

JUNE 9

1 Kings 5-6

It might help in today's reading to find an online diagram of the plan of Solomon's temple.

1 Kings 5

Vs. 1-12 I find it interesting that there was love between Hiram and David. You don't hear of that between national leaders today. Keep the name of Hiram in mind. Later he will say some words that will give us an indication that all was not well.

V. 7 I think Hiram was not only blessed to see that God had given David a wise son, but notice that Solomon's request is the focus of his reign. He wanted to build a temple to the Lord. Most kings with Solomon's wisdom and potential would have wanted to create an empire.

Vs. 13-18 Solomon was an organizing machine. Who says God isn't into detail?

1 Kings 6

Vs. 1-10 These dates are interesting, and they have helped conservative scholars pinpoint the times of people and events in the OT. According to the Bible Knowledge Commentary-OT, p. 499, since we have the dates of Solomon's reign, these 480 years puts the Exodus in the year 1446 B.C.

Remember that a cubit is 18 inches or about one and a half feet. Again, according to the BKC-OT, p. 499, the temple was only 2700 sq. ft. The stone work took time. The craftsmanship took time. And of course, overlaying everything with gold took time. But when you think about rebuilding a temple today with our materials, a 2700 sq. ft. building would be a piece of cake. And the temple didn't have electricity or plumbing.

Vs. 11-13 This was God's encouragement to Solomon during the building of the temple. I wonder if Solomon obeyed the command to make his own handwritten copy of the law and to read it daily. This promise is very gracious, but the "down side," if you want to call it that, would be that Solomon would have to obey.

Vs. 14-36 What I find interesting is that *he* refers to Solomon. Apparently he had his hand in the design and the crafting of almost everything. When we get to Solomon's dedication of the temple, *he* will become *I* and it might sound like he took too much ownership. We'll see.

Vs. 37-38 This is interesting information. It seems like something you might need for "Millionaire" or "Trivial Pursuit," but it will give an interesting slant on things soon. You wonder, if it only took seven years to build the temple, and if Solomon reigned for 40 years, what did he do in those other years? For the answer to that question, we have the story of the end of his life and the book of Ecclesiastes.

Acts 7:1-29

Vs. 1-29 Now, if you've ever read this sermon, you know that Stephen is killed at the end of it. If you are like me, you are tempted to think Stephen was killed because the sermon was so long and senseless and scatterbrained. But, alas, Stephen, speaking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, actually had a point. So here we go. The point of the entire sermon is in 7:51. Read that, and now, as you read through this for the next three days, look for alternating descriptions of obedience vs. resistance, constant change and movement, and the difference between God's grace and doing stuff in the flesh.

If you want a great description of Stephen's sermon, read p. 369 of the Bible Knowledge Commentary-NT.

V. 25 This is interesting in thinking about what Moses did in the book of Exodus. It shows that he was fully aware that God had put it in his heart to deliver the people of Israel when he killed the Egyptian. Moses just hadn't sought God or God's way.

Psalm 127

Interestingly enough, this psalm is written by Solomon, the builder. What a coincidence that we'd read this today.

Solomon's early years as king were amazing in terms of the things he built and said. It is undeniable that he had a heart for God. That makes what happens to him later absolutely horrific, and it ought to strike a deep humility into the heart of every disciple. The sickness of sin in us is so much more powerful than we think.

This psalm was to be sung by the pilgrims coming up the heights to Jerusalem. Probably, they could see the temple and the gold and the grandeur of Solomon's Jerusalem. This psalm, then, is a very mature and godly perspective on their lives and their worship.

Vs. 1-2 Our hope is in God to build our lives as we follow Him. Our hope is on God to protect us as we follow Him.

Vs. 3-5 The next generation is the true heritage of the Lord.

If only Solomon would have lived that. As disciples following Christ in the harvest, these records of the lives of David, Solomon, and others have been recorded for us to learn from. We need to imitate the good and to avoid the traps they fell into. For many of us, there will be a test.

Proverbs 16:28-30

I remember one time after reading this, being in a three-way conversation; and when one of the people was talking, saying something I guess I didn't agree with, I looked at the other person and winked. This verse came immediately to mind. Boy, did I feel bad. I would like to think I'm not the *dishonest man* or the *man of violence* or the "winker," but in the right (or wrong?) circumstances, I can be.

So, turning the proverb to the positive, an honest man is not simply passive, but spreads understanding and brings people together. A man of peace wins his neighbors' trust to lead him in a way that is good for him. A disciple of Christ is transparently honest, wise as a serpent, but innocent as a dove, seeking to lead others to Christ and to make disciples, who make disciples, glorifying the Father by bearing much fruit for Him. Something like that.