

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 6

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through 1 Kings

And we are in the portion of 1 Kings where Solomon begins the construction of the temple.

Let's pray...

**[1Ki 6:1-38 NKJV] 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.**

I touched on this verse in our study last week – how Solomon used the godly wisdom that was given to him to discern when it was God's timing to begin the construction of the temple. And I made reference to the fact that the first month of the year was a month that was dedicated to worship.

But what is also significant of this time stamp -

Is that it is one of those markers in the bible that allow us to connect the period of the kings all the way back to the beginning of Genesis.

480 years from the Exodus to the beginning of the temple

The Children of Israel spent 430 years in Egypt

We know how old Jacob was when he died, Isaac, Abraham, Noah – all the way until to Adam.

And the significance of this is that there are many people who don't believe and refuse to acknowledge that there is a connection between Jews and Jerusalem or the Jews and the temple mount or question whether Solomon's temple even existed.

But God's word is very clear.

It also gives us insight on how long the Israelites had gone without a temple.

Yes, they did have the tabernacle – but as we saw earlier in our studies in 1 Kings – the Israelites were not worshipping at the tabernacle – they had began worshipping on the high places.

**2 Now the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length [was] sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits.**

A cubit is about 18"

So the temple itself was about 90' long x 35' wide by 45 feet high.

So about 3,000 square feet –

Not very big –

But remember, the glory of the temple was not in it's size or how much gold it had – the glory of the temple was in the One who dwells in it.

He is the One who brings glory to the facility

He is the One who brings glory to our lives.

Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth -

**[1Co 6:19-20 NKJV] 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? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

We are the temple where the Holy Spirit dwells –

We don't have to put up this big spiritual show in order to glorify God

Because the truth is – His glory, if He is dwelling in us, His glory will be seen.

**[2Co 4:16-18 NKJV] 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward [man] is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding [and] eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are**

**seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen [are] temporary, but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.**

Our outward man is perishing – we are getting older – things are falling apart.

Why is the inward man being renewed day by day?

Because the glory of God is within us and He is transforming us day by day.

And the work that He is doing in us is going to last – it will be eternal

Always remember church –

The church shows up to the building – the building is not the church.

**3 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. 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.**

The vestibule here is the front porch to the temple – the entrance.

And around the outside of the main temple structure – on the side and the back there were small rooms or chambers that were built – these rooms were stacked three stories high.

Keep in mind that Solomon built the temple – but David – under the guidance of the Lord, he provided Solomon with the blueprints to the temple structure.

In fact, in 1 Chronicles 28 – David is telling Solomon all the details on building the temple and in verse 19 –

**[1Ch 28:19 NKJV] 19 "All [this]," [said David], "the LORD made me understand in writing, by [His] hand upon me, all the works of these plans."**

Just like the tabernacle – God's purpose for the Temple was to give mankind a picture of Heaven, the place where He dwells.

**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.**

This is interesting –

So what they did was that as the work on the temple was ongoing, all of the stones that were going to be used for the construction of the temple were cut to the exact size and prepared at the quarry.

The stones were not allowed to be cut or carved at the temple site.

The stones were only to be assembled at the temple site.

Here is the reasoning why –

Because they didn't want anything to distract or take away or have the noise infringe on what was going on.

This is something that I believe portrays to us even to this day a concept that God has – that God doesn't want the noise of men to dominate and to distract especially when it comes to the work of ministry.

Because that is the tendency of what man does.

We love to be seen

We love to be heard

But God doesn't want the noise of men to dominate and distract the work of ministry

He wants us to do our work in such a way that we will go unnoticed.

We don't want to draw attention to ourselves – we want all the honor and glory to go to

One who deserves all the honor and glory.

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Peter 2

**[1Pe 2:4-6 NKJV] 4 Coming to Him [as to] a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God [and] precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame."**

What Peter is telling us is that we – those that are truly born again, we are living stones.

You know what makes our life here on earth – this is our time in the quarry.

This is where we are cut, this is where we are chiseled, this is where we are polished –

For some of us we are chiseled by trouble in our marriage

We are chiseled at work

We are chiseled by the circumstances that God allows in our life.

We all come from different backgrounds.

This is where He puts us all together.

And now – we are like precious stones – built up by God Himself.

We are able to lay aside our past – and press on to those things that are up ahead.

We are not the finished product yet – God is still working in our lives.

He is not done with us yet.

But we are a lot closer to the finished product than we ever have been.

**8 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.**

In our study last week – we saw the deal that Solomon made with the king of Tyre – in order to get these cedar logs from the trees up in Lebanon.

And here we see how those cedars were used.

The inside walls of the temple were lined up with cedar paneling and these huge beams.

Imagine how nice it smelled.

**11 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. 13 "And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."**

Here God gives Solomon a conditional promise that is based on obedience.

if you walk in My statutes,

if you execute My judgments,

if you keep all My commandments,

and if you walk in them,

then I will perform My word with you,

The Word of the Lord to Solomon is – stay close to Me.

He is inviting Solomon to abide in Him.

By the way – under the New Covenant – we are not under a conditional promise.

Jesus Christ fulfilled that condition at the cross – but the principle is still the same.

Stay close to Me, Abide in Me

**[Jhn 15:4-5 NKJV] 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**

More important than the temple – was Solomon’s obedience to the Lord

I had you make a note of the verb “walk” –

Because throughout the scriptures, walking is a picture of an ongoing relationship.

And that is what the Lord was concerned with – not the building – not how much time we spend in ministry

God is more concerned with what’s happening inside of us than what is outside of us.

It doesn’t matter how much we do for the Lord if our heart is far from Him.

**We can be busy for God and be empty inside – and that is not the will of the Lord.**

**14 So Solomon built the temple and finished it.**

Solomon finished what he started

And in the same way – it is important for us to finish what we start – because God is a God who finishes what He starts.

**[Phi 1:6 NKJV] 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete [it] until the day of Jesus Christ;**

That is good news for all of here this evening –

Sometimes we may feel like a failure because we stumbled

But if we are in Christ, we have this hope, this assurance that God will finish what He started in us – because God always finishes what He starts. Always.

**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. 16 Then he built the twenty-cubit 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 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. 21 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.**

Solomon as we will see, paid a lot of attention to the inner portion of the sanctuary.

And the reason for this is that this is where God's presence was going to be – this is where the Ark of the Covenant was going to be.

This is the Most Holy place

And I think that this is a good illustration of the thing we should give most of our attention to in our lives .

Which is what is in the inside and not the outside

The inner sanctuary – where God dwells in our lives.

Jesus when He rebuked the pharisees –

**[Mat 23:27 NKJV] 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead [men's] bones and all uncleanness.**

Again, the point that Jesus was making was that He had come to clean us from the inside – because we are incapable of cleaning ourselves.

Jesus was always pointing to the heart.

And until the heart is addressed – nothing is going to change.

**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.**

25 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. 28 Also he overlaid the cherubim with gold. 29 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. 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. 33 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. 36 And he built the inner court with three rows of hewn stone and a row of cedar beams.

**37 In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv. 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.**

It took them seven years to build the temple –

With all the details that we just read about and all the labor that went into it.

But one of the things we have to remember is that God was leading them through it.

Because God gave them the instructions and the plans and He was inspiring these men and He was filling them with the presence of His Spirit.

God does great things in His people if they give themselves over to Him

And He will do great things in our lives if we will just let Him have His way in us.

There is a warning for us at the end of the chapter -

It took 7 years to build it and as we will see in a few weeks – it will only take about 5 years after Solomon's death before the temple is plundered because of the unfaithfulness of God's people.

The gold is taken away because they lost sight of the God of the temple.

And I pray that we will remain faithful – because it is the only way that we will see God work like this in our lives.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

