

The Book of 1 Kings



Part 3 5 studies in 1 Kings

Introduction

The two books, 1 & 2 Kings, in the Hebrew Old Testament were one book. It was divided by the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) translators. They summarized these books as follows: I The Reign of Solomon; II Division of the Kingdom, and Parallel History of the Two Kingdoms; III Subsequent History of Judah to the Captivity.

1 Kings opens with the Hebrew nation in its glory. 2 Kings closes with the nation in ruin. Together they cover a period of about 400 years, from 1000-600 BC.

Author

The author is not known. A Jewish tradition says it was Jeremiah. Whoever the author is, he makes frequent reference to state annals and other historical records existent in his day, such as: "The book of the acts of Solomon"; "The book of chronicles of the Kings of Judah"; and "The book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel" (1 Kings 11:41; 14:19, 29; 15:7, 23, 31; 16:5, 14, 27 etc.).

Brief Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. The last days of David and Solomon's Accession | 1 Kings 1:1 - 1 Kings 2:46 |
| 2. The reign of Solomon | 1 Kings 3:1 - 1 Kings 11:43 |
| 3. History of the Divided Kingdom | 1 Kings 12:1 - 2 Kings 10:36 |
| 4. History of Judah and Israel to the fall of Northern Kingdom | 2 Kings 11:1 - 2 Kings 17:41 |
| 5. History of Judah to the fall of Jerusalem | 2 Kings 18:1 - 2 Kings 25:30 |

Alternative Outline of 1 & 2 Kings

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Golden Age | 1 Kings 1-11 |
| 2. The Torn Kingdom | 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17 |
| 3. The Last Days | 2 Kings 18-25 |

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
2. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL** and **NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP.**

Study 1 - Construction Report

1 Kings 6:1-38
(Sermon on 03-Oct-21)

Read 1 Kings 6:1-6

1. What does verse 1 tell us about the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt? Why is this a new era for the people of Israel? (cf. 2 Samuel 7:10-11)

V1 tells us it's 480 years since the Exodus from Egypt.

It is a new era because it marks the end of Israel living in the Promised Land without a temple. The travelling mobile tabernacle had served Israel well but was now to be replaced by a permanent building for God's name.

It's a bit like camping for 480 years!

It also fulfils God's promise that they will finally have rest from their enemies (2 Samuel 7:10-11)

2. What does the timeframe in verse 1 tell us about God's timing and God's promises?

God's timing is not the same as our timing. God does things in His own perfect timing. (2 Peter 3:8-9; Proverbs 16:9; 27:1; Ecclesiastes 3:1 and Jeremiah 29:11)

God always keeps His promises - see Joshua 21:45 - even if it takes 480 years!

3. What does verse 1 tell us about the preparation work done in 1 Kings 5?

We can 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. The preparations of the Temple a bit like the preparations Noah made for the Ark.

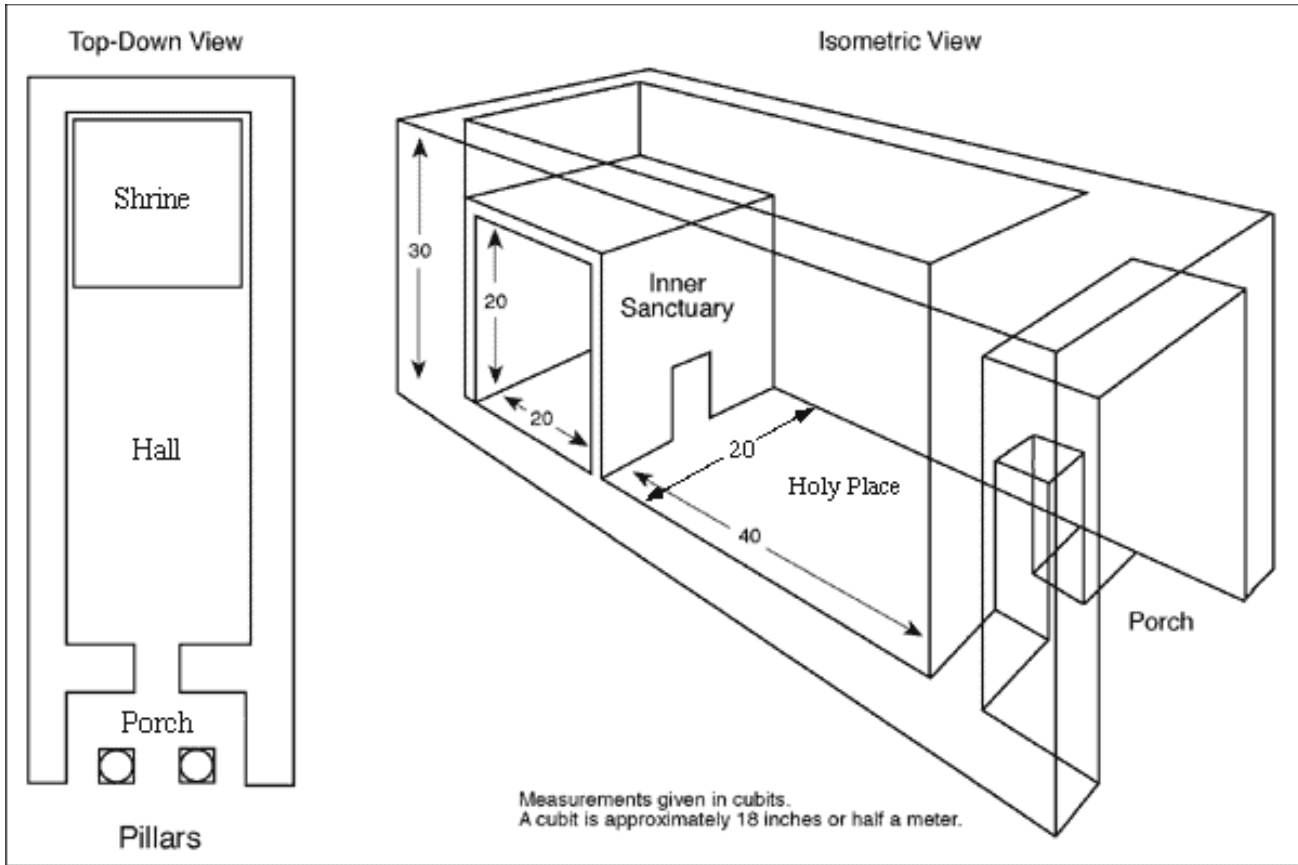
4. What were the dimensions of the temple in verses 2 to 6? Does the size surprise you?

60 cubits long x 20 cubits wide x 30 cubits high - OR - 90ft long x 30ft wide x 45ft high - OR - 27m long x 9 metres wide x 14m high.

Also, a portico (porch) at the front - extra 10 cubits (15ft, 4.5m)

Roughly the size of a 25m swimming pool.

For me, it's smaller than I thought it would be!



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - ILLUSTRATED

1 KINGS 6
Three level structure built around the temple.
Lower level is 7.5 ft. wide.
Middle level is 9 ft. wide.
Upper level is 10.5 ft. wide

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

The nave with clerstory windows

Vestibule - 30 ft. wide and 15 ft. deep.

Hollow bronze pillar on north called "Boaz" and one on the south called "Jachin".

Bronze alter 30 ft. by 15 ft., for burnt offerings.

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

Inner sanctuary is a 30' cube.
Ark of the Covenant in the middle with two massive 15' golden cherubim on either side.

The nave was 60' long and 30' wide.
There is a golden alter and golden table.
There are five golden lampstands on the north and five on the south.

Ten bronze wheeled stands with basins of water to rinse off ashes from burnt offerings.

Metal basin 15 ft. in diameter and 7.5 ft. high holding 12,000 gallons of water, supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE
Solomon began to build the "House of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the Spring of 967 or 966 B.C. and completed it seven years later. It resided in the middle of a court with boundary wall.

Read 1 Kings 6:7-10

5. What do we learn from verse 7? What does this say about God?

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 noise. This says God wants things done His way! God cares about details!

Joshua 8:30-31- ³⁰ Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, ³¹ as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—**an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used**. On it they offered to the LORD burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings.

Exodus 20:25 -²⁵ If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.

6. What other details are added to the building in verses 8 to 10?

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2tha7ogpec>

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xt6lQAe8ues>

There were side rooms all along the temple.

The temple entry to the lowest floor was at the south side.

There was a stairway to the middle section and another staircase to the third section.

The temple was roofed with beams and cedar planks.

Read 1 Kings 6:11-13

7. What promise does God give Solomon? What conditions are there?

That God will live among the Israelites and not abandon them.

Conditional upon Solomon following God's decrees and observing His laws and keeping all His commands and obeying them. Blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience.

8. What responsibility does Solomon have here?

Solomon had the responsibility of obedience to God. As the nation's leader, he was accountable, just like leaders of churches, groups and families are accountable.

9. Does verse 13 give us the purpose of the temple?

God was careful to say that He would dwell among His people and not live in the temple. The temple was symbolic of God's presence and was the means for His people, represented by the High Priest; to come and meet God.

Read 1 Kings 6:14-18

10. What dimensions were the inner sanctuary (the Most Holy Place in v16)?

20 cubits long x 20 cubits wide x 20 cubits high [cube]

OR - 30ft long x 30ft wide x 30ft high

OR - 9m wide x 9m wide x 9m high

11. What dimensions were the hall in front of the Most Holy Place in v17?

40 cubits long x 20 cubits wide x 30 cubits high

OR - 60ft long x 30ft wide x 45ft high

OR - 18m long x 9m wide x 14m high

12. What did the inside of temple look like in verse 18?

Made completely of cedar [no stone to be seen] and carved with gourds and open flowers.

Read 1 Kings 6:19-28

13. What was to be kept in the inner sanctuary (the Most Holy Place)?

The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord

Covered in pure gold with gold chains across the front of the sanctuary

Also, a gold altar

A pair of cherubim made out of olive wood.

14. What was the interior overlaid with?

Covered in pure gold with gold chains across the front of the sanctuary

15. What were the dimensions of the cherubim?

Each of the cherubim was 10 cubits (15ft or 5m) high - with one of their wings touching each other and the other wing touching the wall.

16. What are cherubim anyway? What's their purpose?

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 (Ezekiel 1 and 10)

Their purpose is to guard the presence of God. Just like in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24)

Read 1 Kings 6:29-38

17. What were the walls and floors of the temple (inner and outer rooms) like?

Walls were carved with cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.

Floors were covered with gold!

18. What were the doors like?

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

19. How was the inner courtyard constructed?

The inner court was made of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams.

20. How long did it take to build the temple?

It took 7 years to build!

21. **Ponder:** Is all this gold and extravagant décor over the top?

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.

Read John 2:13-22

22. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?

Jesus scatters the market traders who have turned the Temple courts into a marketplace.

When asked for a sign to prove His authority - Jesus says "destroy this temple and I will raise it again in 3 days"

But he's referring to the temple of His body - which will be raised 3 days after His death on the cross.

Therefore, the temple foreshadows the temple of our Lord Jesus.

Read Hebrews 8:1-6

23. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?

The temple (and sanctuary) is a copy of what is in Heaven!

The high priest in the temple is a copy of the great High Priest, Jesus - and He has received a superior ministry - of a superior covenant - and a superior sacrifice.

The temple is built on a blueprint of what's in Heaven.

But remember a shadow is not the real thing. A shadow is an inferior copy of the actual!

Read Hebrews 9:23-28

24. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?

The temple and its function, being a copy of heavenly things, had to be purified with sacrifice after sacrifice. The High Priest entered the Holy Place once per year - a Holy Place made by humans.

Jesus didn't have to repeat His sacrifice - it was a once and for all sacrifice.

Jesus entered the ultimate Heavenly Holy Place - and opened up access for us to approach God!

Read Revelation 21:15-27

25. What do these verses have to do with 1 Kings 6:1-38?

John sees the vision of city cube - 12,000 stadia cube (2200 km or 1380 miles)

The wall was 144 cubits (216ft or 77m thick)

Walls of jasper and the city made of pure gold, like glass.

Foundations were every precious stone: jasper, sapphire, agate, emerald, onyx, ruby, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, turquoise, jacinth, amethyst.

12 gates of pearls.

Streets of pure gold.

Basically, the temple is a shadow/copy of the Heavenly city.

But there is no temple - because the Lord God and the Lamb (Jesus) are its temple (v22).

No lamps need like in the temple - the light is the glory of the Lord and the lamp of the Lamb.

In the temple only the High Priest could enter to purify the people.

Now that Jesus has purified those whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life - only they can enter the temple!

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 6:1-38?

*The temple is a foreshadowing or copy of the glory of God and His Son and Heaven; where all who believe can live in God presence forever.
Let's not forget the issue of **obedience** when we consider the temple building.
Only the best will do for our great God!*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- a. Temple points to Jesus the true temple
- b. The Temple points to Jesus' sacrifice so that we can enter the presence of God.
- c. When Jesus died the temple curtain to the Holy Place was torn in two - Jesus gave access directly to God - and removed the need for the temple.

How does this passage **apply to your life?**

- a. Remember that God fulfils His promises in His own perfect timing.
- b. God expects things to be done His way - His Word tells us how!
- c. 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?
- d. As leaders of churches, of groups, or families - our personal holiness really matters to those around us
- e. We must offer God our best [time, talents and tithes] - not our leftovers and last resorts
- f. The fact that we can't be perfectly obedient - compels us to come to the ONE who is perfectly obedient - and the true temple - JESUS.

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

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

Finish in prayer: Thanking God for Jesus (the true temple) that was raised after 3 days so that we can have eternal life.

Study 2 - Interior Decorating

1 Kings 7:1-51

(Sermon on 10-October-21)

Last study we saw Solomon begin construction of the temple.

In this study Solomon builds his palace and then focuses on the *interior* of the temple.

Read 1 Kings 7:1-12

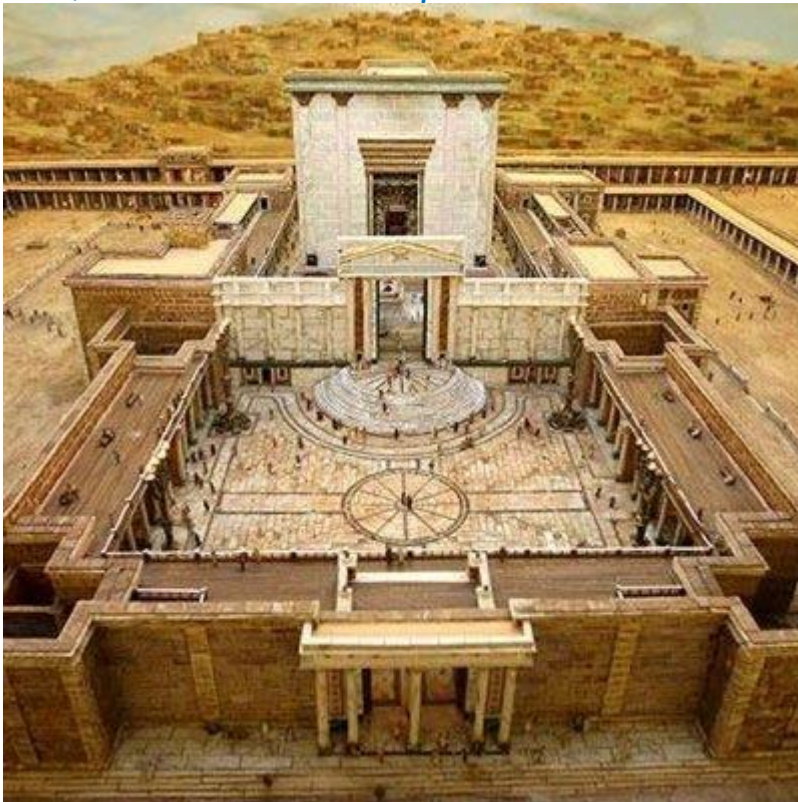
1. How long did Solomon take to build his palace? How does that compare to the time to build God's house? (cf. 1 Kings 6:38). What does that suggest?

13 years to build his palace compared to 7 years to build the Temple.

The House of the Lord was glorious but it seems Solomon wanted to build a house that was more glorious.

2. What do we notice about the dimensions of the "house" of Solomon compared to the "house" of the Lord?

The dimensions of the Palace were 100 cubits long x 50 cubits wide x 30 cubits high (150ft x 75ft x 45ft or 45m x 23m x 14m) - whereas the temple was 60 cubits long x 20 cubits wide x 30 cubits high (90ft x 30ft x 45ft or 27m x 9m x 14m). So, Solomon's temple was almost twice as long and twice as wide!



3. What was Solomon's palace made from?

The forest of Lebanon (v2)

Cedar columns and cedar beams (v2, 3)

Blocks of high-grade stone cut to size and smoothed on inner/outer faces (vv9-12)

4. Read Haggai 1:3-10. How would the warning there relate to Solomon?

God questioned the people through Haggai: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin? (v4)

*You have **planted much, but harvested little**. You **eat, but never have enough**. You **drink, but never have your fill**. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it (v6)*

*"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home; I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "**Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.**"¹⁰ Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. (vv9-10)*

It's a warning for us to make God our priority

Read 1 Kings 7:13-22

5. Who does Solomon hire in verses 13&14? Why?

Solomon hired Hiram (mother from tribe of Naphtali and father from Tyre). Hiram was skilled craftsman in bronze work and full of wisdom and with understanding and knowledge to do all kinds of bronze work.

6. What is made in verses 15 to 22? And what is significant about their names?

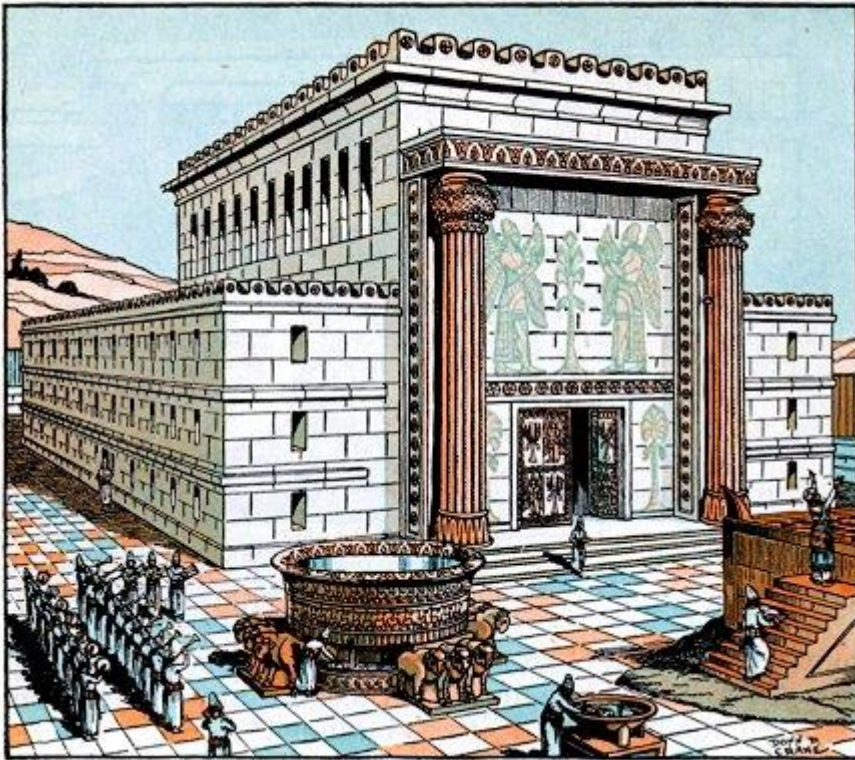
He made 2 bronze pillars - 18 cubits (27ft or 8m) high and circumference of 12 (18ft or 5.5m) cubits

Jachin [Jakin] = "He will establish"

Boaz = "In strength"

The pillars were a constant reminder that each successive king was ruling by God's appointment and by God's grace, and that it was in God that the king got his strength.

Could also be a reminder of the twin pillars that the Israelites followed during the Exodus. A pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day; which is a constant reminder of the presence of God.



Read 1 Kings 7:23-26

7. What is the Sea that is referred to here? What are its dimensions and capacity? What is it used for? (cf. 2 Chronicles 4:1-6)

*The Sea was a huge water basin. Capacity: 3,000 baths, 18,000 gallons (66,000L)
Dimensions 10 cubits (15ft or 5m) across and 5 (7.5ft or 2.3m) cubits high and
circumference of 30 cubits (45ft or 14m)*

It was used by the priests for ceremonial washing (2 Chron 4:6)

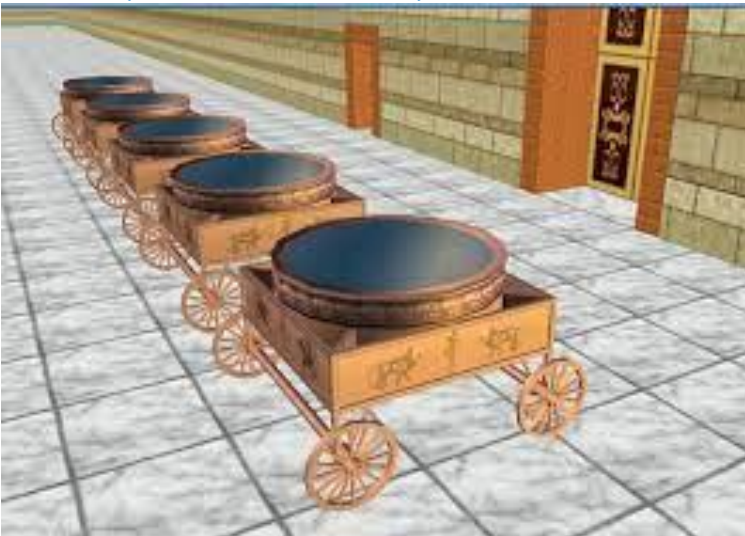


Read 1 Kings 7:27-37

8. What were the 10 movable stands made of? What was their purpose?

They were made of bronze.

To hold the basins which the implements to be used for burnt offerings were rinsed (2 Chronicles 4:6)



Read 1 Kings 7:38-40a

9. What else is made here? Why?

10 bronze basins to go on the portable stands.

Also pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls.

Read 1 Kings 7:40b-45

10. What summary is given of Hiram's work?

- *2 bronze pillars with bowl shaped caps*
- *2400 pomegranates on the pillars - pomegranates a sign of prosperity and posterity*
- *10 portable stands and their basins*
- *The Sea with 12 bulls under it*
- *Pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls*

Read 1 Kings 7:46-47

11. What detail do we find out in verses 46 & 47?

Everything was made of burnished [polished by rubbing] bronze

Everything was made from clay moulds - away from the temple site in the Jordan plain between Sukkoth and Zarethan. The ground was better there to make the moulds and close to a water source (Jordan)

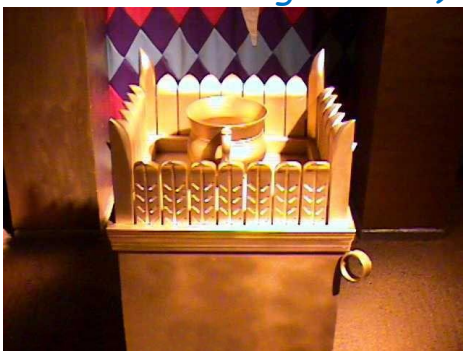
All these things were not weighed because there was so much of it!

Note: *Bronze used for sacrifice and gold for worship*

Read 1 Kings 7:48-51

12. List the furnishings that were in the temple.

- *Golden altar*
- *Golden table - with the bread of presence*
- *Lampstands of pure gold - 10 in all*
- *Gold floral work and lamps and tongs*
- *Pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers (vessels for burning incense)*





13. What else was brought into the temple in verse 51? Why?

Silver and gold furnishings that Solomon's father, David, had put aside to be dedicated to the Temple when it was built. (See 1 Chronicles 29)

The splendour and beauty of the Temple is a reminder of the splendour and beauty of the Garden of Eden.

14. **Ponder:** The whole of chapter 6 & 7 apart from verses 1 to 12 of chapter 7 focus on the temple. What is the writer of 1 Kings trying to tell us about God's priority?

Even if Solomon's temple is bigger and better; God's focus and priority is on His Temple and symbolically what all these things made to Him and what they foreshadow.

15. **Ponder:** Why does God give us so much detail about the Temple in His Word?

Because God is a God of the Big Picture and a God of detail.

He wants things to be done in His way - not our way.

And as we said last week - everything in the Temple is a shadow and copy of Heavenly things. It is also a glimpse of Heaven and how awesome it is to be in God's presence.

16. **Ponder:** What was the sole purpose of building the Temple in the first place?

To symbolize the presence of God with His people - and to have a focal point to sacrifice and worship Him!

17. **Acts 2:42-47, Read Romans 12:1-2 and Ephesians 5:19-20**

What does worship look like in the early church and what can we learn from that?

Acts 2:42-47:

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 favor of all the people**. And the **Lord added** to their number daily **those who were being saved**.

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. 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

Ephesians 5:19-20:

¹⁹ speaking to one another with **psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit**. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ **always giving thanks to God the Father for everything**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 7:1-51?

- *Emphasis and focus on worshipping God. Make God our priority.*
- *Foreshadowing of Jesus in the furnishings of the Temple*
- *A picture of God's glory*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

The Sea and basins used for cleansing and washing - remind us that we are washed by the blood of Jesus and cleansed of our sins.

The bread - reminds us of Jesus being the bread of life and of the Last Supper and the Lord's Supper we celebrate today.

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

- a. *Do we put more effort into our own life/work - than it to God's work. Do we keep the best for ourselves and not for God?*
- b. *We should have a heart for God. We should WANT to serve God - not say I SHOULD serve Him.*
- c. *Are we "too busy" for God and His work? Are there not places or people (even in Australia) who have not heard about Jesus?*

- d. *The interior of the temple points us to Jesus*
 - a. *The mercy seat and the sacrifice point to Jesus on the cross*
 - b. *Cleansing with the Sea and the basins remind us of the cleansing of our sins if we confess (1 John 1:9 & Ephesians 5:26)*
 - c. *The showbread reminds us that Jesus is the Bread of Life (John 6:35)*
 - d. *The golden lampstands remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12)*
- e. *The names of the 2 pillars should speak to us that it is "God who establishes" (Jachin) things in our lives and we can only do it "in his strength" (Boaz)*
- f. *Are we worshipping God to the best of our ability - what does that look like for us?*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V21

Finish in prayer: Pray that, in view of God's mercy, in Jesus, we would offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1)

Study 3 - The "Glory of the Lord" enters the Temple 1 Kings 8:1-21
(Sermon on 17-Oct-21)

Finally, the House of the Lord (The Temple) is completed.

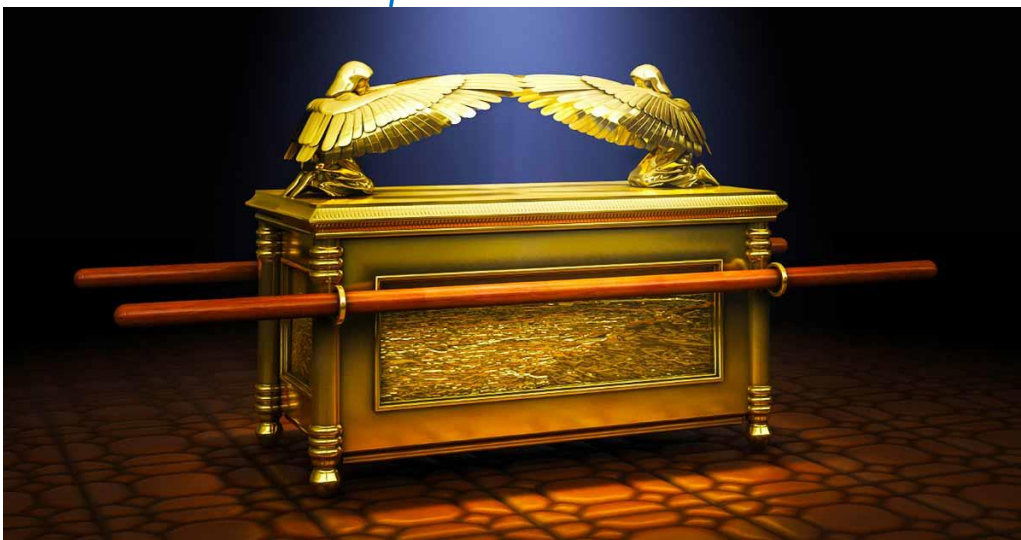
Remind yourself what the purpose of The Temple is?

The purpose of the Temple is to symbolize the presence of God with His people. Yes, God is everywhere, but the Temple gave the people something tangible to focus their thoughts and worship upon God. It was also the place to return to God by presenting sacrifices for the people's sins to be forgiven. Sacrifices that were presented to God, by the people's representative, the High Priest. The latter of course pointing to our great and perfect High Priest, Jesus.

Remind yourself what the Ark of the Lord's Covenant is; what it represents; what it contains and where it was in the time of King David.

God made a covenant (a conditional covenant) with the people of Israel through His servant Moses. He promised blessings if they obeyed Him and His commandments and He warned of punishments and dispersion if they disobeyed Him. As a sign of this covenant God had them make a box or chest according to His design - called an Ark; in which was placed the stone tablets containing the 10 commandments. The Ark had to be housed in the mobile tabernacle in inner sanctuary called the Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies.

On top of the Ark was the "Mercy Seat" - the word for the mercy seat - means atone, appease, cleanse or cancel. Once a year (Lev 16) the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies and atoned for his sins and the sins of the people. The High Priest sprinkled blood of a sacrificed animal on the Mercy Seat to appease the wrath and anger of God for past sins committed. This was the only place this atonement could take place.



It was upon this Mercy Seat - that God met the representative of the People - and this was the "way back to God"

According to Hebrews 9:4 - the Ark contained: a gold jar of manna; Aaron's staff that budded and the tablets of the covenant.

The Ark of the Lord's Covenant was in Jerusalem - David brought in there in 2 Samuel 6.

Read 1 Kings 8:1-2

1. Who is involved in verse 1 & 2? Why is that significant?

In verse 1, Solomon; the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families to bring up the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Then in verse 2 - ALL the Israelites came together with King Solomon.

This is a national event. A spectacular event. (e.g., Opening Ceremony at the Olympics)

2. Why do they bring the Ark of the Lord's Covenant to the temple?

The Temple was not ready to operate until the Ark of the Covenant was in its proper place in the Most Holy Place (The Holy of Holies). The Ark of the Covenant was the most important item in the Temple.

3. What is the date and the festival in verse 2? (cf. Leviticus 23:33-43)

*The date and festival in verse 2 was the **Feast of the Tabernacles** (of Feast of the Booths). This festival was an annual festival when the people lived in temporary shelters for 7 days to remember that God had the ancient Israelites live in temporary shelters when He brought them out of slavery in Egypt.*

4. What's the significance of bringing the Ark of the Lord's Covenant at the time of this festival?

By bringing the Ark of the Covenant into the permanent Temple (rather than the temporary mobile tabernacle) was confirmation that Israel's "wanderings" were finally at an end. As 1 Kings 8:56 says: "Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised"

Read 1 Kings 8:3-13

5. Who carries the Ark in verse 3&4 and why? (cf. 2 Samuel 6:1-8)

The priests (Levite tribe) brought the Ark. Solomon was careful to transport the Ark in the proper way with the proper people rather than repeating the error of His Father, David, in 2 Samuel 6:1-8.

6. What were the people doing in verse 5 and why?

They were sacrificing so many sheep and cattle they could not be recorded or counted. Why? This was a very special occasion and the people were committed to worshipping and praising God.

7. Where did they place the Ark in verse 6 and why?

They brought the Ark into the inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place, that was its home according to the instructions for the mobile tabernacle in Exodus 26:33.

8. What was the purpose of the cherubim in verse 7? (cf. Exodus 25:20)

The Cherubim are symbolic in guarding the way to the presence of God (like in the Garden of Eden when they guarded the way to the Tree of Life).





9. What was inside the Ark in verse 9 and why? (cf. Exodus 16:34; 25:16; Hebrews 9:4)

*According to verse 9 - the two stone tablets containing the **Ten Commandments**. We can only assume from the verses below that at an earlier time in Israel's history, the Ark contained other items; but now in Solomon's time only the stone tablets remained.*

Exodus 16:34: As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the **manna** with the **tablets of the covenant law**, so that it might be preserved.

Exodus 25:16: Then put in the ark the **tablets of the covenant law**, which I will give you.

Hebrews 9:4: ...This ark contained the **gold jar of manna**, **Aaron's staff** that had budded, and the **stone tablets of the covenant**.

10. What's significant about the **cloud** in verse 10? (cf. Exodus 13:21-22; 16:10; 40:34-35; Leviticus 16:2; Luke 9:34-35; 21:27; Acts 1:9-11 and Revelation 1:7)

The cloud is symbolic of the glory of God.

*Sometimes referred to as the **Shekinah** glory.*

It's difficult to define the glory of God - perhaps the manifestation of God's character and presence.

Exodus 13:21-22: ²¹ By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Exodus 16:10: While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

Exodus 40:34-35: While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

Leviticus 16:2: The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

Luke 9:34-35: ³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

Luke 21:17: At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Acts 1:9-11: ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and **a cloud hid him** from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**"

Revelation 1:7: "Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen.

11. Why were the priests unable to perform their service in verse 11?

Because the cloud containing the glory of the Lord filled the Temple.

The cloud is both a symbol of the Lord's presence as well as concealing Him.

The cloud is both YHWH's glory and covers YHWH's glory

12. What is Solomon confirming in verses 12&13?

Solomon rightly sensed that God's glory and presence through the cloud meant that God dwelled in His Temple in a special way. It was not to be seen as a superstitious thing but to recognize the temple and the Holy of Holies as the special place where the people meet God.

Read 1 Kings 8:14-21

13. How would you summarize Solomon's speech (prayer?) in verses 14 to 21?

- *Confirming that God always keeps His promises*
- *Confirming God's promise to his father, David, that it would be David's son who would build a temple for the Lord's name*
- *Confirming that Solomon's building of the Temple was indeed God's permanent place for the Ark of the Covenant*

14. What **purpose** do we see for the temple in verses 17 and 21?

To house the "Name of the Lord" and the "Glory of the Lord"

To house the most important item to God - is the Ark of the Covenant - containing His Word - The 10 commandments!

Optional: Read Hebrews 9:1-28

15. How is the Ark and the Tabernacle described in verses 1 to 10?

The Tabernacle has two rooms

The inner room, **Holy Place** containing: Lampstand and a table of bread

The outer room, **Most Holy Place** [aka The Holy of Holies] containing: the golden altar of incense; the Ark of the Covenant with jar of manna, Aarons' rod and two tablets of the 10 commandments; and 2 cherubim

Priests entered into outer room regularly but only the **high priest** entered inner room once per year to offer blood sacrifice for his sin and sin of the people.

These sacrifices were not able to fully clear the conscience of the worshipper (v9) and are the other things accompanying the sacrifices like food, drink, washings - were external regulations applying until the time of the new order (v10) - which is when Jesus ushered in the New Covenant.

16. How is the second tabernacle described in verses 11 to 14?

Jesus went through a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made of human hands (i.e., not part of creation)

It was His blood (perfect) as a once and for all sacrifice - not animal blood - that was sacrificed and so He obtains ETERNAL redemption.

So, His perfect blood cleanses our consciences once and for all - so we don't have to repeat useless rituals - and we can serve the Living God (v14)

17. What's different about the New Covenant in verse 15?

The New Covenant means we have eternal promises - and He sets us free from the punishment of our sins and also sets free all those under the old covenant

18. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die in verses 16 to 22?

To have a Testament (a will) a person has to die. Jesus had to die to usher in the New Testament. Just like a will and testament takes effect when someone dies, the New Covenant (Testament) was put into action when Jesus died. Jesus' death marked a transition from the old plan to the new plan, cancelling out the

obligations and accompanying sins of the old plan. And bringing all God's people together to inherit eternal life through Jesus.

Even the old plan (old testament) require death to set it in motion - animals had to die and their blood was sprinkled on the Book of the Covenant (Exodus 24:6-8). As the Law says (Leviticus 7:11) - everything must be cleansed with blood - without blood there is no forgiveness of sins!

19. What's different about Jesus' sanctuary and sacrifice in verses 23 to 28?
*It is a better sanctuary (heavenly and not human-made) and a better sacrifice (from a perfect God-man and so never needs to be repeated)
 He deals with sin once and for all.*

Read Acts 2:1-4

20. How is the event in Acts 2:1-4 a parallel event to 1 Kings 8:1-11?
God marks the inception of the church as the temple of the Holy Spirit by making his presence known through the sound of a mighty rushing wind and by filling those present with the Holy Spirit

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 8:1-21?

- *The glorious presence of God with His people in His Temple foreshadows us being in His glorious presence forever through the perfect once and for all sacrifice of our Lord Jesus*
- *The importance of God's Word (hence the Ark of the Covenant) inside the Most Holy Place.*



If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

- *The Mercy Seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant was the only place that the sins of the people could be atoned for; in the same way there is only one place for our sins to be atoned for and that is the Cross of our Lord Jesus. As Christians, we no longer look to the Ark but the Lord Jesus crucified for our sins.*
- *The Ark of the Covenant contains God's Law (10 Commandments) - Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14) and He is the fulfilment of God's*

Law (Matthew 5:17 - Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.)

How does this passage apply to your life?

- *Yet again, we see God always keeps His promises (in this case the Temple and His in dwelling)*
- *The cloud and thick darkness signify that there is a certain hiddenness about God; there is much about God we cannot see and do not know about Him. He gives both clarity and mystery (He reveals and conceals at the same time)*
- *Because of Jesus we have **access to God's presence - into eternity***
- *The Ark of the Covenant with the tablets inside emphasize just how important God's Word and His commandments should be in our lives. The people of God are to live under the Word of God; that's His will for us!*
- *The only way for the people of Israel to be forgiven was the sacrifice on the Ark of the Covenant; the only way for us to be saved is through the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross*
- *The Church (The Temple of the Holy Spirit) is the vehicle to share the Good News of Jesus*
- *Just as the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant and all the Temple contents foreshadowed Heavenly things and were a **signpost to Jesus - we are to be a signpost to Jesus** by pointing people towards Him - in all we say and do.*

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

1 Kings 8:11 - And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.

Finish in prayer: Thanking Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, so that we may receive the promised eternal inheritance where we can experience the Glory of God forever.

Study 4 - Solomon's Prayer for the Temple**1 Kings 8:22-53****(Sermon on 24-October-21)**

Having brought the Ark of the Lord's Covenant to the temple in 1 Kings 8:1-11 and experienced the glory of the Lord and having acknowledged that God kept His promise to David that a House for God's name would be built (1 Kings 8:12-21); Solomon now offers a prayer for the Temple in 1 Kings 8:22-53.

Read 1 Kings 8:22-26

1. What does Solomon acknowledge about God in these verses?

Read 1 Kings 8:27-30

2. What does Solomon recognize about God's dwelling place in verse 27?

3. Nevertheless, what does Solomon ask of God in relation to the temple in verses 28 to 30?

Solomon's prayer then has 7 petitions from verses 31 to 51.

4. **Read 1 Kings 8:31-32.** What is the petition?

5. **Read 1 Kings 8:33-34.** What is the petition?

6. **Read 1 Kings 8:35-36.** What is the petition?

7. **Read 1 Kings 8:37-40.** What is the petition?

8. **Read 1 Kings 8:41-43.** What is the petition?

9. **Read 1 Kings 8:44-45.** What is the petition?

10. **Read 1 Kings 8:46-51.** What is the petition?

11. **Ponder:** What's the significance of giving seven examples of circumstances in which the people might pray towards the temple?

13. What telling admission is there in verse 46?

12. What is significant about the last petition in verses 46-51 for those who might read this passage in exile? Is there a hint of a return from exile in these verses?

Read 1 Kings 8:52-53


13. As Solomon closes his prayer in verses 52 to 53, what plea does he issue and what confidence does he have?

14. **Ponder:** What do we learn from prayer from Solomon here?

Read Luke 19:45-48 (cf. Isaiah 56:7)

15. How does this passage relate to 1 Kings 8:22-53?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 8:22-53?

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thanking God for the gift of prayer and that He is a listening God and He cares about every detail of our lives.

Study 5 - The Dedication of the Temple

1 Kings 8:54-66

(Sermon on 31-October-21)

Having brought the Ark of the Lord's Covenant to the temple in 1 Kings 8:1-11 and experienced the glory of the Lord and having acknowledged that God kept His promise to David that a House for God's name would be built (1 Kings 8:12-21); and having offered a prayer for the Temple (1 Kings 8:22-53); Solomon now dedicates the temple.

What does it mean to dedicate something?

Read 1 Kings 8:54-61

1. Who is Solomon now talking to in verses 54-55?

2. What has the Lord done that He promised in verse 56? (cf. Exodus 33:14; Deuteronomy 12:10 and Hebrews 4:8).

3. What does Solomon expect in verse 57 and on what basis? (cf. Deuteronomy 4:31; 31:6; Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5)

4. Where should the people's hearts be and what's expected in verse 58?

5. What does Solomon want to happen with the prayers he has offered in verse 59?

6. What's Solomon's desire for all people of the Earth in verse 60?

7. What's Solomon's desire for the people of Israel in verse 61?

8. **Ponder:** How should our desire for people on this Earth match up with verse 60?

9. **Ponder:** In what way should our hearts be like the people of Israel in verse 61?

Read 1 Kings 8:62-66

10. Why do Solomon and the people of Israel offer a sacrifice in verse 62&63?

11. What does it mean in verse 63 that all the Israelites dedicated the temple of the Lord?

12. What do Solomon do in verse 64 and what does consecrate mean?

13. What's the festival in verse 65? What's significant in the length of the celebration?

14. What's the reaction of the people in verse 66 and why?

15: **Ponder:** Does the dedication of the Temple teach us that the God cares both about what will happen when Jesus returns and consummates His Kingdom and what happens to us in September/October of 2021 in COVID times? What do you think?

Read Hebrews 4:1-13

15. How does this passage relate to 1 Kings 8:54-66?

16. What's the promise we have?

17. How are we to respond in verse 11?

18. What powerful weapon do we have in verse 12?

19. What reassurance do we have in verse 13?


Read 2 Peter 3:4-10

20. How does this passage relate to 1 Kings 8:54-66?

Read Matthew 19:1-6 (especially verse 6)

20. One final thought: What does Matthew 19:6 mean in the context of 1 Kings 8:54-66?

What's the **BIG IDEA** of 1 Kings 8:54-66?

 If the Old Testament points to Jesus and Scripture is all about Him (Luke 24:27), in what ways does this passage point to Jesus, if at all?

How does this passage **apply to your life**?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Thanking God that in Jesus we have a true sabbath rest and asking God to help us to dedicate our lives serve the Temple of our Lord Jesus as living stones.

Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
September 2021

Resources:

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

1 and 2 Kings (Donald J. Wiseman - Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries)

1 Kings - The Wisdom and the Folly (Dale Ralph Davis)

Halley's Bible Handbook - New Revised Edition (Henry H. Halley)

Notes/Prayer Points