

Bible Readings

1 Kings 6:1-38

Solomon Builds the Temple

6 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came 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.

2 The temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high. **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. **4** He made narrow windows high up in the temple walls. **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** 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.

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.

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

11 The word of the LORD came to Solomon: **12** "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. **13** And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people, Israel."

14 So Solomon built the temple and completed it. **15** He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, panelling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of juniper. **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. **17** The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long. **18** The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen.

¹⁹ He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. 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. 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. ²² So he overlaid the whole interior with gold. He also overlaid with gold the altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.

²³ For the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim out of olive wood, each ten cubits high. 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. ²⁵ The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. ²⁶ The height of each cherub was ten cubits. 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. ²⁸ He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹ On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. ³⁰ He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.

³¹ For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors out of olive wood that were one fifth of the width of the sanctuary. ³² And on the two olive-wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold. ³³ In the same way, for the entrance to the main hall he made doorframes out of olive wood that were one fourth of the width of the hall. ³⁴ He also made two doors out of juniper wood, each having two leaves that turned in sockets. ³⁵ He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

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

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

Hebrews 8:1-6

The High Priest of a New Covenant

8 Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

Sermon: Construction Report

G'Day Church Family

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

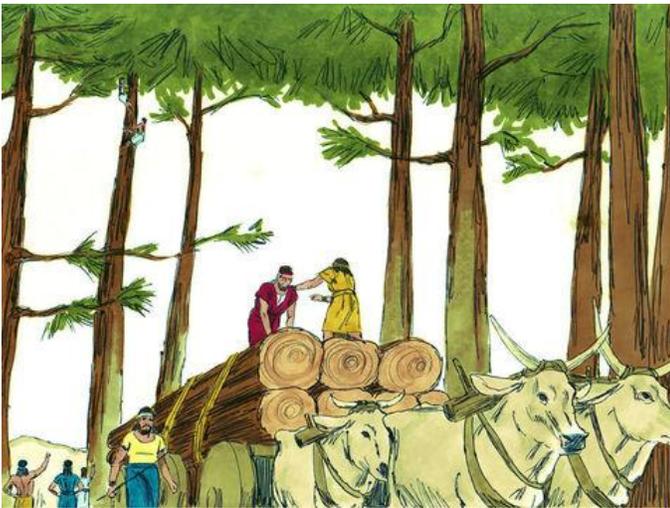
It would be great to have your **bible opened at 1 Kings 6** – starting at verse 1. You may have a sermon **outline** - if you'd like to **take notes**.

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

Let's pray...

Context

[PowerPoint 1-Prep]



- Last week we left Solomon **preparing** to build the temple – which included **transporting cedar trees from Lebanon** to be used in the building – a **massive preparation exercise**
- And we said last week **how important planning and preparation is** – and that we should **commit our plans to the Lord** before we begin doing anything
- This week we see Solomon begin to **build** the temple
- So, this morning we are going to look at
 - The **exterior** of the temple
 - The **interior** of the temple
 - The **heart** of the temple

1. Exterior of the Temple (1 Kings 6:1-10)

- 1st then the **exterior** of the temple – verses 1 to 10
- V1 tells us it's **480 years since** the **Exodus** from Egypt – when God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt

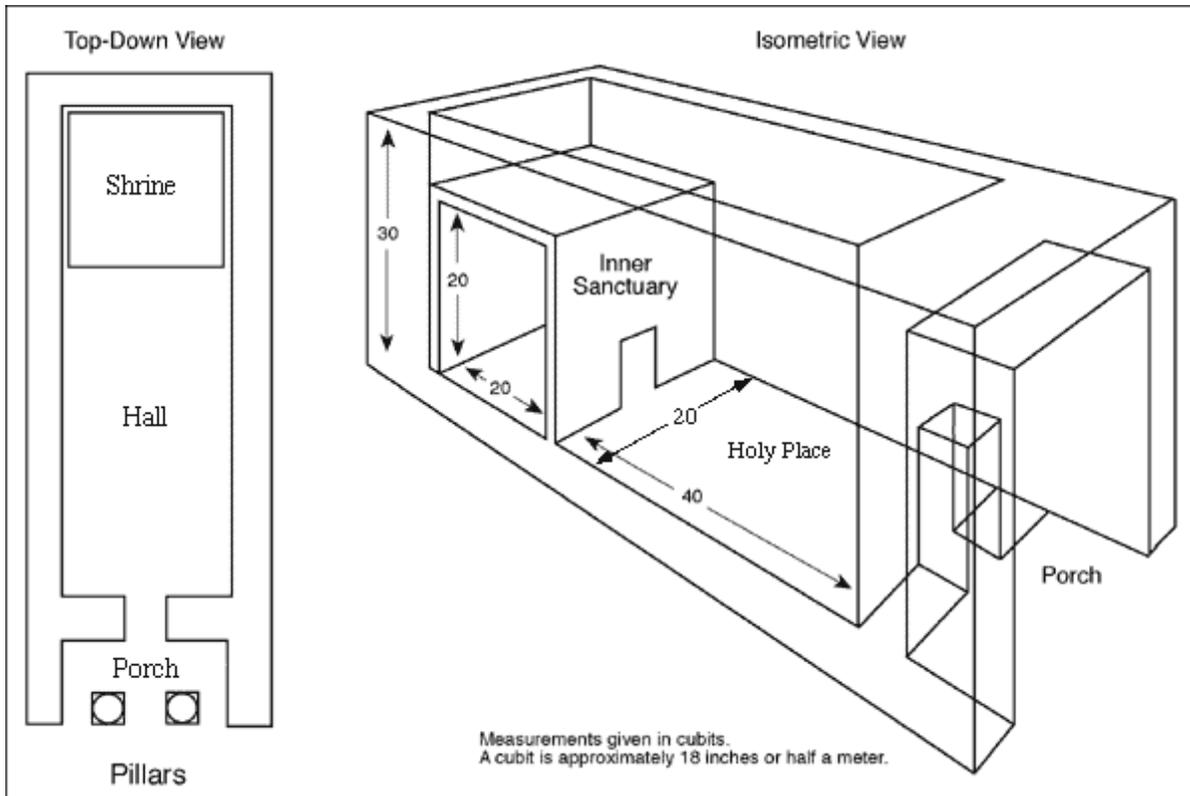
[PowerPoint 2-1 Kings 6:1]

■ NIV 1 Kings 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.

- It is a **new era** because it marks the **end** of the Israelites “wandering” and the **end** of the Israelites living in the Promised Land **without** a **temple**. The travelling mobile tabernacle/temple [that God had commanded Moses to build] had served Israel well but was **now to be replaced** by a **permanent building for God's name**.
- V1 also tells us **God's time frame** [480 years] in keeping His promises - **God's timing is not the same as our timing**. **God always keeps His promise** (Joshua 21:45) and **He does things in His own perfect timing**. (2 Peter 3:8-9; Proverbs 16:9; 27:1; Ecclesiastes 3:1 and Jeremiah 29:11)
- From v1 - we can also deduce that the preparations done in 1 Kings 5 took some time. From 1 Kings 5 it seems preparations began not long after Solomon came to the throne and now in verse 1 of chapter 6, we are in the fourth year of Solomon's reign. It shows how important planning and preparation is.
- In vv2-6– we're given details on the **dimensions** of the temple.

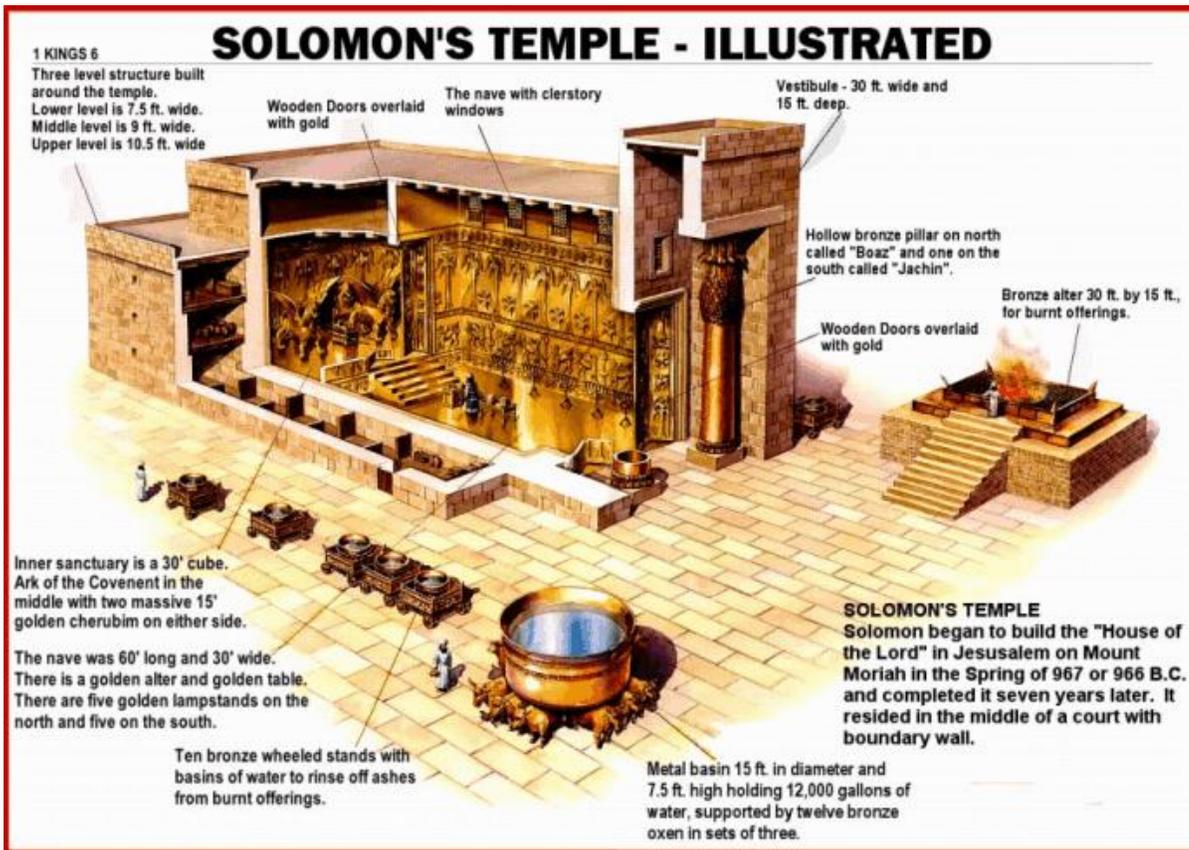
- It's: **60cubits long x 20cubits wide x 30cubits high** – OR - **90ft long x 30ft wide x 45ft high**
– OR – **27m long x 9 metres wide x 14m high.**

[PowerPoint 3-Exterior]



- The temple building is **roughly the size of a 25m swimming pool** [half-size of an Olympic pool)
- For me, it's **smaller than I thought** it would be!
- Also, a **portico** (or porch) extended the **front** of the **temple** by 10 cubits (15ft, 4.5m)
- There were also **side rooms** built around the temple – with **three floors**

[PowerPoint 4-Picture of Temple]



[Explain temple]

- From verse 7 – we see that the **temple was to be constructed with stone blocks made at the quarry because God did not want a hammer, chisel or other iron tool used at the temple; there was to be no working on stones or any noise at the temple.** {see Joshua 8:30-31 and Exodus 20:25). Perhaps because they are **building something Holy to God** – and there is the **idea of respect and reverence to God.**
- This also **shows God wants things done His way - and** – that **God cares about details!**

Applications for us:

- **God always keeps His promises** – as we said last week
- God does things in His **own perfect timing** – He doesn't answer in our expected time – - and - **He does everything perfectly** – [e.g., Jen's wedding]

- **God expects things to be done His way – not our way – and He gives specific instructions [like with the temple] on how He wants things done – because His ways are not our ways and His ways are higher than our ways – so it's important we read and follow His Word and know what He expects from us!**

(pause)

2. Interior of the Temple (1 Kings 6:14-38)

- 2nd the **interior** of the temple – that's verses 14 to 38

[PowerPoint 5-Inside]



- The **interior comprised** of: The Porch {Ulam}, the Hall {Hekal} and the Sanctuary (aka Holy of Holies or aka Most Holy Place)
- The **dimensions of the inner sanctuary** (Holy of Holies or The Most Holy Place)
- **20cubits long x 20cubits wide x 20cubits high** [cube]
 - OR - **30ft long x 30ft wide x 30ft high**
 - OR – **9m wide x 9m wide x 9m high**
- The **dimensions of the hall** in front of the inner sanctuary
- **40cubits long x 20cubits wide x 30cubits high**
 - OR - **60ft long x 30ft wide x 45ft high**
 - OR – **18m long x 9m wide x 14m high**

- The **inside of the temple** was made **completely of cedar** [no stone to be seen] and **carved with gourds** (pear-shaped flowers) and **open flowers**.
- Inside the inner sanctuary was the **Ark of the Covenant** - the **box or chest** that contains the 10 commandments – this is the what matters to God – His commands – His words **to be obeyed**
- On **top of the Ark of the Covenant** - was a **mercy seat** - the mercy seat symbolised where God came to meet His people
- On top of the mercy seat - **were two carved heavenly beings called cherubim** that symbolised guarding the way to the presence of God
- Cherubim are sublime angelic beings – in figure compounded of a man, an ox, a lion and an eagle – three animals together with man – symbolize power and wisdom
- Once a year on the Day of Atonement – the **High Priest** made a sacrifice for the sin of the people to be atoned for [atone=repair or make amends or cover over]– and the **High Priest entered the inner sanctuary** and **sprinkled blood on the mercy seat**.
- This was the **way back to God** -and the **way back to God's presence**
- This **inner sanctuary** was the most holy place
- As well as the 2 cherubim on the ark of the covenant – there were **2 giant cherubim figures** made out of olive wood
- **Each of the cherubim** was **10 cubits** (15ft or 5m) high [double height of the average ceiling in a house] – with one of their wings touching each other and the other wing touching the wall.
- These **two giant cherubim's** – should remind us of the cherubim guarding the way to the Tree of Life - in the **Garden of Eden**
- **The walls** were carved with cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.
- **The floors** were covered with gold!

- The **Inner sanctuary doors** were **made out of olive wood** and were carved with cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, overlaid with gold
- **Main hall doorframes** made out of **olive wood** and **doors** made of **juniper wood**
- The **inner court** was made of **three courses of dressed stone** and one **course of trimmed cedar beams**.
- It **took 7 years to build!**
- Is all this splendour a bit **over the top?**
- **No not at all!** The **splendour of the temple** is meant to reflect the **splendour of Israel's God** - the glory of the temple - **points to the glory of the Lord, God, YHWH.**
- Applications for us:
- It teaches us - **we must offer God our best** [in terms of time, talents and tithes] – we shouldn't offer God anything that's half-hearted – God doesn't want our leftovers - or our afterthoughts
- So, our worship of God – should be **reverent and bring glory to God**
- Our time spent reading, studying and meditating on God's Word – **should be quality time** – not squeezed in
- In our serving of God and His church – we will **WANT** to serve – not have the attitude we **SHOULD** serve.
- In leading our family in devotion to God and His Son – **it must be our priority** – and all the **family should know that it is our priority.**
- Even in our work – **we're working for the Lord** – not our boss
- In everything we do – **we must do it for the Lord**
- As 1 Cor 10:31 says: - **So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**

3. Heart of the Temple (1 Kings 6:11-13)

- 3rd we come to the **heart of the temple**
- Sandwiched between the descriptions of the **exterior** of the temple and the interior of the temple – in verses 11 to 13
- We are given the **heart of the temple** – i.e., what the essence of the temple really is
- It's like God interrupts Solomon building the temple – to **remind Solomon of God's priority**
- It's all very well for Solomon to build the temple

[PowerPoint 6-1 Kings 6:11-13]

- But in v11-13- **God demands royal obedience** to God's commandments if Israel is to enjoy what the temple represents – which is the presence of God

¹¹ The word of the LORD came to Solomon:
¹² "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. ¹³ **And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel."**

1 Kings 6:11-13

- **Solomon must live faithfully** under the covenant of God (v12a) if he is to enjoy the promise of God (v12) and if Israel is to enjoy the presence of God (v13)
- The "you" s used in these verses are **singular** – it's YOU Solomon
- **Solomon had the responsibility of obedience to God.** As the nation's leader, Solomon was **accountable to God,** just like leaders of churches, groups and families are accountable.

- There is a **huge responsibility on Solomon** – how critical is one man's obedience to secure the presence of YHWH God with the people
- That's why God interrupts the construction report

Application

- **Solomon was called to obey God's commands** to ensure God's presence with His people– we must do the same, to ensure God's presence.
- If a nation moves away from God, will God follow them or leave them to their own devices?
- Whether we are church leaders, leaders of a group or leaders of our families – our personal holiness matters to the people around us - really matters – they see our example. What are we modelling to those who follow us?
- Even if we're not a leader – we have a responsibility of personal obedience to God.

(pause)

- **But there's a problem** – whether it's King Solomon – or the people of Israel – or us today – we can't keep God's commands perfectly
- As I've mentioned a few times over the last weeks - by the time we reach 1 Kings chapter 11 – Solomon has failed badly – he failed to follow God faithfully and followed after other gods.
- And the history of Israel from Solomon's time onwards – is one of bad and worse kings – and of the people themselves not following God's commands either
- And it's **no different today!**
- Even if we mean to follow all Gods commandments – we can't do it
- That doesn't mean we shouldn't try to, though
- The fact that we can't be perfectly obedient – compels us to come to the ONE who is perfectly obedient – and that is JESUS.

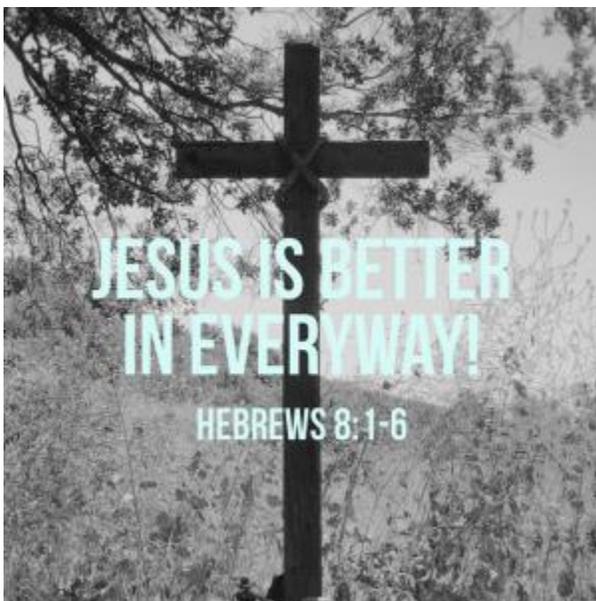
- In God's grace He has **provided us with a solution to our disobedience**
- Which brings us to our NT reading this morning – from **Hebrews 8:1-6**
- [Please turn there now]

A Superior Temple and Superior Priest (Hebrews 8:1-6)

The writer of Hebrews says

We have a **superior High Priest** – Jesus – sitting at the right hand of God in Heaven

[PowerPoint 7-Jesus Superior]



Jesus as our High Priest is **different to the priests in Solomon's temple** because unlike them, **Jesus, makes a once and for all sacrifice for sin** – by **dying** a cruel death on a Roman **Cross** – whereas the priests in Solomon's day made daily sacrifices over and over – for people's sin. And then once a year on **the Day of Atonement**, the High Priest entered the Holy Place and made that special sacrifice. The **Day of Atonement** was a **yearly reminder** that all of Israel's daily, weekly, and monthly ritual sacrifices and offerings were not sufficient to **permanently atone for sin.**

Whereas Jesus' sacrifice is a **perfect one** because **He is sinless** and **lives forever** – whereas the priests of Israel were sinful like everyone else and they didn't live forever.

Also, the **priests in Solomon's day** served in an earthly temple whereas **Jesus serves in a Heavenly temple**

And as v5 says the **temple that Solomon built** is merely a copy and shadow of what is in Heaven!

So, it's like **Solomon's temple** is built from a blueprint of what's in Heaven.

But remember a shadow is not the real thing – just like our shadow is not really us. As magnificent as the temple in Solomon's day is – it's not the real deal – It's an **inferior copy** of the one in Heaven.

And so, because **Jesus is a superior High Priest** – and because **Jesus makes a superior sacrifice** – and because **Jesus serves in a superior temple** – **Jesus has** - received a superior ministry – of a **superior covenant** – or **superior plan by God** – **to fix sin and death** once and for all – through Jesus' death and resurrection [instead of repeated sacrifices]

When Jesus died on that cross - the **temple curtain at the entrance to the Holy Place was torn in two** – from top to bottom – this signified that Jesus now entered the ultimate Heavenly Holy Place – and **opened up access for us to approach God directly** – and this removed the need for the physical temple and removed the need for sacrifices anymore.

Conclusion (The Glory of God)

To **finish up** then

The temple that Solomon built is a **foreshadowing the glory of God and His Son** and the glory of a Heavenly city - where all who believe can live in God presence forever.

[PowerPoint 8-Heavenly City]



The **Apostle John** was privileged to **see and report on this heavenly city** (Revelation 21:10-27). John witnessed that this **heavenly city possesses the “glory of God”** (Revelation 21:11), the **very presence of God**.

Revelation 21 has a **wonderful description** of this Heavenly city. However eloquent John was in his description of heaven, the reality of heaven is **beyond the ability of us to describe** (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Heaven is a place of “no mores.” There will be no more tears, no more pain, no more sorrow and no more death (Revelation 21:4). The **best thing about heaven** is the **presence of our Lord and Savior** (1 John 3:2). We will be face to face with the Lamb of God – Jesus - who loved us and sacrificed Himself so that **we can enjoy His presence in heaven for eternity**.

What comfort we can gain from this as we live out our life on Earth.

Let's pray....

Father God, thank you that you always keep your promises and you do things in your own perfect way and timing.

Thank you that you care about the big picture and the details too.

Enable us through your Spirit to give you our best and that we would bring glory to you in all we think – in all we say – and in all we do

Help us to read, follow and obey your commandments and have a desire to serve you in all we do.

Thank you that Jesus made the perfect once and for all sacrifice – so that we are forgiven of our sins – and can enjoy your holy presence forever.

To Him be the glory.

Amen.