruled in wealth, in prosperity.** But he also ruled in a kingdom of peace. A great time to be living.
- **Solomon's reign becomes an interesting type of the reign of Jesus Christ,** in the Kingdom Age. Many of the characteristics that you see here in Solomon's reign, are only foreshadowing the reign of Jesus Christ. His will be a reign of peace. It will be a time of prosperity, a time of joy, a time of blessing, as Jesus reigns over the whole earth!
- **They shall live in peace, and not be afraid.** You will not have to be afraid of someone trying to rip you off or breaking into your house. It will be a time of righteousness. Jesus shall rule and reign in righteousness, over the earth. He will rule with a rod of iron. A righteous rule and reign.
- **Am I ready? Are you ready? For Jesus' return? How about those around us?**

1Ki 4:25-26 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon. [26] **Solomon had forty** (possibly should be four) **thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.**

- **Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses. This may be an error** by the copyist. That it should be four thousand stalls for the horses. (1Ki 10:26) **And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.**

1Ki 4:27 And these governors, each man in his month, provided food for King Solomon and for all who

- **Another sign of the prosperity, and the blessing of the kingdom age.** There is no lack of anything. Solomon's wealth, and Solomon's fame spread all over the world, at that time. Even the queen of Sheba came to see if it was true (chapter 11), what she had heard about the wealth and the glory of Solomon's kingdom. When she visited Solomon she said, "When they told me about it, I could not believe it, but they did not tell me half of the story. It is greater than what even they said." She was totally amazed how everything was set out and administered in such a tremendous way.

1Ki 4:28-29 They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, each man according to his charge. [29] **And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.**

- **Remember last week, God said** (1Ki 3:5) **At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"** Solomon responded, "LORD, I just would like wisdom to govern over this, so great a people. Your people. LORD, give me the wisdom. I really do not know how to go out and come in. I am a babe in the woods. It is really bigger than I am, so Lord, you give me wisdom."
- **The LORD said, "Good Solomon, that is a good request,** because you have asked for wisdom, not riches, or the lives of your enemies. I not only will give you wisdom, but I will give you riches, and I will subdue your enemies, and all." So, God gave wisdom to Solomon.
- **Exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart.** The fulness of it, having a genius and capacity to receive anything. Solomon had wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, exceeding much, great knowledge of distant countries and the histories of former times, a quickness of thought, strength of memory, and clearness of judgment, such as never any man had. It is called largeness of heart; for the heart is often put for the intellectual powers. He had a vast compass of knowledge, could take things entire, and had an admirable faculty of laying things together. (Psa 119:32) **I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart.**

- **Am I praying regularly for His wisdom from above and for exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart?**

1Ki 4:30 Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.

- **Egypt was famous for its wisdom** in architecture, mathematics, in the magical arts, and all of these things. Solomon's wisdom exceeded that of the Egyptians!

1Ki 4:31 For he was wiser than all men—than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

- **These men, listed here are probably men that were noted historically.** They were the Einsteins of their days. The men that had been noted in history, as men of tremendous brilliance, and yet, it declares that his wisdom excelled all of them. And his fame was spread all around.

1Ki 4:32 He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

- **He spoke three thousand proverbs:** In the book of Proverbs, there are less than a one third of all of the proverbs, which this fellow spoke. It is hard to come up with even one proverb! So, to devise three thousand proverbs! That really is quite an undertaking, and again, an indication of the brilliance of this man!
- **A thousand and five songs!** Some of those are preserved for us. The most famous of all is the Song of Solomon, Song of Songs. He is also shown as the author of two; *Psalm 72* and *Psalm 127*.

1Ki 4:33 Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish.

- **He also spoke of trees and of all kinds of animals.** Not only did God give him great wisdom, but God gave him a supernatural capacity for learning.

1Ki 4:34 And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

- **Men of all nations.** Solomon acquired an international reputation for his wisdom. Many important visitors came from faraway places to learn from Solomon's wisdom. The coming of the queen of Sheba to Jerusalem (*1 Ki 10*) furnishes a historical proof of this.
- **The wisdom of Solomon!** Again this reminds us that as mentioned last week, we have instantaneously access to an even greater wisdom than Solomon's. (*Jas 1:5*) *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*
- **Have I asked Him for wisdom since we met last week? How often?**

Preparations for Building the Temple

1Ki 5:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, because he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always loved David.

- **Hiram, king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon**, for he had heard that they had appointed him king in the place of his father, for Hiram was ever a lover of David. Hiram is rejoicing to hear that David's son now is on the throne. Solomon maintained the friendly relations with Hiram established by David. They were beneficial to both as Israel exchanged wheat and oil for timber.

1Ki 5:2-3 Then Solomon sent to Hiram, saying: [3] You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the LORD put his foes under the soles of his feet.

- **My dad wanted to build a house for God.** God would not allow him to do it, because of all of his wars.

1Ki 5:4-5 But now the LORD my God (not just David's my father's God) **has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence.** **[5] And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name."**

- **The first thing that Solomon wants to do is fulfill this unfinished dream** of his father David. David's heart was to build a house. David was not allowed because of his bloody hands, through warfare, to build a house unto God. But, David drew the plans, and David gathered much of the gold and the brass, and the silver that was to be used in the building of the house.

- It is estimated, and this is staggering that the gold that it took, to cover all of the boards, the walls, and the cherubim, in the temple he built was estimated to be seventy-five thousand pounds of gold! On today's market that would cost billions of dollars! That is tremendous!

1Ki 5:6 Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and my servants will be with your servants, and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know there is none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians.

- You just tell me what the going wage is for your laborers, up there in the mountains. We just do not have those kind of skills that you have up there. We do not have anyone that skilled, so we ask you to send your men to us. We will pay their wages. We will send our servants to be with them.

1Ki 5:7 So it was, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, for He has given David a wise son over this great people!

- **Hiram** was thanking God for the blessings of God upon the people in giving David, such a wise son to take over the throne. Hiram much have been excited that the relationship of Tyre to Israel is going to continue to be friendly, as well as to learn that Solomon's main focus was to build the temple.

1Ki 5:8-9 Then Hiram sent to Solomon, saying: I have considered the message which you sent me, and I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs. [9] My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you indicate to me, and will have them broken apart there; then you can take them away. And you shall fulfill my desire by giving food for my household.

- It is a deal! We will bring these big logs down to the sea. We will tie them together in rafts, and float them down the Mediterranean, to whatever place you tell us. They brought them to Joppa, which was the only seaport in the coast of Israel in those days. From Joppa they then carried these huge timbers forty miles, from Joppa to Jerusalem, for the building of the temple. Quite a monumental task in itself! Solomon, then paid the wages.

1Ki 5:10-11 Then Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs according to all his desire. [11] And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors (200,000 bushels) of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors (1,600 gallons) of pressed oil. Thus Solomon gave to Hiram year by year.

- **Pressed oil.** There is a difference between olive oils. The pure olive, in this case, is that which would today be classified as the pure, virgin olive oil. It is the green olives that are hit with a rock and the oil is pressed out while they are still green. It is a lighter oil, considered to be a finer oil.

1Ki 5:12-14 So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty together. [13] Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel; and the labor force was thirty thousand men. [14] And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts: they were one month in Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the labor force.

- **Ten thousand a month in shifts.** They were in Lebanon a month working. Then they would come home for two months, then they would go back to Lebanon for a month, and home for two months. They would work four months then out of the year, doing the tough work, but would be home in Israel eight months per year.

1Ki 5:15-16 Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens, and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains, [16] besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work.

- There were three thousand three hundred foremen. So Solomon was able to put together a significant work crew. Again, the provisions for these men.

1Ki 5:17 And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the temple.

- Today, all that is really left of Solomon's temple, that you can see are the foundation stones that later were used in the Western Wall, the retaining wall on the west side to create the Temple Mount. If you go way down underground you can see these gigantic stones! You can see how perfectly they are fitted together. Literally, you cannot take a knife blade, and put it between any of the stones. That is how perfect the kind of work that these men did, and then how perfectly everything fitted together!

1Ki 5:18 So Solomon's builders, Hiram's builders, and the Gebalites quarried them; and they prepared timber and stones to build the temple.

- **The Gebalites.** The inhabitants of the town of Gebal, located about sixty miles north of Tyre.

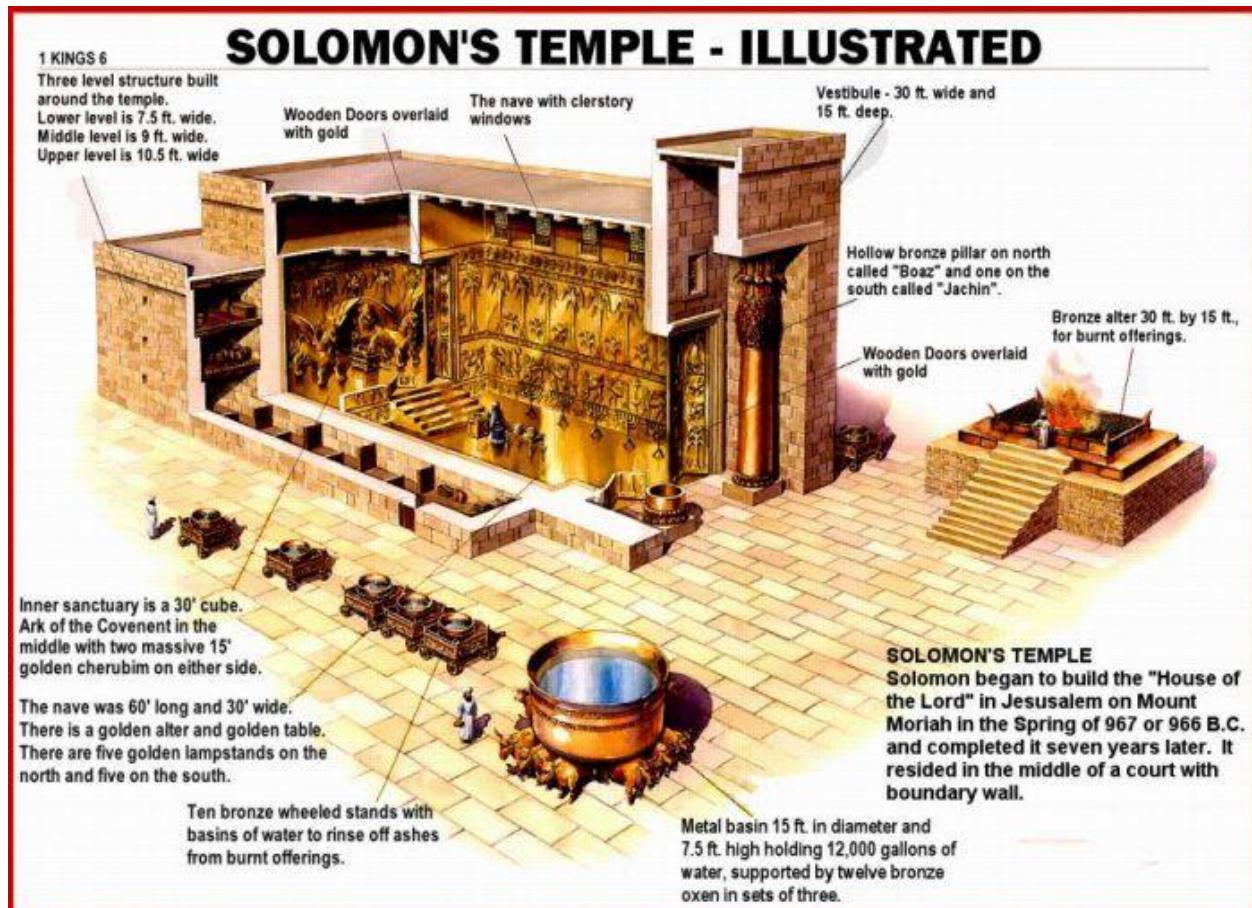
Solomon Builds the Temple

1Ki 6:1 *And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.*

- The time when it began to be built is exactly set down. It was 480 years after the bringing of the children of Israel out of Egypt. Allowing forty years to Moses, seventeen to Joshua, 299 to the Judges, forty to Eli, forty to Samuel and Saul, forty to David, and four to Solomon before he began the work, we have the sum of 480. As many suppose, the reign of Solomon began in 971 B.C. and ended at 913 B.C. (the temple was begun in 967 B.C.). This means that the Exodus took place in 1447 B.C. There is dispute among scholars as to these dates.

1Ki 6:2 *Now the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length was sixty cubits (90 feet), its width twenty (30 feet), and its height thirty cubits (45 feet).*

- The dimensions of the temple, that he built is just about twice the size of the tabernacle that Moses built in the wilderness. As far as the length and all, it is just about twice the size, all the way around.



1Ki 6:3-6 *The vestibule in front of the sanctuary of the house was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the width of the vestibule extended ten cubits from the front of the house. [4] And he made for the house windows with beveled frames. [5] Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around, against the walls of the temple, all around the sanctuary and the inner sanctuary (Holy of Holies). Thus he made side chambers all around it. [6] The lowest chamber was five cubits wide, the middle was six cubits wide, and the third was seven cubits wide; for he made narrow ledges around the outside of the temple, so that the support beams would not be fastened into the walls of the temple.*

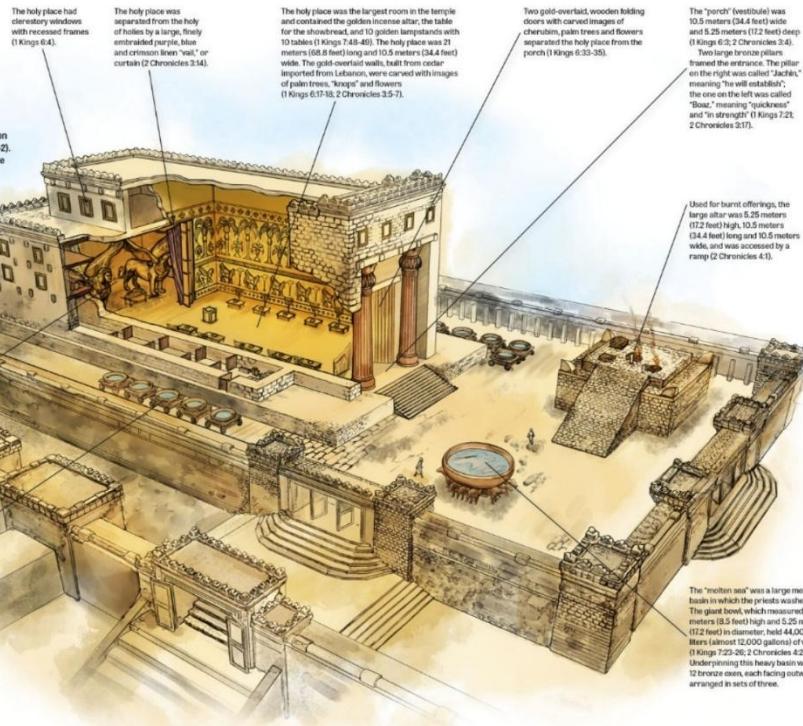
- Then it describes the porches that were around it. These porches were probably two-thirds of the way up, and came off of the main building, which stood forty five feet high, ninety feet long, thirty feet wide. The inner sanctuary or the Holy of Holies within it, was a cube of twenty cubits.
- Above where the porch jutted out, they had narrow little windows, for light within the temple. There of course, was no light within the Holy of Holies, that was as in the tabernacle, but it was lit by

the Shekinah of God. He built these little chambers or rooms around the temple, and the Holy of Holies, where God would speak to them.

KING SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

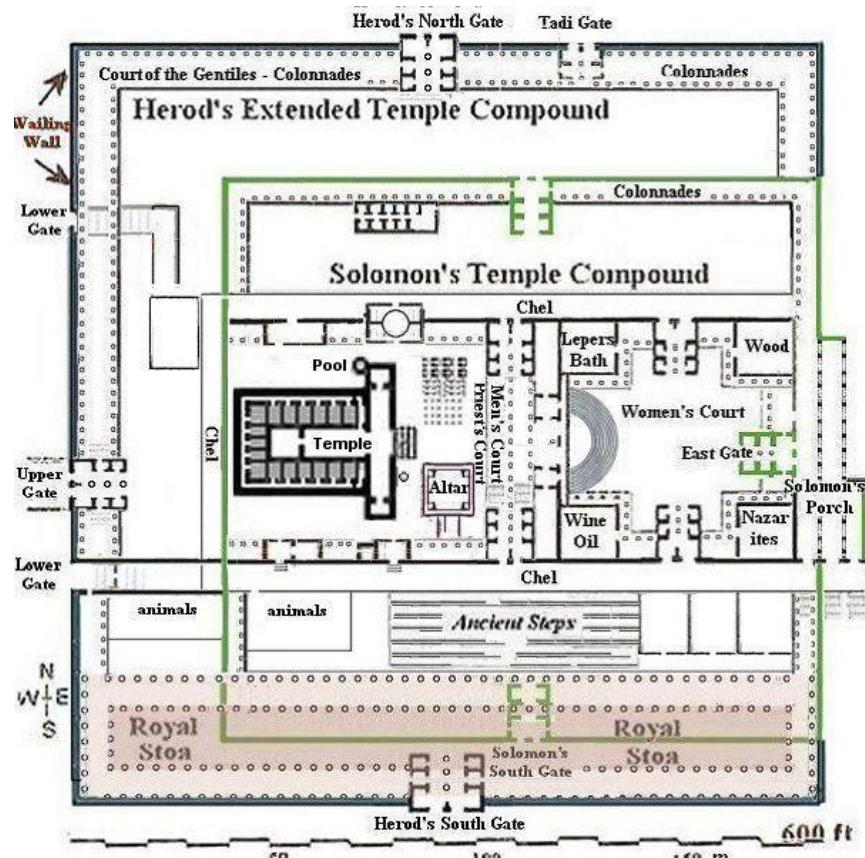
The temple built by King Solomon is widely referred to as the "first temple." Construction on the "house of the Lord" began in the spring of 967 B.C.E. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chronicles 3:1-2). It took seven years to build and was completed in the fall of 960 B.C.E. (1 Kings 6:38). The temple was situated adjacent north of the City of David on Mount Moriah, in the same area that Abraham built the altar to sacrifice Isaac. King David purchased the land from Ornan the Jebusite at the end of his reign (1 Chronicles 21).

The temple was originally compared to the palace and surrounding buildings, but it was not colossal or ostentatious. It was 31.5 meters (103 feet) long, 10.5 meters (34.4 feet) wide and 15.8 meters (51.8 feet) high. The quality of its construction was exceptional. It was built from the highest-quality stone, metals and timber, which were fashioned, largely off-site, by expert Phoenician and Israeliite craftsmen.



1Ki 6:7 *And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.*

- These people were tremendous stone masons. It was set out in a very brilliant way. They designed the size of each stone, and at the quarries they did all of the chiseling, all of the carving of the stones, and then they would number the stones and send them to the builders, who were putting the stones together. They were so perfectly carved, so perfectly chiseled, so flat that they were interlocking, that they did not need to use any mortar.
- You did not hear the striking of the iron tools, and all. They, because the thing was all fit to interlock together, and to be put up as one would put up a prefab kind of a building. The work was all done in the factory, and then all that they did was assemble it, when it came to the building site.



- **There is a story as they were building the temple, a stone came from the quarry**, and the builders who were erecting the building could not figure out where it went. It was not marked, and so they just figured the quarries made a mistake, because it did not fit in that part of the building. So they just sort of tossed the thing aside.
- **Now the temple was seven years in building, so in time the shrubbery grew** over the thing. They came to the completion of the temple, and the chief cornerstone was missing. According to the quarry, they sent the message, “We are ready to finish the temple. We need the chief cornerstone.” And the message came back, “It’s already been sent.” They had recorded the dates and everything else. So, finally some fellow discovered over in the brush, this stone that the builders had set aside, not realizing that it was the chief cornerstone.
- **In prophecy, Psalm one hundred eighteen, concerning Jesus Christ**, deals with that particular incident. (*Psa 118:22-23*) The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. [23] This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

1Ki 6:8-10 The doorway for the middle story was on the right side of the temple. They went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle to the third. [9] So he built the temple and finished it, and he paneled the temple with beams and boards of cedar. [10] And he built side chambers against the entire temple, each five cubits high; they were attached to the temple with cedar beams.

- **The temple was larger and more elaborate than the tabernacle.** It was not a temporary tent with skins for a covering; rather, it was a magnificent stone building that could not be moved. There were windows and a floor in the temple (*1Ki 6:4, 15*), both of which were lacking in the tabernacle. Solomon added two cherubim to the holy of holies (*1Ki 6:23-30*) and placed the ark under them. Instead of a dusty outer court, the temple had a beautiful porch (*1Ki 7:1-12*) with two pillars (13-22) called “*Jachin*” (“He will establish”) and “*Boaz*” (“in Him is strength”). Strength and stability belonged to the Lord and now would belong to His people as they settled in their land. Instead of the small laver, they made a large “molten sea” (*1Ki 7:23-26*) which stood upon twelve oxen.
- **They also made ten portable brass lavers** (*1Ki 7:27-39*) to use throughout the temple area. We are told in (*2Ch 4:1*) that the altar of brass was equal in size to the holy of holies. There were ten candlesticks instead of one (*2Ch 4:7-8*), as well as ten tables for the bread.
- **The NT does not give us as much instruction as to the meaning of the temple** as it gives concerning the tabernacle. Some see the tabernacle as a picture of Christ in His humility on the earth, and the temple as a type of His present ministry in glory, building that “holy temple” of living stones. Or, the tabernacle typifies our pilgrim life today, while the temple (a permanent building) typifies our glorious reign with Christ when He returns. How tragic that the Jews trusted the presence of their temple instead of the promises of the LORD. In about 500 years, this temple was destroyed as the Jews went into captivity for their sins. God is not impressed with structures as He is with obedience!

1Ki 6:11-12 Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying: [12] "Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David.

- **God says, “If you will keep My judgements.”** God is a God of justice, and one of the times of Israel’s weakness, when Israel fell, before their enemies, God declared one of the reasons for their fall, was their failure to execute His judgements. They were letting people get by with crimes, without any kind of punishment. They had developed a plea-bargaining situation. “Judgement is not,” the Lord said, “forthcoming.” Because of that, there came a moral and spiritual weakness within the nation, because people were getting by with evil things. It created that weakness that brought the fall of the nation, which is what we are continuing to do!
- **If you keep My word Solomon! I will keep My word! I will keep My promises! But you have to keep My word! The very same thing is true for us today and for our nation! If you keep God’s word, God will keep His word. God will be faithful to His promises unto us! How serious and committed am I to this? Is there really any evidence in my life of “having an obedient heart for God”?**

1Ki 6:13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

- **In Chronicles, we read concerning Asa, after he came back from the victory** over the Ethiopians, and the Nubians, the LORD said unto him, (*2Ch 15:2*) And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. If you keep the ways

of the LORD, God will keep you. If you seek the LORD, you can find Him. (Exo 29:45) I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. God's presence among His people, is always a glorious, desired thing!

1Ki 6:14-18 So Solomon built the temple and finished it. [15] And he built the inside walls of the temple with cedar boards; from the floor of the temple to the ceiling he paneled the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the temple with planks of cypress.

- Now it goes on to describe some of these boards of cedar, which they covered over the stones. They sort of built it with stones, and then they covered over the stones with these boards of cedars. On these boards there was beautiful carvings of different cherubim, and pomegranates, and flowers, and all. Then they overlaid all of that with gold. So the whole thing must have been magnificent to look at! Just looking at this beautiful gold, with the carvings of the various things upon it.

1Ki 6:16-20 Then he built the twenty-cubit (thirty feet) room at the rear of the temple, from floor to ceiling, with cedar boards; he built it inside as the inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place. [17] And in front of it the temple sanctuary was forty cubits long. [18] The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with ornamental buds and open flowers. All was cedar; there was no stone to be seen. [19] And he prepared the inner sanctuary (The Holy of Holies) inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. [20] The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar.

- The Holy of Holies is twenty cubits or thirty feet cubed, which is twice what was in the tabernacle.. We are told in (**Heb 8:5**) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." The heavenly city itself, is a cube, twelve hundred furlongs. This cube of heaven is tall, as wide, as thick.

1Ki 6:21-24 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold. He stretched gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold. [22] The whole temple he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the temple; also he overlaid with gold the entire altar that was by the inner sanctuary. [23] Inside the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high. [24] One wing of the cherub was five cubits, and the other wing of the cherub five cubits: ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.

- So the cherubim had a fifteen foot wingspan.

1Ki 6:25-27 And the other cherub was ten cubits; both cherubim were of the same size and shape. [26] The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was the other cherub. [27] Then he set the cherubim inside the inner room; and they stretched out the wings of the cherubim so that the wing of the one touched one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall. And their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.

- There were these two cherubim, carved out of olive wood, with these huge wings going out, touching each other, and stretching from wall to wall, within the Holy of Holies.

1Ki 6:28 Also he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

- The interior of the temple must have been fabulous to look at. But only the priests saw it. When you read the dimensions of the temple, you think, "Oh man! That is small! But remember, the people did not gather and meet in the church. They would gather in the courtyard outside. Only the priests were worshiping within the temple itself, and only the High Priest would go into the Holy of Holies, within the temple. The temple was not a place for the people to congregate before the LORD. That they did outside in the temple area, around the temple. But the priests would go in. It was just the place for them to go in, offering the sacrifices, and doing the service of God, within the temple.

1Ki 6:29-32 Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers (very beautiful, very decorative). [30] And the floor of the temple he overlaid with gold, both the inner and outer sanctuaries. [31] For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood; the lintel and doorposts were one-fifth of the wall. [32] The two doors were of olive wood; and he carved on them figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

- He describes these beautiful gold overlaid doors that went into the Holy of Holies. Wow, they would be fabulous today, as well as all of these carvings upon them!
- He goes on and describes the fancy gold ornamentation of the temple that he built. As mentioned earlier, the estimated amount of gold to do all of this work, was seventy-five thousand pounds!

1Ki 6:33-35 *So for the door of the sanctuary he also made doorposts of olive wood, one-fourth of the wall [34] And the two doors were of cypress wood; two panels comprised one folding door, and two panels comprised the other folding door. [35] Then he carved cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers on them, and overlaid them with gold applied evenly on the carved work.*

- You may be wondering why all of this detail in describing the building of the temple. It is important because it is in the Bible. The point that we do want to take away is that as you look at the beauty, at the work, at all that was involved in the building of this temple, the beauty, the investment that God made in this in terms of gold, stone, and cedar.
- We need to realize that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit! It is not that God is bringing gold our way or this kind of thing, but the work that He is doing in our lives as Christians, the beauty that He is producing in each one of our lives as we walk with Him! That is even more priceless than what we are reading about here! And this is just a shadow of what is the substance that Christ and the Holy Spirit is producing within us! Just think how important each of us are to our God! How do we see ourselves, relative to this?

1Ki 6:36 *And he built the inner court with three rows of hewn stone and a row of cedar beams.*

- The size of the inner court, or courtyard had a low wall that was a part of it to set its boundaries.

1Ki 6:37-38 *In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv (April, May). [38] And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.*

- So, we come to chapter seven, which we will take next week, as we get into Solomon's own house, which he took thirteen years to build. He built the LORD's house in seven years. Then he built his own palace, which took thirteen years. (1Ki 9:10) Now it happened at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house
- **Just think how special, how important that you are to God! How do we see ourselves, relative to this? (1Co 6:19) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? May we, with our whole body, soul and spirit glorify Him continually!**

SUMMARY

- The king's friend. Can that be said of me, that my life demonstrates that Jesus is my Lord? My Savior! And that I am one of My King's faithful friends?
- Am I ready? Are you ready? For Jesus' return? How about those around us?
- Am I praying regularly for His wisdom from above and for exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart?
- Have I asked Him for wisdom since we met last week? How often?
- If you keep My word Solomon! I will keep My word! I will keep My promises! But you have to keep My word! The very same thing is true for us today and for our nation! If you keep God's word, God will keep His word. God will be faithful to His promises unto us! How serious and committed am I to this? Is there any evidence in my life of "having an obedient heart for God" ?

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD Chris Tomlin (4:30/4:33)

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty Let all the earth rejoice All the earth rejoice He wraps himself in Light, and darkness tries to hide And trembles at His voice Trembles at His voice [Chorus] -- How great is our God, sing with me How great is our God, and all will see How great, how great is our God Age to age He stands And time is in His hands Beginning and the end Beginning and the end The Godhead Three in One Father Spirit Son The Lion and the Lamb The Lion and the Lamb [Chorus] Name above all names Worthy of all praise My heart will sing How great is our God (2x) - [Chorus] How great is our God How great is our God How Great How great is our God (2x)

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Study I Kings, Chapters 7-8