

Lesson 7: 1 Kings 5:1 to 7:51 - The Construction of the Temple

In our last lesson Solomon was officially crowned king. Solomon followed King David's final requests to deal with his (King David's,) enemies and allies. Solomon began his reign by putting his "house" in order, granting his father's last requests, and also following the advice to walk in the ways of the LORD and keep the Commandments. (1 Kings 2:2-3) Having dealt with his enemies, and finding places of authority for his allies, King Solomon found time to pray to the LORD. He went to the high places and offered sacrifices to the LORD. His prayer of intercession asked for "an understanding mind to govern your people and the ability to discern between good and evil." (1 Kings 3:9.) In a dream the LORD spoke to Solomon. The LORD was pleased with his prayer and vowed to give the king a "wise and discerning mind" and even though he had not asked for it, the LORD promised riches and honor for life. It would be a long life too, as long as Solomon keeps the Commandments and walks in the ways of the LORD.

Read 1 Kings 5:1-6 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with your group.

- a. What makes this the *ideal time* to build a temple? (Cite the verses that support your answer.)
- b. How does King Solomon support his household and holdings? (See 4:7, 5:1, and 5:6-7)

2. Read 1 Kings 5:6-14 and footnotes.

- a. Where does King Solomon's wisdom come from? (5:9, 5:26)
- b. What *evidence* is given for his wisdom in these verses? (see 5:12-14)

3. Read 1 Kings 5:15-26.

- a. Why does King Solomon say his father, King David, did not build a Temple?
- b. The art of persuasion: How does King Solomon gain the favor and support of King Hiram for his building project in each of the verses below:
1 Kings 5:15
1 Kings 5:20
1Kings 5:23-25
- c. Share any footnotes you find for 5:15-26.

4. Read 1 Kings 5:27-32.

- a. Where does Solomon find labor for this building project?
- b. What is the work schedule like for these construction crews?

5. Read 1 Chronicles 28:11-12 here: ¹¹Then David gave to his son, Solomon, the design of the portico and of the house itself, with its storerooms, its upper rooms and inner chambers, and the shrine containing the cover of the ark. ¹²He also provided the design for all else that he had in mind by way of courts for the house of the Lord, with the surrounding compartments for the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries for the votive offerings, **Where did the plans for the Temple come from?**

6. Read 1 Kings 6:1-10 and share any footnotes you find with your group.

(A cubit is around 18 inches; it is the distance from the elbow to the fingertips.)

a. Which verses in 6:1-10 indicate that extraordinary care was being taken in the construction, because this was to be a “house for the LORD”?

b. Why were the stones carved at the quarry and not at the building site?

7. Read 1 Kings 6:11-13. What message is the LORD giving King Solomon here?

8. Read 1 Kings 6:14-38.

a. How were the walls of the Temple finished? (6:15, 6:18, 6:20-21)

b. Describe any unique elements of design or adornment that you find interesting. (See 6:23-26, 6:29, 6:32)

c. How long did it take to build Solomon’s Temple?

9. Read 1 Kings 7:1-12 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

a. With the House of the LORD, the Temple, complete, the construction of the palace begins. Which project took more time to complete?

b. Solomon’s Palace included a great hall known as the “House of the Forest of Lebanon.” Were the same rules of care given to the building of the palace that was given to the building of the Temple, the House of the LORD? (6:7 and 7:9)

c. The palace included many features or structures. What is described in each of the following verses?

1 Kings 7:6

1 Kings 7:7

1 Kings 7:8

10. Read 1 Kings 7:13-51 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes. The Hiram mentioned in these verses *is not* King Hiram referred to in 1 Kings 6.

a. What were the gifts and talents of Hiram? (1 Kings 7:14)

b. What did Hiram contribute to this building project? (7:14-39)

c. What items did Hiram make for use in Temple worship? (7:48-50)

d. Reflection: What is the benefit of having a sacred space for worship?

e. How does the sacred space and environment of a church enhance your experience of worship or prayer?

11. Reflect on Solomon’s quest for wisdom. **The Wisdom of Solomon 7:7-8** Therefore I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. ⁸I preferred her to scepters and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her.