

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER 10 –1 KINGS 6:1-38

Solomon is a newlywed. He is CEO of a huge kingdom. He is fulfilling his passion and dream of his life. His dream is coming true in the building of this magnificent structure that we are going to rise up from the earth today in this study. What I have been sharing with you over the weeks, one of the things I feel a great obligation about, and that is to help you in the study of each one of these sequences. See if we can find some little clues as to what is going to happen in the rest of the story. We know, that this guy is going to mess up big time before he is done. In order not be so shocked in each of these studies I will get you prepared for the inevitable that is coming. We talked about the peril of prosperity one day, and how wealth can cause us to botch up our priorities. But there is one thing I want to talk about for just a minute. It hits awfully close to home.

Are you aware of the fact that here is a man at the height of his career, fulfilling his purpose and passion, and he doesn't even once mention Shunammite. The fact that he writes a whole book about his love affair with her, he is committed to her as his mate, and yet he never mentions her after the wedding day. Some of you guys are setting here saying I have egg all over my face because I am more concerned about the bottom line

than I am about the precious girl I married back so many years ago. She has been lost in the shuffle in my pursuit of these things. I wonder, if many times, the sad demise of many marriages is simply because men have gotten caught up in the pursuits of what they are doing. They leave their sweetheart out of the most important time of their life, and, that is life itself, which consumes them.

Thad Howard and I were in school together in seminary back when Noah just got off the ark and he wrote a little book. He talks about marriage in it and he says this....

“We have a picture of the perfect partner, but we marry an imperfect person. Then we have two options. Tear up the picture and accept the person, or we can tear up the person and accept the picture.”

J. Grant Howard, Jr.

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Joe Aldridge was the President of the Bible School and he wrote a book called “*Secrets to Inner Beauty*” he says:

“It doesn’t take long for the newlyweds to discover that “everything in one person nobody’s got.” They soon learn that a marriage license is just a learner’s permit, and ask with agony, “Is there life after marriage?”

An old Arab proverb states that marriage begins with a prince kissing an angel and ends with a bald-headed man looking across the table at a fat lady. Socrates told his students, “By all means marry. If you get a good wife, twice blessed you will be. If you get a bad wife, you’ll become a philosopher.” *Count Herman Keyserling* said it well when he stated that “The essential difficulties of life do not end, but rather begin with marriage.”

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Ruth Graham said it well, “It is my job to love Billy. It is God’s job to make him good.”

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You know that is the biblical pattern for marriage.

Doesn’t it bother you like it does me? Here is Shunammite, during the time of their courtship, saying these wonderful words “his banner over me is love.” It’s like he’s so proud of me that everywhere we go he shows me off. Then dropping out of the pages of scripture completely is this little Shunammite, sweetheart from up north in Lebanon.

We will never know what happened to the total deterioration and demise of this man we are studying.

It is great to have a passion and purpose for life isn’t it? Solomon knew, before he ever took the kingdom, that the one passion and purpose that his Dad had, he was to fulfill, because God said so. God says David you are

not going to build this temple. You can do everything to get ready for it but, your son Solomon, is going to be the one who is going to do it.

Solomon is here. He is four years into his kingdom and the time has come for this to take place. Let me draw an adequate picture. He is walking with God. He is on a roll. He is mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually on target. Don't paint the picture wrong just because of what you know is going to happen. This guy is right in the center of God's will. He is sensitive to be obedient to God's will in every way. You look in on his life and he is at the top of his game. Everything is right. He is highly motivated, he is excited, and he is enthusiastic. He is managing 183,850 employees in a seven and a half year project to build this building. We are getting ready to bring up out of the ground.

Verse 1 is one of the most important verses in the Old Testament.

v. 1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord.

There are two accounts of the building of the temple. We have the record here in 1 Kings 6:1-38 that we are going to be considering, but we also have another record in 2 Chronicles chapters 3 and 4. In the Kings'

account we are going to be FOCUSSING primarily on the BUILDING itself.

In the Chronicles passage the FOCUS is more on the FURNITURE than on the building. But at the opening of 2 Chronicles 3 we read this interesting thought...

2 Chronicles 3 Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah, the Jebusite, the place provided by David.

Now you know the historical significance of where this building is being put. You will understand what is going on over there right now, if you understand this. Mount Moriah is the place God instructed Abraham to take Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice back in Genesis 22. Remember in obedience he takes his son and is heading up the mountain and God is bringing a ram up the other side. There on Mount Moriah God provides the ram and Abraham called that place, "The Lord Will Provide." This is a very significant statement of faith on the part of Father Abraham, the Father of the Jewish Nation.

David was disobedient at the end of his life. He took a census of the people basically to minister to his own pride. God would not have any of that so he judged the people in the process for David's mistake. David sees the angel of the Lord taking the lives of innocent

people in the land of Israel. He begs God in this place of worship, at Mount Moriah, the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, as it is the same place.

Now the temple is going to be built here on this location. This is the temple that was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. Ezra took Zerubbabel and the rest of them and they built it one more time. Herod built it again and it was in existence in the time of Christ and it was destroyed in 70 A.D.

Having said all that, where we are today, is at the significant location. You know it in Israel by the pictures you have seen of the Dome of the Rock, that is, the Temple Mount. This one is important because critics make all kinds of fun about Old Testament history. You don't have any problems locating the dates when you put all this together just from this one verse. It is good to document marriages. It is good to document birth. It is good to document significant happenings in your life. This is a BIG HAPPENING, that a temple would be built on location where God would grace that facility with His presence.

We know that Solomon reigned from 971 to 931 B.C. That is 40 years. So it is 480 years after the exodus. Add it on and you come back to around 1440 to 1446 B.C. Somewhere along in there when Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt you have a timeline that fits. Ziv is the second month. The month of Ziv is April

or May in the chart “Calendar of Israel”. At sometime, late spring, this is taking place. It is in the fourth year of his reign. He has thirty-six years left. We have a real marker that we can put down as to when this happened and where we are in biblical history.

v. 2 The temple that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high.

I am going to change all those into feet and inches so it will be a little easier for you. The thing is 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high. It is 2,700 square feet. It is smaller than most of your houses. You say I thought this was a magnificent structure. We are so used to building these big 10,000 seat sanctuaries. People are not coming here to sit around and ask God to come. God is already there and they are just going to go there and meet Him and deal with sin in their lives. There is not going to be any big services taking place in this location that they have to have seating. The 2,700 square feet is going to be fine. It is going to be 90 feet, long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high.

Now on the front is a porch that goes all the way across the front. The porch is 35 feet wide all across the front, and it is 15 feet extended out.

v. 3 The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple extended the width of the temple, that is twenty cubits, and projected ten cubits from the front of the temple.

Let's put some locations on this building. On your right the main entrance is east. The west on the back. The north on top and the south is at the bottom. We are going to use these directions soon so you can stay located and know where we are on the building.

v.4 He made narrow clerestory windows in the temple.

These are little windows up high so the light could get in. It is 45 feet high. Around this on the south side, on the west side and on the north side you have a fabulous 3-story motel unit. It goes up 30 feet high. The distance between 30 feet and 45 to the top is the distance that these little narrow windows are put in all around, kind of like skylights to let light in to the temple proper. He has that much space there. Fifteen feet from the top of the "Red Roof Inn" to the top of the temple. We will talk about the side buildings in these next verses.

v.5 Against the walls of the main hall and inner sanctuary he built a structure around the building, in which there were side rooms.

I am going to give you dimensions on the side rooms as I counted them. There are 33 of them if you take all the measurements that are given to you. It is a 3 story building that has 99 side rooms (33 on each level.) Just like a typical motel unit. On the lower floor you have smaller units. The next floor you have a little bit better

rooms. On the top is the penthouse, the larger rooms. There are 99 side rooms on three levels surrounding the south, west, and the north, leaving the east all open. Those rooms are used for storage, and you will see that they had a lot to store from the tabernacle after they bring all the “stuff” up there. There was a lot of “stuff” they never used that David provided.

They had a place called “the treasury”. Also, the priests had a place to spend the night when they came there to do their temple function or service. They stored all of their vestments and equipment and everything else. All 99 rooms were probably used in something as magnificent as all of this.

v. 6 The lowest floor was five cubits wide, the middle floor six cubits and the third floor seven. He made offset ledges around the outside of the temple so that nothing would be inserted into the temple walls.

All it tells you is on the lower floor the first rooms were 7 feet, 6 inches square. On the second floor they are 9 feet square. On the third floor they were 10 feet, 6 inches square. All had 7 feet 6 inches ceilings. This describes the rooms of these three levels on three sides, north, west and south.

When you get to verse 7 there is a lot of conjecture on this. I don't know if you will come up with something that is more meaningful, consider the word

“reverence”. Listen to this verse and see if you can get a feeling why Solomon made this very specific instruction of these employees in the process of building the temple.

v. 7 In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.

You expect in a construction site you are going to hear a lot of jackhammers and chisels, nailing and pounding of steel and, swearing and carrying on. Solomon says’ “sorry” it is not going to happen. All those things are going to take place somewhere else, but they are not going to take place on the Temple Mount. I thought about Isaiah 32:17.

Isaiah 32:17

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

Those are thoughts that we can have. God works in silence. When you and I are before Him He gets a real opportunity to speak and make significant contributions to our life. It is when we are noisy, so busy and so active, that we never get a chance to hear Him. Basically, we are programming ourselves like that because we don’t want to hear what He has to say. Too many times we do that. It is in that quietness that

things happen. Another thought you have to put in here and that is Ephesians 2:21-22.

Eph.2:21-22

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. In him, you too are being built to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Every time a person becomes a Christian he is a living stone in a temple that is being built and that is the church universal. This is a silent building that is going up every time somebody is born again into God's family. He is a stone put in that living building, that gigantic temple, the church universal.

Peter says the same thing in 1 Peter 2:5

1 Peter 2:5

you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

This is something that goes on. The building of the church universal is a process as saints are being added to it.

I have a couple of thoughts:

When you go to a funeral why is it that you always whisper, and you quiet. It is a very sacred moment.

You have been confronted with your own mortality and you don't have a lot to say right now. You can't avoid it, it is right before you. The evidence is that somebody's computer printout ran out. His time down here is done and he is out of here. Guess what, you might be next so you sit there and whisper. You realize this is serious business.

You do the same thing in a hospital. You go to see somebody and you whisper and are quiet because they are sick. It is sacred.

A lot of times we have places in our lives where we get still. We go to a church sanctuary and whisper and sit in silence because we have met God there at times before and it is a special place. "Reverence", is a good word here. It is a respect for what is going on.

I think Solomon wants everyone to know that is my PASSION. This is the LONGING OF MY HEART. This is GOD coming to dwell in this place. This is a big deal! Let's treat it with the utmost respect and reverence. We don't do that do we?

Patrick & Lowth 16th Century Commentator said:

Peace and quiet, should be in the Christian church, where all things should be done without contention.

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Mike Yaconelli is very outspoken. You never have to guess where he is coming from and he publishes a magazine called....*The Wittenburg Door* everyone likes to read. He says this about petty people and I think he nailed it:

Petty people are ugly people. They are people who have lost their vision. They are people who have turned their eyes away from what matters and focused, instead, on what doesn't matter. The result is that the rest of us are immobilized by their obsession with the insignificant.

Pettiness has become a serious disease in the Church of Jesus Christ—a disease which continues to result in terminal cases of discord, disruption, and destruction. Petty people are dangerous people because they appear to be only a nuisance instead of what they really are—a health hazard.

The Wittenburg Door, December 1984/January 1985
Bill Hybels, of course, has been through a lot of that at Willow Creek, a huge church in the residential areas of Chicago. He describes in his book the key to our congregation is that the sincere people dominate over the insincere. Or you can say the people who are really filled with passion dominate those who are filled with pettiness. He uses this story....

It's about a newly promoted Colonel who had moved into a makeshift office during the Gulf War. He had just arrived and was getting things organized, when out of the corner of his eye he saw a private coming his way, carrying a tool box. Wanting to seem important, he quickly spun around and picked up his phone. "Yes, General Schwarzkof, yes, yes, of course, I think that's an excellent plan," he said. "You've got my support on it. Thanks for checking with me. Let's touch base again soon, Norm. Goodbye." And he briskly hung up and turned around.

"And what can I do for you?" he asked the private. "Ahh, I'm just here to hook up your phone".

Being a Contagious Christian by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg

Joseph M. Stowell is one of my favorite authors.

Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century

He tells a cute story about how a Pastor's wife humbles her husband and helps her husband to realize he is NOT on the pedestal that everybody in the church thinks. One night she confesses:

"Honey, in all of these years we have been married I have kept something from you. It is a little box, and Honey if you ever find it don't you dare open it.

“Well you know what that does to a man. She has gone on a shopping spree the next day and he is just going through the house looking for that box. He finds it under the bed. The temptation is so great he can’t wait to open it. He opens it and looks in there and there are three eggs in there and \$2,000. He says wow, puts the lid down and is guilty as sin. He feels terrible that he would betray his wife. So she comes home and he says, “Honey I can’t preach on Sunday with a guilty conscience. I have got to tell you. I searched the house, found the box, and I looked in it. I am devastated. I am sorry I did it. I hope this doesn’t disappoint you too much.” “Honey, why were there three eggs in that box?” She says, “I have to confess this, every time you preached a bad sermon, I put an egg in there.” He is thinking man we have been married for thirty-five years and she has only put in three eggs, that is not bad for a preacher! What is the \$2,000 for, she said “Well every time I got a dozen I sold them”.

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The silent use of our gifts, abilities and our talents to build the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, is the picture Solomon wants to depict. It is a reverent, sacred task going to be placed on this mountain.

v.8 The entrance to the lowest floor was on the south side of the temple; a stairway led up to the middle level and from there to the third.

I didn't put an entrance on the south side to the motel units. The eastern gate, out through the eastern entrance is the way the worshippers come in. The staff working came in the south entrance.

v. 9 So he built the temple and completed it, roofing it with beams of cedar and planks.

v.10 And he built the side rooms all around the temple. The height of each was five cubits, and they were attached to the temple by beams of cedar. The ceilings were 7 ft. 6 in. high in each of the rooms.

Isn't it interesting that we are caught up in this building and all of a sudden God says, "STOP, I AM BLOWING THE WHISTLE, I AM SENDING MY MEN. I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY TO YOU."

When God says stop and God says I want to say something to you, you better shut up and you better find some place to sit down and you better let God speak.

The most significant about this is right here, in the midst of all of this confusion, and construction, God sends a man. We don't even know his name. We do know that Nathan went to David anytime God wanted to say something to David. There is an unnamed prophet that walks into this construction scene and

says “Solomon, I have something that I want to say to you.”

I think it is so important, right in the middle of the study, to ask us a question. Is God trying to say something to me? Am I too busy to hear what He has to say? Here God stops Solomon to say something very important.

v.11 The word of the Lord came to Solomon:

What is the word going to say in this special message in verse 12 and verse 13.

v.12 “As for this temple you are building (that’s your project, that’s your passion – big word IF and then there are four verbs. If you follow, if you carry out, if you keep and if you obey – now put the rest of the words: if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father.

Big condition. Listen to what the Lord is saying to him, “Solomon in the pursuit of your passion don’t forget obedience. It is the most important priority in your life in the fulfillment of any purpose of mine that you manifest always an unconditional obedience toward me if you expect me to bless this project.”

OBEDIENCE, DOMINANT, FIRST PLACE

This is the thing that is going to nail him later on in the rest of the story. He is not listening to what God is saying here. There are three (I WILLS). If (four verbs), you do this (I WILL, I WILL, I WILL) three times. I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. When you read that is there any word that just kind of jumps out at you? You see the word that really jumps out at me is the word “THROUGH”. I love that.

We get so mixed up and we think we are doing things for God and God wants to do things THROUGH us. He doesn't want your ability, He wants your availability. He wants to do three of that which is called to be done through you.

He says to Solomon, “You can relax, I want to do this through you in fulfilling the promise I gave to your father David.” Now you know when Jesus was here he taught basically the same thing. In John 15 when he is on His way down to the Garden of Gethsemane, He is less than twelve hours from the beginning of the Cross, he says in John 15:4-5.

John 15:4-5

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 12:24-25

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

That is exactly what he told the Philippians.

Philippians 1:20

eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 4:13

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Here is a principle:

OBEDIENCE FREES THE FATHER TO WORK IN US AND THEN THROUGH US!

Obedience frees the Father to work in us FIRST and then through us. Mind you, you can't get the cart before the horse. The Father must work IN YOU, before he will work THROUGH YOU. A lot of people today try to work for the Father, without allowing the Father to work in them first. Obedience will put things in the correct order. Question is: AM I AVAILABLE for God to fulfill His passion and purpose in my life. I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father.

v.13 And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel.”

What is the dominant word that comes out of that whole message? “OBEDIENCE”. Just do what I ask you to do, and don't go your own way. I am ready to work. I am available to do in you, and through you, if you just allow me to do so.

Tony Evans on the prophet Jonah says:

My Christian brother, let me tell you something. You can go straight to Nineveh when God first calls you, or you can let Him take you there. Now it's going to be a wet, scary ride if God has to take you, but sometimes that's what has to happen because we don't like anyone telling us what to do.

No More Excuses: Be the Man God Made You to Be by
Tony Evans
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I just finished reading the book *Meeting God at the Dead End* by Ron Mehl. Ron is an author with Questar. I have tracked with him through his ministry in Portland. He has leukemia and, just a year ago, a very serious heart attack. It is a miracle that he is alive today. In the last illustration in the book he tells about the earthquake on Interstate 5 that took out a bridge. This is a major freeway of the Pacific Northwest from Vancouver, B.C. all the way to Southern California. The police immediately put up barricades. A person in a van drove up and saw the barricades and thought they were crazy. You can see the van tracks going around the barricades. Can you ask yourself the question...what were they thinking when they plunged hundreds of feet below?

You see humanity is doing it today in their arrogance and pride. They go past the barricades, and past the restraints in a way, which seems right to man, but ends in the way of death. Solomon, himself, Proverbs 14:12

Proverbs14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Just go around it. Just fail to read the instructions. Just fail to acknowledge it and the tragic consequences. Right here in the middle of all of this grandeur and success and, all the sensitivity to God, the Lord would send a prophet. He would tell Solomon

this is what has to be done. When this is done this is what I am going to do through you, and for you, if you will only express it in OBEDIENCE.

You know a lot of people criticize Chuck Colson. It was like a political move to get out of Watergate to save his face by coming to know Jesus. All of those critics have been stopped now with the Prison Ministry that touches millions and millions of prisoners every year. I found this statement the other day.

***Inspiring Quotations* compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.**

It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; he wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; he demands our obedience. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of paradox, where through the ugly defeat of a cross a holy God is utterly glorified. Victory comes through defeat; healing through brokenness; finding self through losing self.

Charles W. Colson

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***If Mama Ain't Happy, Ain't Nobody Happy* by Lindsey O'Connor
pp.114-15**

An elderly black man had reached the pinnacle of 86 years and he was asked by a friend..." How have you

lived 86 years with such poise and calm assurance?” That black man said things that were so incredible in a simple statement...” I learned early in my life to cooperate with the inevitable”. The inevitable is the sovereignty of God, and when you learn to submit and cooperate with that, you are going to be all right.

Building High Commitment in a Low Commitment World by Bill Hull

“Anything less than a conscious commitment to the important is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant.”

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If you have not surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are not experiencing and knowing the joy that could be yours.

v.14 So Solomon built the temple and completed it.

Now notice this 2700 square foot building is worth millions of dollars. Look at the rest of that.

v.15 He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of pine.

v.16 He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the

temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.

Remember the tabernacle. You come into the HOLY PLACE and then you come into the HOLY OF HOLIES. He is talking about the HOLY of HOLIES now. This is a thirty foot cube. This is where the Ark is going to be. The only piece of furniture that is going to come out of the tabernacle and go into this new temple is the Ark. Everything else is brand new in the building. Look what he does with this most HOLY PLACE. This HOLY OF HOLIES in building it.

v.17 The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long.

This is where the Altar of Incense, the Lamp Stands, and the Tables are located. There is one thing I discovered in this, and I don't know why. There is one Altar of Incense in the tabernacle. There is one Lamp Stand on the left and there is one Table of God's presence on the right. Outside there is one table to wash. Now you take all of those and multiply them by 10. You have ten tables, ten lamps and you have ten washbasins. I don't know why it is such a big thing that they multiply it by 10.

v. 18 The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar, no stone was to be seen.

v.19 He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the Lord there.

v. 20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.

The only thing that is not mentioned in the Kings passage is the veil. It is mentioned in 2 Chronicles 3:14.

2 Chronicles 3:14

He made the curtain of blue, purple and crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim worked into it.

You know the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place.

v. 21 Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, which was overlaid with gold.

v. 22 So he overlaid the whole interior with gold. He also overlaid with gold the altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.

v.23 In the inter sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

Instead of just having the Ark in there, there are two cherubim in there. These two cherubim are angelic beings. They are 15 ft. high and they have a 15 ft. wingspan. In a 30 ft. room one wing tip touches that wall, one wing tip is touching the middle and the other wing tip touches the other wall and the Ark is sitting right down in front of it. This is what the temple Holy of Holies is going to look like when the priest goes in there and what he is going to see on the Day of Atonement. On top of that these cherubim are covered with solid gold. Stop and think how you are running up your costs on what is taking place.

v.24 One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip.

v.25 The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape.

v.26 The height of each cherub was ten cubits.

v.27 He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.

v.28 He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

You are saying I am getting caught up in all the details I am getting bored.

v.29 On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.

v.30 He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.

v.31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs.

v.32 And on the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold.

v.33 In the same way he made four-sided jambs of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall.

v.34 He also made two pine doors, each having two leaves that turned in sockets.

v.35 He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

v.36 And he built the inner courtyard of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams.

v.37 The foundation of the temple of the Lord was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv.

The above verses are just the description of the doors and some of the artwork on it.

v.38 In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.

In the eleventh year of his reign (he has twenty-nine years left of his reign) the temple was finished in all of its details and specifications. He had spent seven years building it. Really it is seven years and six months total to get this project done.

If you have ever been in Leviticus you are overwhelmed by the detail of the sacrifices in order to just gain a hearing in the presence of God and, to be acceptable by Him. When you look at this building today and you look at the incredible sacrifices that have to take place to gain acceptance in the presence of God I am shouting Hallelujah. The Lord Jesus, my Priest, came down to earth as the Son of God and offered one perfect sacrifice upon the Cross, the

shedding of His blood. He made that one sacrifice as the Lamb of God to make me acceptable in His presence and, I don't have anything to fear with regard to my eternal destiny. I am hooked up with the attorney that is going to represent me. He has never lost a case.

This is the simplicity of the Gospel and we should thank God today when we see these incredible things that happen in the Old Testament that lead up to that.

Chuck Colson is speaking on a college campus and while he is giving the lecture a student, who is very cynical, as Colson makes this confession..." I love Jesus Christ and I would be willing too lay down my life for the Savior that I love and serve". One of the cynics in the audience says..." C'mon Colson! Nothing is worth dying for!". Colson makes that great statement, "If there is nothing you are willing to die for, then I submit you have nothing to live for."

The Pleasures of God by John Piper

"I have not honored him as I should. In fact, I have dishonored him all my life in one way or another—sometimes just forgetting about him, and sometimes indifferent to his presence, sometimes distrusting his promises, sometimes angry at his way of running the world. I do not see how he could go on taking infinite pleasure in his own glory and still get so excited about me—even exult over me with loud singing."

p.199

You know one of the hardest things in the world is to simply surrender and allow the Father to orchestrate the circumstances in your life, no matter what they are, for His glory and honor.

LESSON #1: When we receive Jesus Christ as Savior, we, too, are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Cornerstone.

LESSON #2: “And the Word became flesh and tabernacle among us and we behold His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father full of grace and truth.”(John 1:14.)

LESSON #3: “Do you know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16.)

LESSON #4: “But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation, and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood. He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (Hebrews 9:11-12.)

LESSON #5: In quietness the temple is being built and so is the body of Christ as dear ones put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON #6: The Lord places a very high priority upon obedience in this passage.

LESSON#7: The Lord promises that He “will fulfill through [Solomon] the promise that [He] gave to David [his] father.”

LESSON #8: It is the Lord’s desire as well to work through us, He is more interested in our availability than He is our ability.

LESSON #9: If they are obedient they will experience the Lord’s presence among them.

LESSON#10: How tragic it is when the glory of the Lord departs.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON
STUDY NUMBER NINE – 1 KINGS 6:1-38

NOTES

1 KINGS 6:1-38

6:1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord.

6:2 The temple that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high.

6:3 The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple extended the width of the temple, that is twenty cubits, and projected ten cubits from the front of the temple.

6:4 He made narrow clerestory windows in the temple.

6:5 Against the walls of the main hall and inner sanctuary he built a structure around the building, in which there were side rooms.

6:6 The lowest floor was five cubits wide, the middle floor six cubits and the third floor seven. He made offset ledges around the outside of the temple so that nothing would be inserted into the temple walls.

6:7 In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.

6:8 The entrance to the lowest x floor was on the south side of the temple; a stairway led up to the middle level and from there to the third.

6:9 So he built the temple and completed it, roofing it with beams and cedar planks.

6:10 And he built the side rooms all along the temple. The height of each was five cubits, and they were attached to the temple by beams of cedar.

6:11 The word of the Lord came to Solomon:

6:12 "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father.

6:13 And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel."

6:14 So Solomon built the temple and completed it.

6:15 He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of pine.

6:16 He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within

the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place.

6:17 The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long.

6:18 The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen.

6:19 He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the Lord there.

6:20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.

6:21 Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, which was overlaid with gold.

6:22 So he overlaid the whole interior with gold. He also overlaid with gold the altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.

6:23 In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

6:24 One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip.

6:25 The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape.

6:26 The height of each cherub was ten cubits.

6:27 He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.

6:28 He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

6:29 On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.

6:30 He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.

6:31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs.

6:32 And on the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold.

6:33 In the same way he made four-sided jambs of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall.

6:34 He also made two pine doors, each having two leaves that turned in sockets.

6:35 He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

6:36 And he built the inner courtyard of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams.
6:37 The foundation of the temple of the Lord was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv.
6:38 In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 6:1-38 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. When did the building project of the temple begin, according to verse 1?

3. Describe the building process, according to verse 7.

4. What does the Lord say to Solomon in verses 12 & 13?

5. Describe the inner sanctuary, according to verse 20.

6. What did Solomon do with all the walls around the temple, according to verse 29?

7. Describe the doors, according to verse 32.

8. How long did it take Solomon to complete the temple project, according to verses 37 & 38?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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