

Bible Readings

1 Kings 7:1-14; 40b-51

Solomon Builds His Palace

7 It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace. **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. **3** It was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the columns—forty-five beams, fifteen to a row. **4** Its windows were placed high in sets of three, facing each other. **5** All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in the front part in sets of three, facing each other.

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.

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. **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.

9 All these structures, from the outside to the great courtyard and from foundation to eaves, were made of blocks of high-grade stone cut to size and smoothed on their inner and outer faces. **10** The foundations were laid with large stones of good quality, some measuring ten cubits and some eight. **11** Above were high-grade stones, cut to size, and cedar beams. **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.

The Temple's Furnishings

13 King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram, **14** whose mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali and whose father was from Tyre and a skilled craftsman in bronze. Hiram was filled with wisdom, with understanding and with knowledge to do all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him.

^{40b} So Hiram finished all the work he had undertaken for King Solomon in the temple of the LORD:

⁴¹ the two pillars;

the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars;

the two sets of network decorating the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars;

⁴² the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars);

⁴³ the ten stands with their ten basins;

⁴⁴ the Sea and the twelve bulls under it;

⁴⁵ the pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls.

All these objects that Hiram made for King Solomon for the temple of the LORD were of burnished bronze. ⁴⁶ The king had them cast in clay moulds in the plain of the Jordan between Sukkoth and Zarethan. ⁴⁷ Solomon left all these things unweighed, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

⁴⁸ Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in the LORD's temple:

the golden altar;

the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence;

⁴⁹ the lampstands of pure gold (five on the right and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary);

the gold floral work and lamps and tongs;

⁵⁰ the pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers;

and the gold sockets for the doors of the innermost room, the Most Holy Place, and also for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

⁵¹ When all the work King Solomon had done for the temple of the LORD was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of the LORD’s temple.

Romans 12:1-2

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Acts 2:42-47

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Sermon: Interior Decorating

10-October-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 opened at 1 Kings 7** – 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...

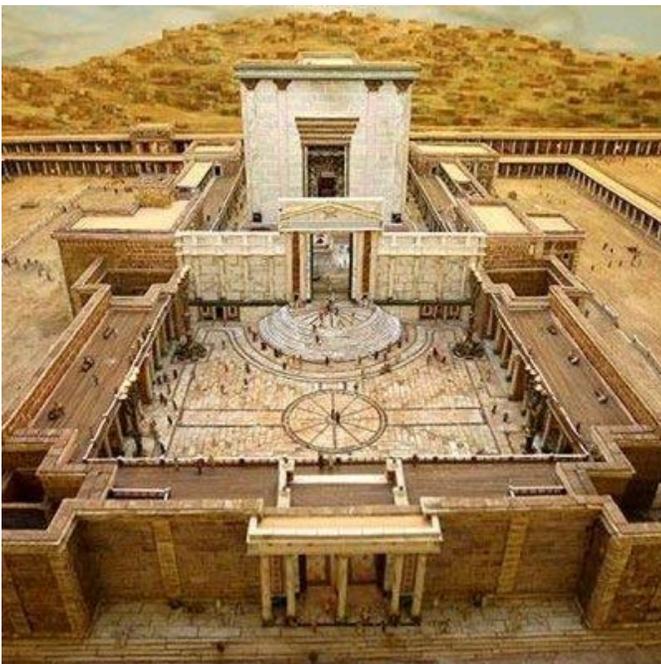
Context

- Last week we saw King **Solomon build the temple** for the Lord God of Israel
- This week we see King **Solomon build a palace** for himself and then the writer of kings focuses on the **interior of the temple**
- So, we pick up the story from 1 Kings chapter 7 from verse 1

Solomon's House (1 Kings 7:1-12)

- And we see in v1 that Solomon took **thirteen years to build himself a palace**
- If we look back to the **last verse of chapter 6** – we see it took Solomon **seven years to build the Temple** for the Lord
- The writer of Kings wants us to see that **Solomon took almost twice as long to build his palace compared to the Temple** of the Lord

[PowerPoint 1-Palace]



- We also see from the **dimensions of the palace in v2** that the palace is **twice as long** and **twice as wide** as the Temple of the Lord

- Solomon's palace also included a **colonnade**, a **portico**, a **Hall of Justice** and a **great courtyard** (vv6, 7, & 9)
- As well as that - Solomon built a **palace for his wife - Pharaoh's daughter** - too (v8)
- Application
- The writer wants us to question **Solomon's priority and focus here.**
- Solomon has **spent twice as long** on his own buildings and **his own buildings are bigger than God's Temple!**
- For us – we have to **ask ourselves** where is our focus and our heart – **is God first in our lives or not quite first?**
- I mentioned at Bible Study on Wednesday night– I'm **personally convicted** in this area – I regularly **get up at 2-3** in the morning to **watch a soccer game live from the UK** – but would I get up at 2-3 in the morning to read my Bible or to pray?
- Maybe for you it's Wimbledon or Formula 1 or the Olympics?
- Or maybe you have a **hobby or interest** that **you devote so much of your time to** – and it's beginning to replace God as your priority?
- As Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Mount – **“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”**

(pause)

Inside God's House (1 Kings 7:13-51)

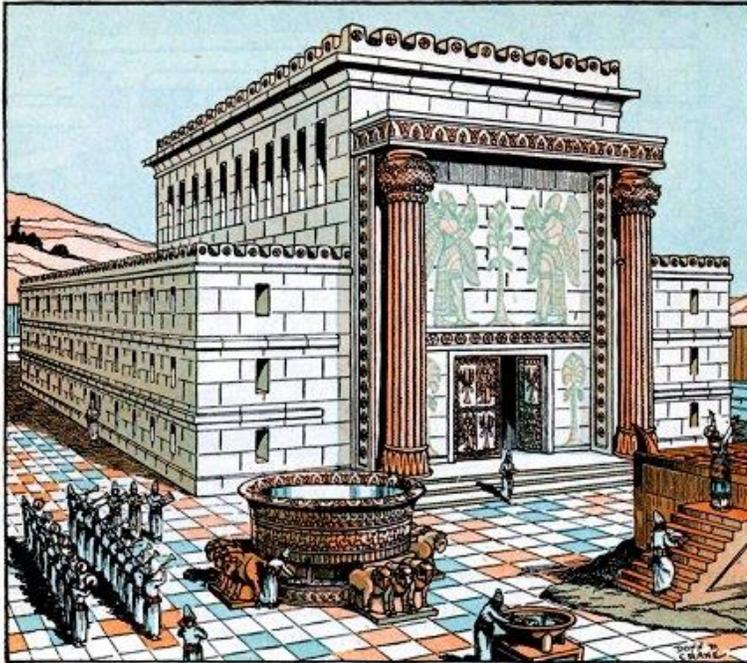
- The writer of 1 Kings – **devotes all of chapter 6 and all of chapter 7 to describing God's Temple**– except for those first 12 verses of chapter 7 describing Solomon's Palace
- The **writer wants us to see** what his priority and God's priority is
- It's the **Temple**
- And **we can learn so much** from the interior of the Temple

- So, we're going to look at some of the key elements of the interior of the Temple – and see how they relate to the people of Israel – and how they relate to Jesus – and how they relate to us

Two Pillars (vv15-22)

- Firstly, there are **Two bronze pillars** at the front of the Temple – verses 15 to 22

[PowerPoint 2-Pillars]



- Solomon hired a guy called **Huram** – **skilled in bronze work** - to do all the bronze interior décor of the temple
- These **bronze pillars** were **18 cubits high (27ft or 8m)** and circumference of 12 cubits (18ft or 5.5m) – 3 ½ times the height of the average ceiling in a house.
- The pillars were **decorated with bronze pomegranates** – pomegranates were a sign of prosperity and posterity – ensuring blessings for Israel for future generations – pomegranates were also used on the hem of the priests' robes.
- The **names** of these **pillars** are super important –
- One was called **Jachin** (Jakin) – which means **“God will establish”**
- And the other was called **Boaz** – which means **“In God's strength”**

- It was a reminder to each reigning King – that the **King was ruling by God’s appointment** and in God’s grace the King’s kingdom and reign **would be established** and the King must reign **in God’s strength** – not his own
- For the people of Israel – it was a **reminder of the 2 pillars** that the ancient Israelites followed **during their Exodus** journey from Egypt – God provided them with a **pillar of fire by night** and a **pillar of cloud by day**, so that they could **follow the way God** had **prepared** for them
- These pillars were a constant reminder of **God’s presence**
- Application
- For us today – these pillars remind us of **God’s constant presence** – and that it is **God** who **establishes our paths** – and we can only do anything **in God’s strength** – not our own
- As Jesus reminds us in John 15:5 – “**apart from Me you can do nothing**”
- Also, the use of pomegranates throughout the interior of the temple – **reminds us of our blessings from God - and the blessing of eternal life** we have - through Jesus

The Sea (vv23-26)

- Second – there is a **huge bronze water basin** called a **Sea** – in verses 23-26

[PowerPoint 3-Sea]

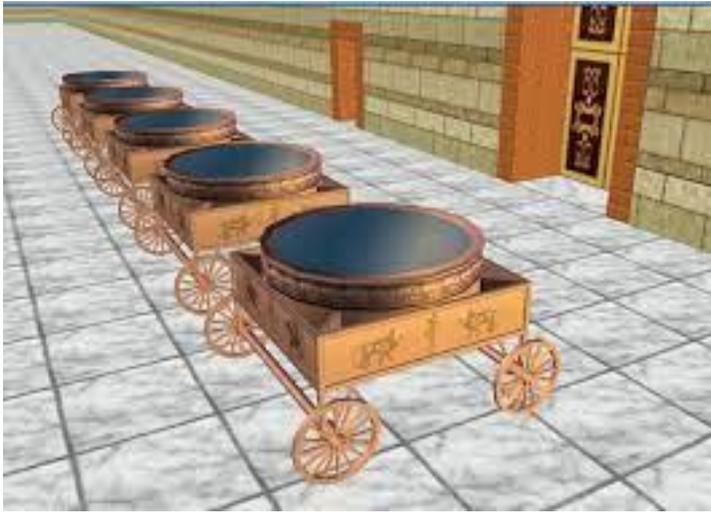


- **The capacity of this basin was 3000 baths** (18,000 gallons or 66,000L)
- The basin (sea) was 10 cubits (15ft or 5m) across and 5 cubits (7.5ft or 2.3m) high
- And supported by **12 bulls** (12 representing **12 tribes**) – and **symbolising animal sacrifice**
- The **purpose** of this Basin (Sea) was for the **priests to wash themselves ceremonially clean** (2 Chronicles 4:6) before making sacrifices for the people. The priest had to be ceremonially clean before they could come before a Holy God to make sacrifices.
- Application
- The **priests and the water** for cleansing should remind us that Jesus washes us clean of our sins – and should also remind us of baptism as a symbol of washing away our sins through Jesus' death on the Cross
- It should also remind us that we need be constantly confessing our sins to God – so we can approach Him ceremonially clean
- The water used should also remind us that **Jesus gives us living water that becomes a spring of water that wells up into eternal life** (John 4:14) – **living water** that represents the Holy Spirit living inside believers (John 7:38-39)

The Ten Stands and Basins (vv27-39)

- Third – the bronze worker, Hiram, made **10 bronze stands** and **10 bronze basins** – that's in verses 27 to 39

[PowerPoint 4-Stands and Basins]



- These **stands were on wheels** so that they **could be moved around the temple courtyard** when sacrifices were made
- These **basins were used to wash the implements** used in the burnt offering sacrifices (2 Chronicles 4:6)
- Application
- Again, for us there is the reminder of the fact that **Jesus is the once and for all sacrifice for sins** and we do not have to go through this constant sacrifice and washing process—like the priests and the people in ancient Israel did. **Praise God for that!**

As well as all that bronze work – there were **other furnishings in the Temple**

The Golden Altar of Incense (v48)

- See v48 – the **Golden Altar of incense**

[PowerPoint 5-Altar]



- According to Exodus 30:7-8 – the **High Priest** was to **burn a fragrant incense** in the **morning** and **twilight** as an offering to the Lord – this was a pleasing aroma to God
- The **incense** was a **reminder** that the **priest was interceding** for the people
- Application – for us it's a reminder that Jesus intercedes for us (Romans 8:34)
- Also, in the Bible – **incense** is a **symbol of prayer**. As King **David** says in **Psalm 141:2** - **May my prayer be set before you like incense**
- Also, in **Rev 5:8** describes **bowls of incense representing the prayers of the saints** (see also Rev 8:3)
- It is wonderful to know that God considers our prayers **to be like the sweet smell of incense**
- This should encourage us **to pray knowing we can now enter God's holy presence by our faith in Jesus** our eternal, perfect and faithful High Priest (Hebrews 10:19-23)

Table of the Bread of Presence (v48)

- Also in the temple was the **Table of the Bread of Presence** – see v48

[PowerPoint 6-Bread]



- This table had special bread (12 loaves for 12 tribes) ALWAYS present on the table inside the tabernacle – it represented **God always being present with His people** and showed that **God is the source of Israel’s life and nourishment** – their daily bread if you like! Just like the manna in the wilderness
- Application – for us the **bread reminds us that Jesus is the Bread of Life** (John 6:35) – and that Jesus is the bread that came down from Heaven (John 6:38) (like the manna) – to give not just life on Earth but eternal life to all who believe in Him

Ten Lampstands (v49)

- Also in the temple were the ten lampstands (menorah) – see v49

[PowerPoint 7-Lampstands]



- The **lampstand in the tabernacle** was to be **kept burning day and night** (Exodus 27:20)

- The light represented the life and light that God gives to His people
- Application – for us it reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5)
- And that Jesus calls His church – those who believe in Him – the lights of the world (Matt 5:14)- those who believe in Jesus are to be lights who call people out of the darkness of their sin and into Jesus’ glorious light – to receive forgiveness and eternal life (1 Peter 2:9). It is only possible for believers to be lights of the world – if they remain connected to Jesus as their light source

(pause)

So, **everything about the interior of the Temple points us to Jesus – Jesus IS the ultimate temple** (that can be rebuilt in 3 days); **Jesus IS the ultimate High Priest; Jesus is the Ultimate once and for all sacrifice for sins to be forgiven; Jesus IS the bread of life that gives eternal life; JESUS is the Living Water that gives eternal life - and Jesus IS the light of the world**

Jesus can only be all these things - because in God’s grace and mercy He allowed His Son Jesus to come down from Heaven to Earth – on a rescue mission - to save people from sin and death.

Our True and Proper Worship (Romans 12:1-2; Acts 2:42-47)

- Because God allowed Jesus to come on a rescue mission...
- **We need to respond with our true and proper worship – which is going to be different to the ancient Israelites – we don’t have to bring animal sacrifices and offerings to a temple anymore**
- But we do have a response
- Which is where our NT passage comes in
- Please turn to **ROMANS 12:1-2**

[PowerPoint 8-Romans 12:1-2]

THEREFORE, I URGE YOU, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCY, TO OFFER YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD—THIS IS YOUR TRUE AND PROPER WORSHIP. DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL.
ROMANS 12:1-2

- The Apostle Paul says – in v1 - in view of God's mercy
- What's God's mercy
- That **He sent Jesus** to die a cruel death on a cross – to take our punishment for our sins upon Himself – so we could go free of any punishment for our sins – and be given forgiveness
- In view of that mercy
- We are to offer our bodies as "living sacrifices" – not dead animal sacrifices like in the Temple
- Instead of us "working to get mercy from God" – we are "to serve God BECAUSE of His mercy"
- What does our living sacrifice look like?
- It's like spiritually speaking we bring our bodies to God's altar and say whatever can we do to thank you for such mercy, God?
- And v2 tells us what we are to do
- It says - don't think the way the ungodly in the world think – don't rebel against God the way non-believers do – don't' follow their rebellious behaviour
- Instead, the Apostle Paul says - be transformed by renewing our minds

- The **Greek word** used for transformed is where we get metamorphosis from – it means *taking a higher form* – so Paul's saying we need to become more like Jesus - as we renew our minds through the Holy Spirit and through following God's Word

(pause)

- Now we're practical human beings – so we need to understand what being transformed by the renewing of minds looks like practically
- To understand that – we can look at what the early Christian Church was like
- Which is where our 2nd NT passage comes in
- Please turn to **Acts 2:42-47**

[PowerPoint 9-Acts 2:42-47]

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. *And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

9

- Practically speaking our true and proper worship looks like:
 - See v42
 - It looks like - being **devoted to the teaching in the Bible** (not the world's teaching)
 - It looks like - **fellowship with fellow Christians** (oh how we are missing that!)
 - It looks like – **sharing a meal together** – and **sharing in the Lord's Supper together** to remember Jesus' body and blood shed for us – and never forgetting it!
 - And it looks like being devoted to prayer – Adoration – Confession – Thanks and Supplication

- See v44 and v45
- It also looks like **being together** and **sharing everything with one another** – the attitude should be – my home is your home – my car is your car – my food and clothes are your food and clothes – after all we only have anything because God blessed us with it in the first place
- It looks like **sharing the same love for Jesus** – the same love for **God the Father** – **the same desire to worship God** – **sharing the same struggles together**– **sharing in the same blessings** – and **sharing in the same joy of telling others about Jesus!**
- And the result of this true and proper worship is given in v47
- *The Lord added to the number of people saved in His Church!*

Conclusion

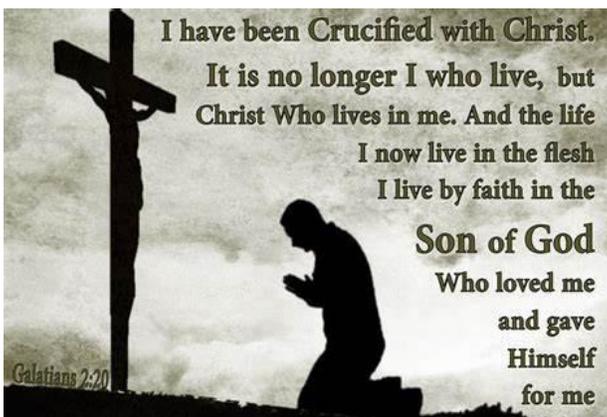
To finish up then – the writer of Kings wants us to realize that the Lord and the worship of Him is the number one priority for God's people

The Early Church also recognized that the Lord and the worship of Him was their number one priority

And so, we are called to make the Lord our number one priority

So let me finish with the **words of the Apostle Paul from Galatians 2:20:**

[PowerPoint 10-Gal 2:20]



²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Let's pray

Father God, we are sorry that we don't always make You - Your Son - and Your Word - a priority in our lives

We're thankful for Your constant presence in our lives – and we're thankful for the strength You give us to get through the tough times in our lives.

We acknowledge that apart from Jesus we can do nothing of any spiritual worth.

Thank You for the blood of our Lord Jesus and His once and for all sacrifice for our sins to be forgiven

Help us to be examining our hearts for any offensive way in us.

Help us to be diligent in prayer and faithful in reading Your Word and applying it to our lives

Help us to share our love for Jesus with each other and be “lights” of the world attracting people to Jesus the LIGHT of the World.

Help us to live for Jesus and not for ourselves.

In His name we pray, AMEN