

**The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 42**  
**1 Kings ch. 5 – 11:13, 2 Chronicles ch. 2 – 9:28**

Tuesday Night Bible Study, January 26, 2010

**--OUTLINE:**

- I. CONSTRUCTION OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE AND ROYAL PALACE
- II. DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE
- III. THE STARTLING LACK OF WISDOM IN SOLOMON (THE "WISEST PERSON")

**--CONSTRUCTION OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE AND ROYAL PALACE**

--organization of labor and acquisition of supplies for the temple...

--Solomon already had a vast supply of materials that David gave him:

--1 Chronicles 22:14-16: "Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD **one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure**, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them. 15 Moreover there are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work. 16 Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit..."

--100,000 talents of gold and 1 million talents of silver would be at least 100 billion US dollars in today's money!

--Solomon added to what David provided – taking David at his word, "you may add to them". (1 Chron. 22:14)

--Solomon made a trade agreement with the King of Tyre for cedar and cypress logs. (1 Kings 5:1-12)

--Solomon then drafted a massive labor force from Israel for obtaining more stone for the temple... (1 Kings 5:13-18)

- 80,000 workers who quarried stone
- 70,000 workers who transported the stone
- 3,300 supervisors

--Solomon explains the purpose of the temple...

--Solomon explained to the king of Tyre in his request that he provide cedar and cypress logs, "As you have dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me. Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of the Lord our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel..." (2 Chronicles 2:3-4)

--the operation of the ceremonial law in the temple memorialized the meaning of Christ's death on the cross long before He was born! refer to "The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 18" section 1

--one notable detail in the construction of the temple was the Holy of Holies, which we'll look at in the next section ("Dedication of the Temple") of this study.

--even though God gave David detailed blueprints for the construction of the temple, it is questionable whether God intended for the temple to be so costly...

--there appears to be a dichotomy in the blueprints for the temple, one section written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and additional details possibly added by David:

--1 Chronicles 29:11-12: "Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit..."

--the description of David's contribution to the supplies for the temple suggests that he may have given an excessive amount of gold: David said, "Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple..." (1 Chronicles 29:3)  
--David had good intentions here, but he also had good intentions when he set out to build the temple himself and God stopped him.

--the amount of gold provided by David is brought into further question in light of God's command in Deuteronomy 17:17 that the kings of Israel "must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.."

--after spending 7 years building the temple, then Solomon spent 13 years building his royal palace...

--Solomon's palace was called "the House of the Forest of Lebanon" because of the extensive use of cedar from the forests in Lebanon.

--the palace became a treasurestore for Solomon's vast wealth...

--Solomon's throne was ivory overlaid with pure gold (1 Kings 10:18)

--"All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon [*because there was so much gold*]..." (1 Kings 10:21)

--in light of Deuteronomy 17:17, there is a major problem in the picture of Solomon's wealth, which we'll look at in the next section ("Dedication of the Temple") of this study.

## --DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

--after Solomon completed the temple, God told him that the reason His Spirit would dwell in the temple among Israel wasn't because the temple was grandiose, but rather He would dwell there if Israel followed His law...

--by following the law God gave Israel, they reflected God's character in contrast to the wicked cultures of the surrounding nations.

--if Israel ceased to reflect His character it is only natural that He would cease to dwell there.

--1 Kings 6:11-13: "Then the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying: '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. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.'

--it is interesting to note how God used David as an example of obedience, in spite of his failures...

--1 Kings 9:4: "Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you..."

**--this highlights the reality of forgiveness and how God doesn't expect us to be perfect, but He expects us to seek forgiveness and restoration when we fall into sin, as David did.**

--the glory of God filled the temple after the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy of Holies...

--1 Kings 8:1-11: "Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the City of David, which is Zion. ... 6 Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. ... 10 **And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that**

**the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD."**

--one notable detail in the design of the temple is the parallel between the Holy of Holies and the New Jerusalem, the capital city of Heaven...

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|---|--|
| The Holy of Holies was a limited dwelling place of God's Spirit on earth for a time.  | The New Jerusalem will be the dwelling place of God the Father, Son, and Spirit on earth for eternity.                                   |
| The shape of the Holy of Holies is a perfect cube (1 Kings 6:20)  | The shape of the New Jerusalem is a perfect cube (Revelation 21:16)  |
| Only the High Priest could enter the dwelling place of God in the temple once a year on the Day of Atonement. (Leviticus ch. 16)  | We will live in the presence of God in the dwelling place of God without restriction for eternity! (Revelation 21:3)                     |
| When the Ark of the Covenant was first brought into the Holy of Holies "the priests could not continue ministering... for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord." (1 Kings 8:11) | The glory of the Lord in the New Jerusalem will replace the light of the sun! (Revelation 22:5)  |
| The walls and ceiling of the Holy of Holies in the temple was covered in pure gold (1 Kings 6:20) on which the glory of God reflected.  | The entire New Jerusalem is made out of a heavenly material described as "transparent gold" through which the glory of God will radiate! |

--Solomon's prayer of dedication...

--it's interesting to read Solomon's prayer in light of the future reality of God's dwelling place in the New Jerusalem. (refer to chart above)

--1 Kings 8:22-30: "Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; 23 and he said: 'LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. 24 You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.... 27 **"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!** 28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: 29 that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. 30 **And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive. ...** 46 "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; 47 yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; 48 and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: 49 **then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, 50 and forgive Your people who have sinned against You...**"

--God doesn't expect perfection, but He expects us to seek forgiveness through the means that He has provided...

--the ceremonial law that operated in the temple was only temporary until Christ died for our sins, and more important than the outward ceremonial law was the attitude of the heart, as David expressed in Psalm 51.

--Psalm 51:14-17: "Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. 16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart** — These, O God, You will not despise."

--today anybody anywhere in the world can find forgiveness through Christ and His payment for our sins that transcends time and space...

--Hebrews 10:19-22: "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith..."

--Heb 4:14-16: "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

## --THE STARTLING LACK OF WISDOM IN SOLOMON (THE "WISEST PERSON")

--while Solomon is remembered for his wisdom, a closer look at his life shows that he lacked wisdom in two critical areas addressed in Deuteronomy 17:17 – too much wealth and too many wives.

--Deuteronomy 17:16-17: "But he [*the king of Israel*] shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' **Neither shall he multiply wives for himself**, lest his heart turn away [*from God*]; **nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.**"

--if Solomon had followed the principle in verse 18 he might not have lost sight of this – "also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that **he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book**, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and **he shall read it all the days of his life**, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes..." (Deuteronomy 17:18-19)

--the same principle applies in our lives today!

--it is human nature to forget; therefore we need to spend regular time studying the Bible!

--not only did Solomon multiply gold and become excessively wealthy, as we saw in the first part of this study (1 Kings 10:21), but he also multiplied horses, which Deuteronomy ch. 17 also forbid.

--1 Kings 10:28: "Also Solomon had horses imported from Egypt..." (Deuteronomy ch.17 actually specified horses from Egypt)

--Solomon's vast wealth was even more problematic in light of the general oppression in Israel due to forced labor and heavy taxation.

--"The weight of the gold that Solomon received yearly was 666 talents, not including the

revenues from merchants and traders and from all the Arabian kings and the governors of the land." (1 Kings 10:14-15)

--666 talents of gold is equal to about 25 tons of gold!

--Solomon would have been wise if he distributed his wealth among the people.

--the oppressive conditions under Solomon sowed the seeds of discontent that eventually led to the split of the kingdom.

--when the throne passed to Solomon's son Rehoboam, the governors of Israel spoke to him, "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke [*the NLT translation uses the phrase "heavy taxes"*] which he put on us, and we will serve you." (1 Kings 12:4)

--when Rehoboam refused to lower the taxes, all but the tribe of Judah rebelled and seceded from the nation.

--another contributing factor to the oppressive conditions in Israel was Solomon's lack of spiritual leadership in his later years which forfeited God's blessing on the nation.

--"But king Solomon loved many foreign women... 2 from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods... 4 For so it was, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God..." (1 Kings 11:1-4)

--Solomon went so far as to build pagan idols for his foreign wives to offer sacrifices to their gods. (1 Kings 11:8)

--the presence of pagan idols and Solomon's lukewarm devotion to the Lord would have no doubt rubbed off on other people in Israel.

--had Solomon not fallen into this sin then God could have prevented the split in the kingdom that occurred under Rehoboam, but instead God allowed the kingdom to divide. (1 Kings 11:9-13)

**--application in our lives... in both David and Solomon's lives we see a startling contrast between spiritual high points and low points, and it is the same in our lives!** We all have to contend with the weakness of our flesh. That is why Jesus said, "**Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. **The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**" (Mark 14:38)

--Solomon's failures form an exclamation point to one of the major over-arching themes of Israel's history...

--in spite of Israel's gross failures God still accomplished His purpose of bringing the Messiah to the world through them.

--and so it is today, in spite of the gross failures of the church throughout the ages, God will accomplish His purpose through her.

--God chooses to complete His perfect plan through imperfect vessels... "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." (2 Corinthians 4:7)