

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER 11 – 1 KINGS 7:1-12

In the Houston Police Department they came up with a list of things that would make “a sure fire juvenile delinquent”. If, as a parent, you follow these rules you will end up with a juvenile delinquent. Do you know what the top of the list is? Begin with infancy to give your child everything he wants. This will ensure his believing that the world owes him a living. This is the parental mistake that David made. He gave Solomon everything that he could ever want. He had never known sacrifice, and he had never known hard work in order to achieve something. Now, he sits upon the throne of this incredible kingdom, over the Nation Israel. This is a spoiled boy that has everything given to him. To show you the sodality of this, it is not easy to talk about and it makes us all squirm, teacher and students included.

Paul told Timothy these words: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

1 Timothy 6:6-10 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of

all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

The reason we are studying Solomon like this is he is at the height of his career. What he does today in this study is botch up his priorities. I want you to see him. The pining is suddenly eroding and there are some sad things that are taking place behind all the grandeur of this building.

Last week we ended the study with the building of the temple in seven and one-half years.

As we pick up in Chapter 7:1 we are moving on in his reign to the next project he has.

v.1 It took Solomon, thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace.

The temple has been built in seven and one-half years. Now we have thirteen years involved in building his palace. I have two questions:

Why did it take him so long to do it?

Why did he do it when Hiram already provided all that was necessary for David to have a good palace?

Why couldn't he just move in there?

The same reason you and I can't move into a house that's smaller or older. Every time you build a house

you make a statement and it ministers to your pride. You have to do your own thing when it comes to building. It has to be big and magnificent because it is a reflection of you and me. Solomon is going to do the very same thing.

This building complex we are getting ready to look at is probably about ten times bigger than the temple. The temple was 2,700 square feet and it was just one building. This is going to be five buildings before we get through. It is not only a bigger project but it is tough to get people to do something for you selfishly.

He can't turn to the 183,050 people who have worked on the temple because this is for him. This is personal. So the work force he gets is not going to be as extensive to do the job. Remember, David provided everything for the temple. It was a piece of cake. All he had to do was administrate.

So how is this building going to look?

v. 2 He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high, with four rows of cedar columns supporting trimmed cedar beams.

The first building is called the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon because so many trees are used in the building of it. It is almost all timber. This is the first

building in a complex of five buildings. Just think of a campus in your mind with five different buildings surrounded by some beautiful gardens and, a wall that goes around it, just like the temple.

It is 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. You know how much total square footage that is? 11,250 square feet. This is four times the size of the temple, just one building.

Now what they used this building for we don't know. This may have been the armory where their weapons were stored. This may have been a building to store the historical records of Israel we just don't know. This is an incredible building.

v. 3 It was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the columns—forty-five beams, fifteen to a row.

You have three beams, fifteen in each one. If you want to use contemporary terminology, it was covered with cedar shakes, almost completely with cedar.

Notice its windows. Verse 4

v. 4 Its windows were placed high in sets of three, facing each other.

The top it is forty-five feet off the ground. The windows were like skylights to let light in.

v. 5 All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in front part in sets of three, facing each other.

There's the first building, it's 11,250 square feet.

The second building verse 6 is called the House of Pillars. This is probably where they displayed some of the great shields that are described in some of the other passages of scripture.

v. 6 He made a colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty wide. In front of it was a portico, and in front of that were Pillars and an overhanging roof.

This is seventy-five feet long and 45 feet wide. This second building is 3,375 square feet. We are getting close to fifteen thousand square feet in these two buildings. And we are not even done yet. We are not even half way. The House of Pillars is the second building.

The third building is in verse 7.

v. 7 He built the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge, and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling.

This is one building, and it's his office where the work of the kingdom goes on. We don't have any dimensions but this must have been a big place. We do know that he made a fabulous throne for himself and also for his Mother, Bathsheba. It is pretty ostentatious. It is the "throne hall", the Hall of Justice and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling.

I imagine there was also some gold in there although he doesn't say it.

We have three buildings and there are two left.

The next two get my nose out of joint. They are the residences and sit in the back part of the property. The first three buildings are up in the front.

Evidently this complex is south of the Temple Mount. Archeologists have not yet found any remains. They would love to find some.

You would then have the residence of Solomon, verse 8.

v. 8 And the palace in which he was to live, set farther back, was similar in design. Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.

It was equal in character and dimensions to the judgment hall, the Hall of Justice. He didn't make a place for her where she was going to dwell with him. He made a place for himself and then he made a place

for her. You look at that and there are two things that bother you. There are some things you have to remember that will help you. It bothers you that he goes to all this trouble to make this home for the Pharaoh's daughter but didn't make one for Shunammite, the little Lebanese princess who he married in one of our previous studies. We are wondering where she is. We wonder more since Shunammite is a Lebanese lady and Pharaoh's daughter is an Egyptian, south of the border. Is this a double standard?

2nd Chronicles 8:11 Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David, king of Israel, because the places the ark of the Lord has entered are holy."

He built a separate place for her because she is not clean. She can't live, and for me to be a godly king, anywhere the ark of the presence of God has been. God is not condoning what is going on here. What I am telling you is this guy is getting weird. He is getting more double standard quirks. He is caught up in material things. He spends thirteen years building this and when it comes to his relationships he is disobedient. He knows it and makes compensation for it.

v. 9 All these structures, from the outside to the great

courtyard from foundation to eaves, were made of blocks of high-grade stone cut to size and trimmed with a saw on their inner and outer faces.

There is one word that occurs in every one of verse 9, 10 & 11 and it is the quality of the stone. How important in this building is what kind of stone you use? Notice what it says in verse 9, they were cut of high-grade stone.

v. 10 The foundations were laid with large stones of good quality, some measuring ten cubits and some eight.

In 1st Kings 5:17 we saw the stones that were used in the temple of high quality.

1st Kings 5:17 At the king's command they removed from the quarry large blocks of quality stone to provide a foundation of dressed stone for the temple.

v. 11 Above were high grade stones, cut to size, and cedar beams.

This reminds you again of the Sermon on the Mount. The foolish man builds his house on the sand.

v. 12 The great courtyard was surrounded by a wall of three courses of dressed stone and one course of

trimmed cedar beams, as was the inner courtyard of the temple of the Lord with its portico.

There is a comparison to the landscaping of the outer part. The perimeters of these five building are surrounded by this wall.

You looked at it. What do you think?

How do you feel about Solomon at this point?

He spent all of his time and all of his resources to make this statement...GREAT COMPLEX!

The one thing that all men need to learn about joy is that it has nothing to do with material things, or with a man's outward circumstances. It is the simple fact of the human experience that a man living in the lap of luxury can be wretched, and a man in the depths of poverty can overflow with joy.

William Barclay

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1 Many times the building of a house is for the purpose of making a statement and ministers to our pride.

LESSON #2 “But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

LESSON #3 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21).

LESSON #4 “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2)

LESSON #5 “And he carried me away in the ‘Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:10).

LESSON # 6 “In my Father’s house are many dwelling Places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for

I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

LESSON #7 Solomon has broken the Law by marrying Pharaoh’s daughter.

LESSON #8 His present compromises will lead to future condemnation.

LESSON #9 If Christians were afraid of worldliness as much as they are of holiness it would set the world on fire for Christ.

**LESSON #10 “There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart’s desire and the other is to get it”
(George Bernard Shaw).**

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STUDY NUMBER ELEVEN – 1 KINGS 7:1-12

NOTES

1 KINGS 7:1-12

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 7:1-12 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What project is Solomon undertaking in this passage?

3. How long did it take Solomon to complete this project, and compare the length of time involved in building the temple?

4. What did he build as part of the palace, according to verse 7?

5. Describe what Solomon is doing in verse 8.

6. What do all these structures have in common, according to verse 9?

7. How are the foundations prepared, according to verse 10?

8. Describe the great courtyard, according to verse 12.

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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