

Bible Stories for Adults

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5 - 11

Opening

Gathering: What purposes in your life distract you from living for God?

Today's Focus: God blessed Solomon greatly and gave him every opportunity and means to be a faithful leader to Israel. Solomon lived for the blessings only to learn that life is to live for God.

Key Verses: *I rejoice with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:15*

When they pray toward this place and confess Your name and turn from their sin, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants. 1 Kings 8:35-36

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Solomon's First Ally (*1 Kings 5*)

Who was the first world leader to reach out in alliance to Solomon?

1 Kings 5:1

Note: Tyre depended on Israel for open trade routes and for Israel's agriculture

In what way had Hiram been on friendly terms with David?

2 Samuel 5:11

How did Solomon respond to Hiram's gesture of goodwill?

1 Kings 5:2-5 (2-6)

Did Hiram agree to Solomon's proposal?

1 Kings 5:7, 10-12 (7-18)

David's Temple (*2 Samuel 7*)

Had David really been prevented from building a temple for God?

2 Samuel 7:1-5 (1-7)

What did God say must happen first?

2 Samuel 7:10-11a

Did this happen under Solomon's reign?

1 Kings 4:20, 25

God's Temple (*2 Samuel 7:11-16*)

How did God turn His rejection of David's desire to build a temple into a blessing?

2 Samuel 7:11b-16

Who was God speaking about besides Solomon?

Hebrews 1:4-5 (Matthew 3:17)

Was David able to contribute at all towards God's temple?

1 Chronicles 28:11-12 (1-21)

Why did David bother with such details?

1 Chronicles 22:5

Did David do anything for the temple other than document God's designs?

1 Chronicles 22:2-4, 14-16

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Solomon's Temple (*1 Kings 6*)

How long had the Israelites worshipped God in a tent?

1 Kings 6:1

How large did Solomon make the temple?

1 Kings 6:2

How elaborate was the temple?

1 Kings 6:7, 14-18, 21 (3-38)

Temple Furnishings (*1 Kings 7*)

What types of furnishings did Solomon provide for the temple?

1 Kings 7:41-45, 48-50 (13-51)

What did Solomon do after the temple was completed?

1 Kings 8:1, 62-63, 65 (1-9, 62-66)

Purpose of the Temple (*1 Kings 8*)

How did Solomon describe the purpose of the temple in his prayer of dedication?

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27, 29-30 (12-61)

Was the temple only for the Jews?

1 Kings 8:41-43, 60

What did God do after the temple was completed?

1 Kings 8:10-11; 9:3

What did God want from Solomon even more than the great temple he had just built?

1 Kings 9:4-7 (1-9)

Today's Temple (*Hebrews 9-10*)

Who made it possible for everyone to enter the Holy Place and Most Holy Place?

Hebrews 9:6-8, 11-12, 24-26

When did this happen?

Matthew 27:50-51

Why don't we offer sacrifices on the altar any more?

Hebrews 10:11-14

The Sea held 11,500 gallons of water for the priests to wash before entering the Holy Place.

What does the Christian Church have that is similar to the Sea?

Acts 22:16

What other washing and cleansing is supplied through the church?

Ephesians 5:25-27

Golden lampstands gave light to the temple. What light do the candles in our church signify?

John 8:12

What parallel do we have for the bread of God's Presence placed on the table every Sabbath?

1 Corinthians 10:16

The ark in the Most Holy Place held the Ten Commandments. Were these abolished by Jesus?

Matthew 5:17-18

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Importance of the Temple (*John 4:20-24*)

What happened to the temple and its furnishings nearly 400 years after Solomon dedicated it?

2 Kings 24:10-13; 25:9, 13-14

What effect did this have on the Jews?

Lamentations 2:7, 10-11

How did Jesus further raise the anger of Jews after clearing the temple marketplace?

John 2:18-22 (Mark 14:58)

How important was the temple to the Jews?

John 4:20

What lesson did Jesus have regarding the importance of worshipping in the temple?

John 4:21-24

Solomon's Palace (*1 Kings 7:1-12*)

How long did it take Solomon to build the temple?

1 Kings 6:37-38

How long did it take Solomon to build his palace?

1 Kings 7:1

How large was the palace and what was it called?

1 Kings 7:2 (2-12)

Solomon's Wisdom, Peace, Fame and Wealth (*1 Kings 10*)

How did God bless Solomon besides giving him the privilege of building this great temple?

1 Kings 3:10-13

How extensive was Solomon's kingdom?

1 Kings 4:21, 24

Was this peace a result of Solomon keeping a low profile?

1 Kings 4:29, 34

How did Solomon's wisdom & fame help his call of *Blessed to be a Blessing*?

1 Kings 10:8-9, 23-24

How did God use Solomon's wisdom to bless him with wealth?

1 Kings 10:25

What was Solomon's annual gold income (besides import taxes & tributes)?

1 Kings 10:14-15

How extravagant did things become for Solomon?

1 Kings 10:16-21

Solomon's Folly (*Ecclesiastes*)

Did this great wisdom, fame, peace and wealth help Solomon enjoy life to its fullest?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-4, 9

What did Solomon do to try to make his life meaningful?

Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:4, 8-11

How did this affect Solomon?

Ecclesiastes 2:17-20

What did Solomon eventually conclude about how we should approach the lives God has given us?

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Ecclesiastes 12:13

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Solomon's Provisions (*1 Kings 4*)

How many chariots and horses did Solomon get from Egypt?

1 Kings 10:26

Besides the trade deficit, what was wrong with this Egyptian horse trading?

Deuteronomy 17:16

What provisions did Solomon's government require on a daily basis?

1 Kings 4:22-23

How were these extensive provisions supplied?

1 Kings 4:27-28

Solomon's Burden (*1 Kings 9*)

Where did Solomon get the laborers he needed for his building projects?

1 Kings 9:20-21

How many laborers did Solomon enlist?

1 Kings 5:13-18

Where did Solomon get the foremen and his soldiers?

1 Kings 9:22-23

Although they were drafted, why was it important that they were not called slaves?

Leviticus 25:42

How did the Israelites feel about the heavy taxation and governmental burdens?

1 Kings 12:4

Solomon's Downfall (*1 Kings 11*)

What command had God given Israel that Solomon completely ignored?

1 Kings 11:1-2

Was Solomon led astray by his wives as God had said?

1 Kings 11:3-8

How did God decide to punish Solomon for this evil?

1 Kings 11:9-13

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Does my temple to God reflect His glory?
(1 Kings 6-7; 8:10-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:18-19; Ephesians 2:21-22)
2. How do I prepare myself to live as God's temple?
(1 Kings 8; Luke 3:4-6; 12:35-40; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Revelation 19:7-8)
3. Do others see God in me?
(1 Kings 9:1-9; Matthew 5:14-16; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; 1 Peter 2:11-12)
4. What goals do I have for my life?
(Ecclesiastes; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:12-14; Col. 2:1-4; Hebrews 11:13-16, 26; 1 Peter 1:6-9)
5. What purpose does God have for my life?
(Ecclesiastes 12:13; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 2:10; 3:1-11; 4:1-16)