

Bibles???

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

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 7

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

We currently find ourselves in 1st Kings where Solomon is in the process of constructing the temple for worship and his palace –

And once again, we might read through this as a list of the things that were in the temple – and dimensions that we may feel are just historical in nature – but we will find applications for our walk in the Lord today.

Let's pray...

[1Ki 7:1-51 NKJV] 1 But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.

In our study last week – we looked at Solomon being obedient to the charge that his father had given – as he used his godly wisdom and David's plans that had been given by God, to build the temple.

We studied how detailed everything was – the cutting and polishing of stones that was done offsite, the cedar panels and the gold, the carvings that were done on the inside of the walls of them temple.

And the scriptures tell us that it took Solomon seven years from start to finish to complete the work of the temple.

But here in verse one – it says that it took 13 years to build his own house.

Now, the first thing that many people point out is that it takes him twice as long to build his palace than it does to build the temple.

And some people will conclude that the difference in years means that Solomon heart was in his palace instead of the temple.

However, the scriptures do not chastise Solomon or accuse him of any wrongdoing at this time.

Later on, Solomon will chastise himself for it – but not the scriptures.

So, we must consider a few things –

The palace and the other buildings around the palace were much bigger than the temple.

I had mentioned a few weeks ago that the palace was where Solomon and all his concubines and extended family staid – so you could have a few thousand people living in the complex. We looked at the daily provisions back in ch 4 for Solomon and his family.

The second thing we must consider is the order that they were built.

The temple was built first and the palace was built second.

The palace came second in priority.

And so, we see a sense of urgency from Solomon to get the temple built because he wanted to be obedient to his father's will as well as God's will.

Solomon was giving attention to God's house first

I believe that Solomon building the temple was the point in Solomon's life where he was walking the closest with God.

And I think this is something that we can apply in our lives today –

The closer we are in our relationship with Jesus Christ – the more urgent, the things of God are to us.

There are so many things that we can be investing our lives in – but we need to invest in God's things first.

Matt 6:33

[Mat 6:33 NKJV] 33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Generally speaking – I think Matt 6:33 is one of those verses that we all know and believe – but somehow we fall short in living the verse.

We get so wrapped up in our lives – I have to do this, this is more important, I really need this - God's things can wait.

And the truth is that if we were seeking God's kingdom first – many of the other things we would be seeking, wouldn't matter to us.

I have found this out in my own walk – the more I have given myself to the Lord and His things, the less and less important things are that years ago I thought they were so important.

We want to care about His things over all the other things and we will be blessed.

And having this right priority is something that we will continue to do until the Lord takes us home – as we continue to grow in His grace.

You might remember the previous study we did prior to 1st Kings.

We were in Haggai

And what was the word of correction that the Lord gave to tell the people.

They built their houses first, they were the ones living in paneled home while the temple lay in ruins.

They neglected the building of the temple.

And because of it – they were losing out on His blessing.

Let's look at the palace.

2 He also built the House of the Forest of Lebanon; its length [was] one hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits, with four rows of cedar pillars, and cedar beams on the pillars. **3** And [it was] paneled with cedar above the beams that [were] on forty-five pillars, fifteen [to] a row. **4** [There were] windows [with beveled frames in] three rows, and window [was] opposite window [in] three tiers. **5** And all the doorways and doorposts [had] rectangular frames; and window [was] opposite window [in] three tiers. **6** He also made the Hall of Pillars: its length [was] fifty cubits, and its width thirty cubits; and in front of them [was] a portico with pillars, and a canopy [was] in front of them. **7** Then he made a hall for the throne, the Hall of Judgment, where he might judge; and [it was] paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling. **8** And the house where he dwelt [had] another court inside the hall, of like workmanship. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken [as wife]. **9** All these [were of] costly stones cut to size, trimmed with saws, inside and out, from the foundation to the eaves, and also on the outside to the great court. **10** The foundation [was of] costly stones, large stones, some ten cubits and some eight cubits. **11** And above [were] costly stones, hewn to size, and cedar wood. **12** The great court [was] enclosed with three rows of hewn stones and a row of cedar

beams. **So were the inner court of the house of the LORD** and the vestibule of the temple.

So here from verse 2-12 we see a description of the extravagance that went into the palace complex.

These buildings and halls had all these pillars and cedar in them that it actually looked like one was walking through a forest.

I had you make a note of the phrase - So were the inner court of the house of the LORD,

Because this shows us that these rooms in the palace complex were built in the same pattern as what was built in the temple.

13 Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. 14 He [was] the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father [was] a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.

This Hiram individual – he is not the same one that made the treaty with Solomon back in ch 5 (where Solomon got all the wood)

This guy is a Jew.

He is a gifted craftsman. (had you make a note of that)

he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work

By the way – who do you think gifted Hiram with wisdom and understanding and skill?

God did

God has created each one of us a certain way

He has placed us in the body for a certain purpose

With the unique gifting for His purpose

Turn to Exodus 31

We are going to look at the work of the Tabernacle –

[Exo 31:1-5 NKJV] 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3 "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all [manner of] workmanship, 4 "to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, 5 "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all [manner of] workmanship.

God called Bazalel by name and He filled him with the Spirit of God to do the work He called Him to do.

For a specific purpose.

Out of the 2 million people that God delivered out of Egypt – He singled this guy out and enabled His to do the work.

And the same is true for us today.

God knows us personally by name.

He singles us out and then He enables us to do what He has called us to do – for His purpose.

We all have our own gift

So we don't envy others people gift

We need to learn to offer ourselves and the gifts that God has given to us to serve the Lord.

15 And he cast two pillars of bronze, each one eighteen cubits high, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of each. 16 Then he made two capitals [of] cast bronze, to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of one capital [was] five cubits, and the height of the other capital [was] five cubits. 17 [He made] a lattice network, with wreaths of chainwork, for the capitals which [were] on top of the pillars: seven chains for one capital and seven for the other capital. 18 So he made the pillars, and two rows of pomegranates above the network all around to cover the capitals that [were] on top; and thus he did for the other capital. 19 The capitals which [were] on top of the pillars in the hall

[were] in the shape of lilies, four cubits. 20 The capitals on the two pillars also [had pomegranates] above, by the convex surface which [was] next to the network; and there [were] two hundred such pomegranates in rows on each of the capitals all around. 21 Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name **Jachin**, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name **Boaz**. 22 The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. So the work of the pillars was finished.

So one of the Hiram's bigger projects were these two huge pillars of bronze that were supposed to go in front of the temple.

They were 27 feet tall, and 18 feet in circumference.

The one on the right was called Jachin (yakin) – which means *He will establish*

The one on the left was called Boaz – *in Him is strength*

And the purpose of these pillars were to remind the Children of Israel, of the faithfulness of God and the strength of God

We see these visual aides over and over again in the Old Testament – these memorial stones (piles of rocks) that as the people passed by – they would remember God's promises.

Today we may use bible verses

I have had my bible from day 1 – when I started to come down here to Nogales.

And one of the first verse I wrote on the first page was Phil 4:7

[Phi 4:7 NKJV] 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Again reminding me of His faithfulness and strength – because sometimes I forget too.

23 And he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; [it was] completely round. Its height [was] five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. 24 Below its brim [were] ornamental buds encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The ornamental buds [were] cast in two rows when it was cast. 25 It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea [was set] upon them, and all their back parts [pointed] inward. 26 It [was] a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, [like] a lily blossom. It contained two thousand baths.

So another one of Hiram's projects was this above ground pool or tank that was made completely out of bronze.

It was 45 feet in circumference, and was cast in as a single piece. The walls were about 3 inches thick.

It was supported on the backs of twelve bronze oxen, which all faced outward.

And held over 11,000 gallons of water.

And the priests would get water from this tank to fill the lavers that we read about next.

27 He also made ten carts of bronze; four cubits [was] the length of each cart, four cubits its width, and three cubits its height. 28 And this [was] the design of the carts: They had panels, and the panels [were] between frames; 29 on the panels that [were] between the frames [were] lions, oxen, and cherubim. And on the frames [was] a pedestal on top. Below the lions and oxen [were] wreaths of plaited work. 30 Every cart had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and its four feet had supports. Under the laver [were] supports of cast [bronze] beside each wreath. 31 Its opening inside the crown at the top [was] one cubit in diameter; and the opening [was] round, shaped [like] a pedestal, one and a half cubits in outside diameter; and also on the opening [were] engravings, but the panels were square, not round. 32 Under the panels [were] the four wheels, and the axles of the wheels [were joined] to the cart. The height of a wheel [was] one and a half cubits. 33 The workmanship of the wheels [was] like the workmanship of a chariot wheel; their axle pins, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs [were] all of cast [bronze]. 34 And [there were] four supports at the four corners of each cart; its supports [were] part of the cart itself. 35 On the top of the cart, at the height of half a cubit, [it was] perfectly round. And on the top of the cart, its

flanges and its panels [were] of the same casting. 36 On the plates of its flanges and on its panels he engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, wherever there was a clear space on each, with wreaths all around. 37 Thus he made the ten carts. All of them were of the same mold, one measure, [and] one shape. 38 Then he made ten lavers of bronze; each laver contained forty baths, [and] each laver [was] four cubits. On each of the ten carts [was] a laver. 39 And he put five carts on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house. He set the Sea on the right side of the house, toward the southeast.

These 10 lavers or wash basins were each placed on carts

Each laver held 240 gallons of water – they would get the water from the big tank

These were used by the priests to wash themselves and to wash the sacrifices.

40 Hiram made the lavers and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram **finished** doing all the work that he was to do for King Solomon [for] the house of the LORD: 41 the two pillars, the [two] bowl-shaped capitals that [were] on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which [were] on top of the pillars; 42 four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that [were] on top of the pillars); 43 the ten carts, and ten lavers on the carts; 44 one Sea, and twelve oxen under the Sea; 45 the pots, the shovels, and

the bowls. All these articles which Hiram made for King Solomon [for] the house of the LORD [were of] burnished bronze. 46 In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zaretan.

Hiram was faithful in what he was hired to do.

He finished doing all the work –

And we are called to do the same thing.

We are called to be faithful

I had you make a note of the phrase burnished bronze –

And this refers to how these bronze items were molded – under fire.

These ornaments – the fruit – the pomegranates – were made by pouring melted bronze in molds.

In the same way that the fruit in the lives of the believer are produced by the trials and difficult times that God allows in each one of our lives.

Notice that these bronze pieces were not molded there in Jerusalem – they were molded out in the wilderness.

Think about how many people did the Lord take to the wilderness to train?

Moses

John the Baptist

Elijah

Paul the apostle

All of these men were shaped by God, they were refined by God, became beautiful for God's purpose in isolation and hardship in the wilderness.

47 And Solomon did not weigh all the articles, because [there were] so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined. 48 Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold on which [was] the showbread; 49 the lampstands of pure gold, five on the right [side] and five on the left in front of the inner sanctuary, with the flowers and the lamps and the wick-trimmers of gold; 50 the basins, the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, [both] for the doors of the inner room (the Most Holy [Place]) [and] for the doors of the main hall of the temple. 51 So all the work that King Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and the furnishings. He put them in the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

As we read about the details of the temple and look at the images of what the temple might be like.

We have to remember that there has been no temple in Jerusalem for the last 2000 years.

Solomon's temple was destroyed by Babylon

And Zerubabel's temple/ Herod's temple was destroyed by Rome,

One of the things that we will see Solomon say in our study next week is that the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands.

But He does dwell in temples that He made of flesh and bone and blood.

You and I, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit

God lives in you.

And because He lives in us – wherever we go, we can worship God with our temple.

We can be driving.

We can be at the store or work worshipping the Lord.

Amen

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.'