

JUNE 10

1 Kings 7

Vs. 1-12 Although it may look as if Solomon was directing the building of the temple and was also making his house/palace at the same time, later it will say that the entire time was 20 years. So, he built the temple first, and then his palace. It is interesting to see that immediately after it mentions that he worked on the temple for seven years, it says he worked on his own house for 13 years. It should also be noted that although the ESV doesn't begin v. 1 with a conjunction, the Hebrew has one. It should either be, "and" or "but." I don't see this as being negative, per se. The temple was a fairly small and simple building: No kitchens, bathrooms or bedrooms. A palace would have been a lot bigger and much more complicated. In retrospect, however, knowing how the story ends, you know that Solomon's pursuits became obsessions. As Jesus told Martha, *but one thing is necessary*. Solomon definitely missed that memo.

Vs. 13-51 Hiram must have been a popular name. This, obviously, is not the king, but a very skilled worker/artist. When you read all of this detail, you realize that Solomon, inspired by the Spirit, was quite an artist too.

Vs. 27-39 These 10 stands in v. 27 were like butcher block tables on wheels, for preparing the sacrifices. This was not something God had included in the tabernacle. The 10 basins for washing in v. 38 went with the stands. Definitely they were a great idea if the preparation of a lot of animals was necessary. Solomon must have thought this would be a nice touch and an upgrade.

V. 51 We'll read later that David did a lot of planning for the temple and amassed huge amounts of gold, silver and bronze to build the temple. I don't know if this means Solomon put what was left over in the treasury, or that he didn't use what David saved and put it all in the treasury.

I think for us as disciples, the moral of the story here might be to make sure we are spending more of our time following Christ in the harvest, making disciples, rather than falling into the obsession of making a "heaven on earth" for ourselves on this dying planet.

Acts 7:30-50

Remember to look for examples of Israel rejecting God and seeking to do things their own way.

Vs. 30-43 This is the rebellion against God and His prophet Moses. As much as the people revered Moses, our reading of Exodus through Deuteronomy revealed that the people only kind-of-sort-of obeyed Moses.

V. 35 Note how this sentence fits into the "eventual" point Stephen will be making (v. 51). Also, note how Stephen and the Spirit refer to *this Moses*. I'm reminded of Jesus' words to the Pharisees in John 5:45-47, "*Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?*"

Vs. 44-50 It seems that Stephen is saying that God changed the venue of worship. This would point to what Jesus said about true worship being in spirit and in truth. In Jesus, God again was changing (really, pointing to) where real worship would take place.

Tomorrow there will be a lot of changes for the church in Jerusalem and we'll meet Saul of Tarsus.

Psalm 128

This song sung by the worshipers coming to Jerusalem focused them on true prosperity and fulfillment.

Vs. 1-2 True prosperity begins with the fear of the Lord (mentioned twice). It changes us so that what we do in life bears fruit for God.

Vs. 3-6 And this attitude of heart and focus is fulfilled in family, in this case, a fulfilled wife and children.

Proverbs 16:31-33

Gray hair is meant to equate age with wisdom. I wish that was always true. So, what does this person crowned with wisdom know? What have they mastered? They know to be *slow to anger* and to control their spirit. They know that in spite of the chaos and the arrogance of man, God is really in charge and working His plan of redemption to completion in Christ. Paraphrasing what Paul told Timothy, they know how to act in godliness, righteousness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness, in all situations, because God is in charge.