

## Bible Readings

### 1 Kings 5:1-18

#### **Preparations for Building the Temple**

**5** When Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms with David. **2** Solomon sent back this message to Hiram:

**3** "You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD put his enemies under his feet. **4** But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. **5** I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God, as the LORD told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.'

**6** "So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians."

**7** When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was greatly pleased and said, "Praise be to the LORD today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation."

**8** So Hiram sent word to Solomon:

"I have received the message you sent me and will do all you want in providing the cedar and juniper logs. **9** My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the Mediterranean Sea, and I will float them as rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate them and you can take them away. And you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household."

<sup>10</sup>In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and juniper logs he wanted, <sup>11</sup> and Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, in addition to twenty thousand baths of pressed olive oil. Solomon continued to do this for Hiram year after year. <sup>12</sup> The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

<sup>13</sup> King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel—thirty thousand men. <sup>14</sup> He sent them off to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor. <sup>15</sup> Solomon had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hills, <sup>16</sup> as well as thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workers. <sup>17</sup> At the king's command they removed from the quarry large blocks of high-grade stone to provide a foundation of dressed stone for the temple. <sup>18</sup> The craftsmen of Solomon and Hiram and workers from Byblos cut and prepared the timber and stone for the building of the temple.

### **Ephesians 2:19-22**

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

## Sermon: House Plans

26-Sep-21

G'Day Church Family

We're **continuing** our **series** on the OT book of **1 Kings**.

It would be great to have your **bible turned to 1 Kings 5** – starting at verse 1. You may have a sermon **outline** - if you'd like to **take notes**.

Let me **ask God** to grant us **understanding** this morning

Let's pray...

### Intro

During my **time off recently**, I decided to **repaint my back deck**

It shouldn't take too long – now, should it?

Well – the deck had a **table setting**, a **swing chair** that was rusting away, a **cubby house** for the grandkids and a **BBQ**

It took almost a day and half just to get everything off the deck

The **cubby** house had to be **dismantled**

**Dismantling the old swing chair** took ages because it was **rusty**

Then I had to go to **Bunnings** and get some **deck cleaner** and then **gurney** the deck to clean it - before I could even think about **painting** it

The deck also has a **staircase** and **railings** which also **had to be cleaned**

So, 3-4 days later – I was finally ready to pain the deck

So, all in all about **7-8 full day's work!**

A big job!

My reason for telling you all this is that when we undertake big tasks, we need to **plan** them carefully and make all the necessary **preparations** - even work out how much it's going to cost – BEFORE we start the job!

As our Session Clerk **Geoff** would say – **Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance**

In our **OT passage** from **1 Kings chapter 5** this morning King **Solomon** makes **preparations** to build a **Temple** for the Name of the Lord.

This is a **massive job** – way bigger than my deck – and here we have a **whole chapter** describing how **Solomon planned and prepared to build the temple**. And of course, again, it **requires great wisdom** – **wisdom** that **God has blessed Solomon with!**

### **Context (1 Kings 6:1)**

So, we pick up the story in **verse 1** where **Hiram King of Tyre** heard about Solomon being anointed as King of Israel – and Hiram sent an envoy to **congratulate Solomon**. The main reason for that was to **maintain a good relationship with Israel** - Hiram **previously** had a **good friendship** with Solomon's father, **David**.

When a new king or leader is installed in a country – any **existing relationships** with other nations – need to be **fostered** – in case they are lost.

Solomon welcomed Hiram reaching out

And he begins to make preparations for building the Temple for the Lord

So, I'd like to look at three things this morning to do with the Temple Preparations

[PowerPoint 1-Promises]

Firstly – **Temple preparations confirm God's promises** – that's verses 2 to 6

Let's **remind** ourselves of a **promise** that **God made** to Solomon's father **David**

From 2 Samuel 7:11-13

[PowerPoint 2-Promise to David]

Here's what God promised David:

"I will also give you **rest from all your enemies**. 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, **I will raise up your offspring to succeed you**, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> **He is the one who will build a house for my Name**, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

### **Temple Preparations confirm God's Promises (1 Kings 5:2-6)**

- As we hit **verses 2 to 6** – we see **these promises fulfilled**

[PowerPoint 3-Promises]

- See v2 – **Solomon** sends a **message** back to **Hiram**
- Explaining in v3 that his father, **David**, couldn't build a temple for the Name of the Lord God because David was **constantly at war** with the surrounding nations
- Basically, David was a **warrior king** – often reactive – rather than proactive
- And Solomon said the Lord had to put all David's enemies under His feet before any thought of building a temple for the Lord
- That time has now come – as Solomon says in v4 – the **Lord my God** has given me rest on every side and there is no adversary or disaster.
- And the time has also come for David's son, **Solomon**, to **fulfil God's promise** – in v5 – and **build a House for God's name**
- Application:

- From this we can grab hold of a **golden truth**: *God always keeps His promises in His own perfect timing*
- As Joshua 21:45 reminds us: **Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.**
- With the confidence of knowing that God always keeps His promises – **Solomon boldly steps out in faith to make preparations for the temple**
- See v6 – He **requests** that **Hiram** arrange for **cedar trees of Lebanon** to be cut down **by the neighbouring Sidonians** - and **Solomon promises to pay Hiram's men** and they **will work alongside Solomon's men**
- Application:
- Can we see how when we trust in God's promises – **it empowers us to step out in faith.** Solomon knows God has promised that Solomon himself would be the one to build the temple – and this empowers him.
- For us – knowing God promise that *He will never leave us nor forsake* – knowing God promise that *if He is for us, it doesn't matter who is against us* – knowing and believing God's promises - should empower us!
- Application:
- Can we also see that just as God's promised to put all of David's enemies under his feet – this should remind us that *God sent Jesus to put the enemies of Satan, evil, sin and death under his feet* (Matthew 22:44 and 1 Corinthians 15:25-26) – and that *Jesus gives us rest from our enemy of sin and death* – through Jesus' death and resurrection. And so, we can hang on to God's promise – ***that all who***

*confess their sins will be forgiven* (1 John 1:9) – *and that all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life* (John 3:16)

So, my 1<sup>st</sup> point is: – **Temple preparations confirm God's promises**

### Temple Preparations bring Kingdom blessings (vv7-11)

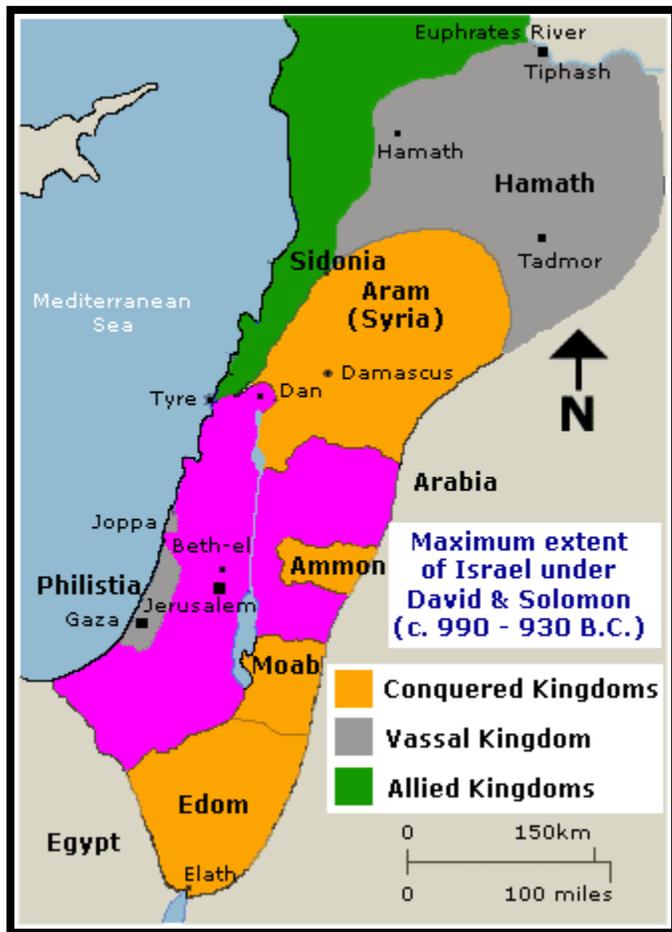
Secondly – we see **temple preparations bring Kingdom blessings**

[PowerPoint 4-Blessings]

- **See v7** – look at how Hiram responds to Solomon's request
- **Hiram was greatly pleased** that Solomon was **on the throne** of Israel – and **he praised the Lord** for giving David such a wise son as Solomon
- Now remember Hiram is not a Jew – he's from the **Gentile land of Tyre**
- But Hiram praises the Lord – and the **Hebrew word he uses for Lord** – is **YHWH** – it's the name for God – that the Jewish people use – when they are talking about God being in a covenant relationship with them – it's this name of God – that the temple is being built for
- This **shows** that **Hiram** at the very least **respected and honoured the Lord God of Israel** – most likely because of the **relationship Hiram had with David** – and the because David had shared his faith in the Lord God of Israel – and because David had been a **light to the Gentiles**
- Application
- For us – sharing our faith in Jesus **starts with friendships** – not Bible bashing. We **develop** our **friendship** with a non-Christian – they see our life and witness – and then we share the Good News of Jesus with them.

- Hiram is so impressed with Solomon – that in **v8&9** – **Hiram says he is willing to send all the cedar and juniper logs that Solomon needs** – and his men will haul them down from Lebanon and float them on the Mediterranean Sea
- See map

[PowerPoint 5-Map]



- [Explain where Tyre, Sidon and Lebanon is – and cedar floated down sea]
- It's a massive job
- Application:
- Hiram's praise of the Lord God of Israel – even though Hiram is a Gentile – **shows he honours God – the King of Heaven and Earth** – and it foreshadows that **Jesus' kingdom is available to both Jews and Gentiles** – **Jesus' kingdom is available to**

all who believe – and it foreshadows a time – when Jesus will return – a time when - **everyone will acknowledge and bow down to King Jesus** (Phil 2:10-11) – those who have believed in Jesus will bow down in great joy – those who haven't believed in Jesus will bow down in great despair

### [PowerPoint 6-Blessings]

- We should also see that in these temple preparations – **God provides all that is needed for Solomon's Kingdom**
- God provides Hiram to help and to supply the cedar and juniper logs
- God provides the men to float the logs down to Solomon
- And because God had blessed Solomon's kingdom - Solomon is able to supply Hiram King of Tyre with all his needs for his kingdom – see v11 – Solomon supplies Hiram with 3,250,000 Kg of wheat and 440,000 litres of olive oil – per year!
- **Per year!** It gives us some idea of how much God has blessed Solomon's kingdom!
- Application
- For us – living in God's Kingdom – God provides what/who we need to help us – just as he supplied Solomon with help from Hiram and the building materials he needed – and just as God supplied what Solomon needed to pay Hiram - God also supplies all we need!

My 2<sup>nd</sup> point is – **temple preparations bring Kingdom blessings**

[PowerPoint 7-Wisdom]

**Temple Preparations show God's Wisdom (vv12-18)**

Thirdly –we see **temple preparations show God's wisdom** – that's in **verses 12 to 18**

- Back in chapter 3 verse 12 – God promised to give **Solomon a wise and discerning heart**
- Here in v12 of chapter 5 – that **promise is fulfilled** – **the Lord gave Solomon wisdom**
- And we see that wisdom from God
  - In Solomon's dealings with Hiram
  - In the agreement with Hiram to get the cedar and juniper logs from Lebanon
  - In the peace treaty with Hiram in verse 12
  - In the 30,000 strong workforce in v13
  - In the organisation of 10,000 men working one month and resting at home for two months in v14
  - In the 70,000 carriers and 80,000 stonecutters in v15
  - In the 3,300 foremen supervising the building project in v16
  - In the preparation of blocks of high-grade stone for the foundation for the temple in v17
  - And in the craftsmen that prepared timber and stone for building the temple in v18
- Application
- In these temple preparations - importantly Solomon used his wisdom from God to bring glory to the Lord God of Israel – by giving the people a focus point for the

presence of the Lord – The Temple – The House for the Name of the Lord’s – so that they could worship their Lord God

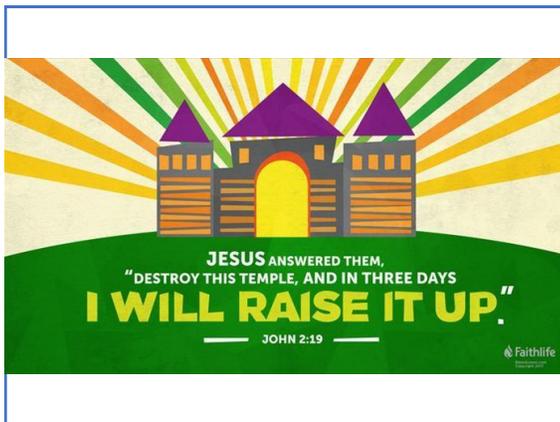
- Application
- We must use our God-given wisdom in our Kingdom work in sharing the Gospel of Jesus - to always be focusing on bringing glory to God and not ourselves
  
- Application
- Also – as God supplies us with wisdom
  - We should use that God-given wisdom to plan and prepare ahead as Solomon did
  - And we should also commit our plans to the Lord
  - As Proverbs 16:3 says: Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans
  - As Psalm 127:1 says: Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.
  - It’s so easy for us to start doing something **without** committing our plans to God first?
- Application
- In preparing to build the temple – Solomon had many skilled workers with different skills all working together for the sake of the temple to be built
- As Christians we have a church – with many people with different skills – God uses those various skills to build His church

My 3<sup>rd</sup> point is –temple preparations show God’s wisdom

## God's "Physical" Temple foreshadows God's "Spiritual" Temple (Ephesians 2:19-22)

- Now the temple that Solomon is preparing to build is a "Physical" Temple built for God – but it foreshadows a "Spiritual" Temple
- In John's Gospel (John 2:13-21) – when Jesus came to the Temple in Jerusalem – He found people had turned the temple courts into a market stall – and He was really angry at the total disrespect and dishonour of His Father's House

### [PowerPoint 8-Temple]

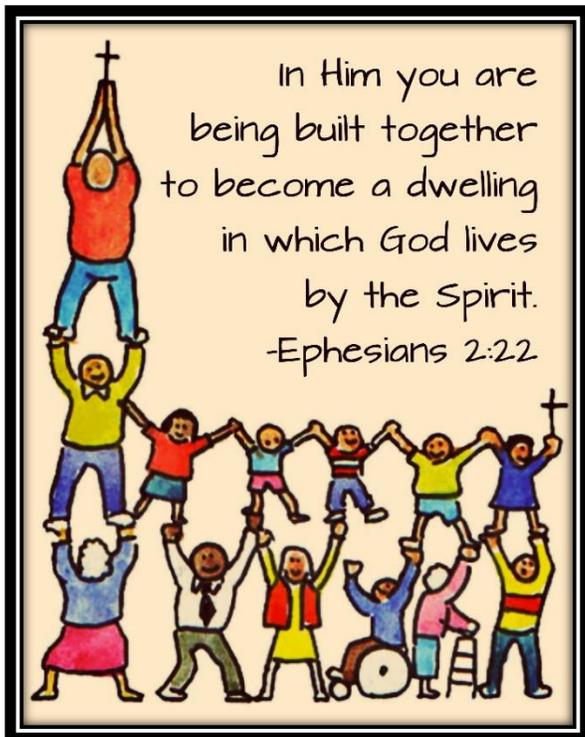


- He makes the comment in v19 – **“destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it”**
- But He's not referring to the "physical" temple – He's referring to the temple of His body – the "spiritual" temple – and He's saying if you destroy this temple of my body by crucifying me – it's not a problem – because in 3 days I'll rebuild my temple - by rising from the dead
- The point is – we don't have or need a physical temple like the one Solomon built
- Because we have Jesus – the spiritual temple – and this temple in Solomon's day is just foreshadowing the greater temple of Jesus
- And the amazing thing is that
- According to our NT passage from Ephesians 2:19-22

[Please turn there now]

- The amazing thing is – we can be part of Jesus' temple

[PowerPoint 9-Eph 2:22]



- As Christians we're part of a spiritual temple – that has been built on God's words and truth taught by the prophets in the OT about Jesus – and built on God's words and truth taught by the Apostles in the NT about Jesus -and this spiritual temple is built with Jesus as the cornerstone – and amazingly as Christians we are part of this spiritual building through God's Spirit - living inside us in this spiritual building
- Application
- Just as Solomon planned and prepared for his physical temple work
- We must plan and prepare for our spiritual temple work – **of sharing the Good News of Jesus** – by praying for God's wisdom – and by reading, studying and meditating on God's Word

- Application
  - Remember too – we belong to a church – but it’s not the church building at Toukley – which we haven’t darkened the door of for 3 months now
  - The Church is the people – each one of us – joined together with Jesus in His spiritual temple – just like we’re joined together on-line this morning – through this software called Kerusso – as a virtual church
  - You see the church is all about people connected to each other through Jesus – to become the spiritual temple of God
- 
- Application
  - The **temple** that **Solomon eventually built for God** - gets knocked down about 400 years after Solomon - in **587 BC when the Babylonians invaded**
  - It **gets rebuilt in Ezra/Nehemiah’s time** in about **515BC**
  - And the temple **gets a major overhaul in King Herod’s time** (37-4BC)
  - But then the temple **gets completely destroyed again in AD70 by the Romans**
  - All that remains today – is a wall – the wailing wall!
  - BUT - our spiritual temple in Jesus can never get knocked down or destroyed
  - It’s an eternal temple and we are part of it! Praise God!

### Conclusion/Challenge (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

So, let’s finish we one final thought and challenge from **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Where the Apostle Paul reminds us:

<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

- Let us leave here this morning – **reminded that just like Solomon’s temple cost a lot** – in terms of materials, labour and money. For us to be part of our Spiritual temple – it cost God - His Son – cruelly crucified so we could be forgiven.
- So let us leave this morning - honouring God with our bodies: – **In obedience – In love for Him – In love for His Son Jesus – and in sacrificial love to others.**

Let’s pray...

Father God, thank You that You always keep Your promises

Thank You that being part of Your Kingdom brings us many blessings

Thank You that we have Your wisdom available to us

Help us to commit our plans to You before acting - to ensure our plans are Your plans

Thank You that Jesus is the true temple – and that in Him we have the perfect once and for all sacrifice for our sins to be forgiven

Thank You that we are being built up together in Jesus to be a spiritual temple – where Your spirit lives with us

Help us to realize that our salvation came at a price – it cost Your Son His life – help us to bring glory and honour to You - in all we say – in all we think – and in all we do.

In Jesus name, we pray, Amen.