

Lesson 10 7 April 2013

Solomon Builds and Dedicates the Temple

Lesson Scope: [1 Kings 5:1 through 9:9](#)

Lesson Focus

Solomon was eager to build the temple that his father had envisioned and for which he had prepared materials. This magnificent structure was intended to convey the glory of the God they served. In the fourth year of Solomon's reign, the foundation was laid (6:1). Seven and a half years later, the work was finished (6:38). Through the blessing of God, this work prospered and was brought to completion.

The temple's location on Mount Moriah had significant links to the past. This is where God had commanded Abraham to offer up his son Isaac (Genesis 22:2). David was directed to erect an altar here after his sin of numbering Israel (2 Chronicles 3:1). Here also, centuries hence, Christ would die on the cross for the sins of the world. Solomon foreshadowed the man who is at peace with God through the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13, 14).

Solomon's motive in building the temple was worship; he was not seeking personal glory. God did not need a costly temple in which to dwell. However, this building did honor God's Name. He said, "My name shall be there" (8:29).

God graciously desires to dwell among His people. As they fear Him and walk in His ways, they display to the nations His majesty and mighty works.

This account of the building of the temple can be used to establish principles for church building. The aim of this lesson, however, is to observe how the things that were done illustrate a proper response to the great God of heaven. A New Testament verse that emphasizes this is 1 Corinthians 10:31: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Certainly church building can and should be done to the glory of God. But this lesson includes all other aspects of life which likewise should contribute to God's honor and glory.

Lesson Aim: To consider the proper response to the glory and greatness of God.

Theme Verse: [Romans 11:33](#). O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

Lesson Text

Preparation

[1 Kings 5:2](#) ² And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, [1 Kings 5:5](#) ⁵ And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.

[1 Kings 5:10](#) ¹⁰ So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees *according to* all his desire.

[1 Kings 5:17](#) ¹⁷ And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, *and* hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

[1 Kings 6:2](#) ² And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof *was* threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty *cubits*, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

[1 Kings 6:7](#) ⁷ And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe *nor* any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

[1 Kings 6:19](#) ¹⁹ And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

[1 Kings 6:23](#) ²³ And within the oracle he made two cherubims *of* olive tree, *each* ten cubits high.

[1 Kings 6:28](#) ²⁸ And he overlaid the cherubims with gold.

Dedication

[1 Kings 8:1](#) ¹ Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.

1 Kings 8:6 ⁶ And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.

1 Kings 8:10 ¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

1 Kings 8:22-23 ²² And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven: ²³ And he said, LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:

1 Kings 8:27-29 ²⁷ But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? ²⁸ Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day: ²⁹ That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, *even* toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

Consecration

1 Kings 9:1-3 ¹ And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do, ² That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon. ³ And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

Questions for Study

Preparation

1. What God-honoring features marked the building of the temple?
2. How can New Testament believers honor God with their best?
3. Why should quietness characterize those places where God meets with His people?

Dedication

4. Why was it important that all the congregation be present for the ded-

ication of the temple?

5. Under what conditions will God dwell in the believer's heart?

6. In what ways does humility indicate a proper view of God's greatness?

Consecration

7. Why did God appear to Solomon the second time?

8. How can we keep our work in the church God-honoring?

Analyzing the Passage

The word name in Scriptural usage includes the idea of position, honor, authority, or character. When Solomon purposed "to build an house unto the name of the LORD" (5:5), his desire was to recognize God's greatness and ascribe the honor due to Him.

The cedars and firs of Lebanon (5:10) were known for their beauty and resistance to decay. Cedar wood is of a warm red tone, solid, and free from knots. Its fragrant scent repels insects. The cedars of Lebanon were stately evergreen trees, often one hundred twenty feet tall and forty feet in girth.

The oracle (6:19) is the most holy place. Compare the cherubim placed in the temple (6:23-28) to the ones in the original tabernacle (Exodus 37:7-9).

God's presence was withheld until the furniture was in place and the priests came out of the holy place (8:10, 11).

The elements of Solomon's prayer are noteworthy. They included humble worship, supplication, and promise-claiming.

God's second appearance to Solomon imparted a benediction on the finished work and a promise of further blessing (9:1-3).

Principles and Applications

Preparation

1. God's Name is to be exalted (5:2, 5). The ultimate purpose in whatever we do should be to honor God and to live for His glory. He is worthy of all honor and praise.

2. A proper response to God's greatness is to honor Him with the best (5:10, 17). Israel spared nothing. They gave unnumbered man-hours, used only the best materials, and cut no corners. They provided a worthy example for us to give quality time to the Lord's work and to offer

Him only the best of our service. No sacrifice should be considered too great when it is for the God of heaven.

3. A subdued, reverent spirit accompanies acceptable worship (6:7).

The quiet, subdued atmosphere maintained during the temple's construction teaches us to be quiet and reverent during public worship services. It also teaches us to possess a meek and quiet spirit in all of life (1 Peter 3:4).

4. A proper response to God's greatness is to prepare a place for His presence (6:19, 23, 28). God created man to have fellowship with Him. He desired to dwell in the midst of His people. God gave explicit instructions for the tabernacle, showing Moses and all Israel the conditions under which He could dwell among them. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Dedication

5. We should rally others to join in exalting the Lord (8:1). God cannot coexist with sin; neither will He dwell in the midst of a sinful people. Those who desire His presence must prepare themselves by decisively dealing with their sinfulness, applying the God-prescribed remedy. The place Solomon prepared for the ark typifies the centrality the church gives to Christ, whose blood was shed for our cleansing.

6. A proper response to God's greatness is to open our hearts to His truth (8:6, 10, H). Having prepared a place for God to dwell, Israel was in a position to see more of His glory displayed before them. Our exposure to truth moves us to greater godliness and an increased capacity to receive and to perceive truth.

7. A proper view of the glory and greatness of God produces deep humility (8:22, 23, 27). Although the temple Solomon erected was glorious by earthly standards, God's glory and greatness far excelled it. Like Solomon's, our view of God should emphasize our own smallness and move us to bow before Him in deep humility.

8. A proper view of God's glory and greatness moves us to seek His presence and blessing (8:28, 29). The benefits and blessings claimed by those with whom God is pleased to dwell can be the possession of all who will cry out to Him in prayer. He is "a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Consecration

9. God reveals Himself to those who respond properly to His glory and

greatness (9:1-3). God's second appearance to Solomon indicated His acceptance of Solomon's worship and dedication. Likewise we will have God's benediction upon us as we fully consecrate all to Him.

Important Teachings

1. God's Name is to be exalted (5:2, 5).
2. A proper response to God's greatness is to honor Him with the best (5:10, 17).
3. A subdued, reverent spirit accompanies acceptable worship (6:7).
4. A proper response to God's greatness is to prepare a place for His presence (6:19, 23, 28).
5. We should rally others to join in exalting the Lord (8:1).
6. A proper response to God's greatness is to open our hearts to His truth (8:6, 10, 11).
7. A proper view of the glory and greatness of God produces deep humility (8:22, 23, 27).
8. A proper view of God's glory and greatness moves us to seek His presence and blessing (8:28, 29).
9. God reveals Himself to those who respond properly to His glory and greatness (9:1-3).

Answers to Questions

1. What God-honoring features marked the building of the temple?

It was built to honor the Name of the Lord (5:5). The best materials available were used (5:17). The quietness at the building site honored God (6:7). The spiritual aspects of the temple were given prominence (6:19).

2. How can New Testament believers honor God with their best? They can give sacrificially to the work of the church, offering time, talents, and monetary gifts. They can give their best years in service.

3. Why should quietness characterize those places where God meets with His people?

Quietness facilitates meditation on the things of God. We should be more ready to hear than to speak when we go to God's house (Ecclesiastes 5:1, 2). "But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him" (Habakkuk 2:20).

4. Why was it important that all the congregation be present for the

dedication of the temple?

By being present, all the people benefited from Solomon's example in worship. They saw the glory of God as the cloud filled the finished temple. The blessing they received in collective worship was an incentive to continue walking in the ways of the Lord.

5. Under what conditions will God dwell in the believer's heart?

He will dwell there when sin is put away. This was typified by the ark with the blood-sprinkled mercy seat above it. He will dwell there when the work of redemption is completed, as shown when the priests came out of the holy place. He dwells with those who seek after Him.

6. In what ways does humility indicate a proper view of God's greatness?

Although Solomon had expended much time and labor building this great and glorious temple, he acknowledged that God's glory and greatness far excel it. Man is not humble by nature; he becomes humble only by comparing himself with the high and holy God. Even when we have done our duty to the best of our ability, we must confess that we are unprofitable servants (Luke 17:10).

7. Why did God appear to Solomon the second time?

God heard and answered Solomon's prayer. He accepted the temple Solomon had built, and He hallowed it by placing His Name there.

8. How can we keep our work in the church God-honoring?

We should seek God's guidance in the work, doing it in the way He directs. We should keep Christ central. We should give our best, recognizing humbly that our efforts are small in comparison to God's greatness

Summarizing the Lesson

Preparation, dedication, and consecration are all essential in a proper response to God's glory and greatness. Preparation is necessary to provide a place where God will be pleased to dwell. In dedication we focus on the present task, giving ourselves wholly to a common purpose. Consecration involves a commitment to be set apart for God's work in the future.

Research Guide

1. See the prophetic reference to the temple in Deuteronomy 12:10-11.