

# 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 = Hiram, king of Tyre (on coast in Phoenicia)

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 = First to reach out to David, Sent labor & materials to build palace

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

1 Kings 5:2-5 (2-6) = Proposed trade agreement to get materials to build temple

Did Hiram agree to Solomon's proposal?

1 Kings 5:7, 10-12 (7-18) = Yes, they became allies and traded with each other

David's Temple (2 Samuel 7)

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

2 Samuel 7:1-5 (1-7) = Yes, God told David (thru Nathan) that he wasn't the one

What did God say must happen first?

2 Samuel 7:10-11a = God would grant peace to Israelites & allow them to settle down

Did this happen under Solomon's reign?

1 Kings 4:20, 25 = All happy & safe under his own vine & fig tree (*chicken in every pot*)

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? = God build for David

2 Samuel 7:11b-16 = His son would build a temple, David's throne would last forever

Who was God speaking about besides Solomon?

Hebrews 1:4-5 (Matthew 3:17) = Jesus - Verses are Messianic prophesy

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

1 Chronicles 28:11-12 (1-21) = He developed the plans as inspired by the Holy Spirit

Why did David bother with such details? = David did everything he could up to God's limit

1 Chronicles 22:5 = To make sure it was done right, Solomon too young & inexperienced

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

1 Chronicles 22:2-4, 14-16 = Extensive preparations - gold, silver, iron, logs, jewels, skilled labor

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### Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 6)

How long had the Israelites worshipped God in a tent?

1 Kings 6:1 = 480 years (12 tribes x 40 yrs/generation)

How large did Solomon make the temple? = Write on board (cubit = 1½ ft)

1 Kings 6:2 = 90'L x 30'W x 45'H - Tabernacle was 45'L x 15'W x 15'H (Exodus 26)

How elaborate was the temple? = Only priests could enter Holy Place & see the beauty

1 Kings 6:7, 14-18, 21 (3-38) = Carefully dressed stone, inside gold overlaid cedar panels

### Temple Furnishings (1 Kings 7)

What types of furnishings did Solomon provide for the temple? = make list on board

1 Kings 7:41-45, 48-50 (13-51) = Very elaborate in crafted bronze & gold

What did Solomon do after the temple was completed? = 22,000 cows, 120,000 sheep/goats

1 Kings 8:1, 62-63, 65 (1-9, 62-66) = Put ark in MHP, sacrificed, dedicated temple, 2 wk festival

### 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) = Where people can seek God and know they've been heard

Was the temple only for the Jews? = Blessed to be a blessing

1 Kings 8:41-43, 60 = No, others would seek and know God there

What did God do after the temple was completed?

1 Kings 8:10-11; 9:3 = Put His presence and Name there

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

1 Kings 9:4-7 (1-9) = His faith and obedience - God would then bless Solomon and Israel

### 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 = Jesus was the Great High Priest

When did this happen? = Jesus opened the way for us to come to the Father

Matthew 27:50-51 = The curtain separating the Most Holy Place tore when Jesus died

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

Hebrews 10:11-14 = Because Christ was the great sacrifice that took all sins

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 = The baptismal font to *wash your sins away*

What other washing and cleansing is supplied through the church?

Ephesians 5:25-27 = Cleansing through the word

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

John 8:12 = Jesus, the light of the world

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

1 Corinthians 10:16 = The body of Christ we eat when we share the Lord's Supper

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

Matthew 5:17-18 = No, He did *not come to abolish them but to fulfill them*

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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 = Valuables taken to Babylon in exile, rest burned down  
What effect did this have on the Jews?  
Lamentations 2:7, 10-11 = They were devastated, couldn't believe God let this happen

How did Jesus further raise the anger of Jews after clearing the temple marketplace?  
John 2:18-22 (Mark 14:58) = Said the temple would be destroyed, then raised in 3 days  
How important was the temple to the Jews?  
John 4:20 = It was THE place to worship God  
What lesson did Jesus have regarding the importance of worshipping in the temple?  
John 4:21-24 = Temple not important, but to *worship the Father in spirit and truth*

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

How long did it take Solomon to build the temple?  
1 Kings 6:37-38 = 7 years - Write on board  
How long did it take Solomon to build his palace?  
1 Kings 7:1 = 13 years - Compare on board  
How large was the palace and what was it called? = 4 rows of cedar pillars looked like forest  
1 Kings 7:2 (2-12) = 150'L x 75'W x 45'H - *Palace of the Forest of Lebanon*

### 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 = Gave him the wisdom he requested, plus riches, honor & peace  
How extensive was Solomon's kingdom? = Tiphshah was city on Euphrates River  
1 Kings 4:21, 24 = From Tiphshah to Egypt paid tribute to Solomon all his life  
Was this peace a result of Solomon keeping a low profile?  
1 Kings 4:29, 34 = No, the whole world heard of Solomon's wisdom & sought him  
How did Solomon's wisdom & fame help his call of *Blessed to be a Blessing*?  
1 Kings 10:8-9, 23-24 = Made others happy; Brought praise to God from other nations

How did God use Solomon's wisdom to bless him with wealth?  
1 Kings 10:25 = Everyone who came to see him brought gifts  
What was Solomon's annual gold income (besides import taxes & tributes)?  
1 Kings 10:14-15 = 25 tons  
How extravagant did things become for Solomon? = Hung 200 large & 300 small gold shields on walls  
1 Kings 10:16-21 = Goblets & household articles were gold, silver was commonplace

### Solomon's Folly (*Ecclesiastes*)

Did this great wisdom, fame, peace and wealth help Solomon enjoy life to its fullest?  
Ecclesiastes 1:1-4, 9 = It is all meaningless, time marches on, there is nothing new  
What did Solomon do to try to make his life meaningful? = Found everything to be meaningless  
Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:4, 8-11 = Sought science, wisdom, pleasure, productivity, wealth, everything  
How did this affect Solomon?  
Ecclesiastes 2:17-20 = He hated life and began to despair  
What did Solomon eventually conclude about how we should approach the lives God has given us?  
Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 = Enjoy the great blessings that God has given  
Ecclesiastes 12:13 = Fear God and keep His commands - Live in faith and trust in God

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### Solomon's Provisions (1 Kings 4)

How many chariots and horses did Solomon get from Egypt?

1 Kings 10:26 = 1400 chariots, 12,000 horses

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

Deuteronomy 17:16 = God forbade the king to stockpile horses or get them from Egypt

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

1 Kings 4:22-23 = 560 bushels flour & meal, 30 cattle, 100 sheep & goats, others

How were these extensive provisions supplied?

1 Kings 4:27-28 = Each district was taxed (1 month per year), also supplied horse feed

### Solomon's Burden (1 Kings 9)

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

1 Kings 9:20-21 = Turned all non-Jews into slaves

How many laborers did Solomon enlist?

1 Kings 5:13-18 = 30K woodcutters, 70K carriers, 80K stonecutters, 3300 foremen

Where did Solomon get the foremen and his soldiers?

1 Kings 9:22-23 = Drafted Israelites (forced labor)

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

Leviticus 25:42 = Forbidden to make an Israelite a slave

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

1 Kings 12:4 = Asked Solomon's son (Rehoboam) for relief

### Solomon's Downfall (1 Kings 11)

What command had God given Israel that Solomon completely ignored?

1 Kings 11:1-2 = Don't intermarry with others because they will lead you astray

Was Solomon led astray by his wives as God had said? = 700 foreign wives, 300 concubines

1 Kings 11:3-8 = He built high places for his wives' gods & followed Ashtoreth & Molech

How did God decide to punish Solomon for this evil?

1 Kings 11:9-13 = He would tear away all Israel but one tribe from his descendants

### 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)