
BIG WORD: 1 Kings
Homework for Chapters 5—8
Discussion Dates: 13 February 2013 (in house)
and 14 February 2013 (online)

DAY ONE: Overview

PRAY for the Holy Spirit to clear your mind so that you may focus on God’s Word without distractions or preconceptions. Ask Him to help you discern only what He wants for you in this reading and for this day.

READ: 1 Kings 5—8.

If possible, read all four chapters in one sitting. Make notes of any details that stick out to you, questions that rise and/or personal insights God gives you while you read.

DAY TWO: An Alliance with Tyre

Chapter 5 begins with Hiram, king of Tyre. The text claims a positive relationship between him and King David, Solomon’s father.

READ 2 Samuel 5:10—12 and 1 Chronicles 14:1—2. What contributed to their alliance?

READ 1 Kings 5. What parallels do you see in Hiram’s interactions with David and then with Solomon?

During our introduction to Kings, we discussed how the books of Chronicles record the monarchies of the united kingdom (also covered in the books of Samuel and 1 Kings) and then those of Judah (but not those of Israel). The books of Samuel and of Kings present historical narratives while the books of Chronicles present official government records. This distinction allows for some gaps and seeming inconsistent timelines. Chapter 2, for example, parallels 1 Kings 5:1—8 and 7:13—14, but never mentions anything referenced in 1 Kings 6. As we compare the various texts, we may need to jump around a bit.

You’ve already read 1 Kings 5. Now READ 2 Chronicles 2 and 1 Kings 7:13—14.

Describe the agreement between Hiram and Solomon.

What preparations were made for the temple construction?

Solomon requested a “skilled workman.” Whom did Hiram provide?

Hiram declares Solomon to be a “wise son” (1 Kings 5:7 and 2 Chronicles 2:12). What evidence do you see to support this claim?

In those same passages, Hiram gives praise to YHWH, the Lord. What do you make of this?

DAY THREE: Building the Temple

READ 1 Kings 6 and 2 Chronicles 3.

Different translations quote different units of measure. Some cite the dimensions in cubits, others in feet. A cubit measured about 18 inches, so two cubits would equal one yard.

1 cubit = 18 inches = 45 centimeters

2 cubit = 1 yard = .9 meters

Using this formula (or simply referencing a different version of Scripture), list the various dimensions of the completed temple.

Between the descriptions of size and structure and that of the inner details and décor, the text reminds readers of God’s covenant with David and His instructions to Solomon (vv. 11—13). What was it?

Solomon heard the word of the Lord and continued building the temple. The original Hebrew language of 6:14 specifies he “built the house and completed it.” What does this signify to you about his commitment to the project and to the Lord?

Describe the temple’s décor.

What stands out to you most about the temple?

How many workers were drafted to complete the work?

From where did they come?

What was the work schedule?

How long did it take to complete the temple?

DAY FOUR: Building the Palace

READ 1 Kings 7:1—12.

Compare Solomon’s palace to the temple.

Length of time to build:

Size:

Materials:

Grandeur:

What are your reactions to the comparison? What do you think it says about Solomon or his leadership, if anything?

Why do you think the writers of Kings placed this account here, right in the middle of the story of building the temple?

DAY FIVE: Furnishing the Temple

READ 1 Kings 7:13—51 and 2 Chronicles 4:1—5:1.

Chapter 6 included descriptions of the temple's architectural details. Here, in chapter 7, we learn of the furniture, tools and utensils created to furnish it and prepare for worship. What are your initial observations to all of this?

Solomon's temple was not the first "home" of YHWH, nor was not the first house of worship for the Israelites. During their wanderings in the desert (after exiting Egypt and receiving the 10 Commandments), the Israelites built, according to God's direction and specifications, the Tabernacle. It is likely that while Solomon's temple was being built, they continued to worship in that temporary tent of worship. Building the Temple, then, was kind of like a church today constructing a brand new facility.

This facility, however, was meant to serve an entire nation just a little bigger than the state of New Jersey. Considering this, how do you think the people of Israel felt about Solomon's plans and projects?

To learn more about the Tabernacle, read Exodus 25—30. There you'll find God's instructions for its construction. The account of its completion may be found in Exodus 36—38.

How was Solomon's Temple similar to the Tabernacle?

How was it different?

Some of the tools and utensils were the same (the lampstands and the altar, for example). Why would they need to make new ones for the Temple?

READ 1 Kings 8:1—11 and 2 Chronicles 5:2—14.

The final piece to enter the Temple was the Ark of the Covenant. Describe this scene in your own words.

DAY SIX: Temple Dedication

READ 1 Kings 8:12—9:9 and 2 Chronicles 6—7.

Solomon continues to reiterate the covenant God made with his father, David. What was that covenant? What promises did God make?

What were the conditions of those promises?

What charges does Solomon extend to the people of Israel?

What does he request of God?

What do we learn about God from these prayers?

How many times does Solomon take credit for building the temple?

If you could summarize the prayers into one sentence, one theme, what would it be?

What do these prayers tell you about the character of Solomon and his level of devotion to God?

DAY SEVEN: Modern Day Temples

Several times within the New Testament the Apostle Paul referred to believers as God's temples. Consider what we have just learned about the original temple when reading these passages.

READ 1 Corinthians 3:9—16.

This passage addresses the building of the temple, in essence our wisdom and knowledge. If we are the temple of God and our sanctification – what learn of God and produce for His glory – is the material with which we are built, how important should accurate doctrine be to us?

What are some practical ways we can pursue right understandings of God and His Word?

READ 1 Corinthians 6:12—20.

This passage addresses the use of the temple. What admonitions do you see?

Does this passage apply only to sexual immorality? Or might we find additional applications for health and physical worship?

What application might we draw from that last sentence?

*“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.
So glorify God in your body.” – vv. 19c-20*

READ 2 Corinthians 6.

This passage refers to both our inner sanctuary and actions. Paul urges believers not to *“receive the grace of God in vain”* and to pursue purity and holiness. He wants us to be set apart for God and His purposes.

How can we do that?

READ Ephesians 2:1—10.

Here we read of the cost paid for our redemption, for our establishment as His temples. How do these truths impact your understanding of grace and salvation?

What should our response be?