

Solomon Builds the Temple

Lesson Scope: [2 Chronicles chapters 2 through 5](#)

References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise

Lesson Focus

In this lesson the late King David's burden comes to fruition. He had interest in the nation's fullest potential for worship. God honoured that and had given directions on how to obtain it. Solomon chose to pick up the burden of his father and build the temple.

Solomon understood the sovereignty of God: he could only build a memorial to His name. Solomon's reign of peace met one of God's prerequisites for building. His spreading fame because of his dedication to God allowed the good will of a Gentile nation to benefit this project.

His God-given wisdom enabled him to manage the project of building a beautiful place to worship the God of heaven.

Solomon glorified God by humbly following every detail of David's instruction. By this choice he reaped the benefits of his father's toil, as well as becoming a link in the line of faith.

We are privileged to enjoy good church life in the New Testament age. Holy Spirit direction and growing up into Christ in all things are proofs of God's blessing. However, we still need direction for finding our way in life. Written standards give guidance for personal and group victory and unity in the Spirit. The devil opposes this. He offers change that will keep the most members rather than following the directions of a written standard. This undermines the strength of a standard and weakens the resistance against apostatizing influences.

Christians humbly acknowledge they are not wiser than their forebears. We enhance victorious living by following examples and directives of those gone before.

God's work deserves our dedication and diligence. A right view of His greatness and of our smallness prepares us for faithful service in God's kingdom.

Lesson Aim: To portray principles for effective church building.

Theme Verses: [1 Corinthians 3:10-11](#). According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Lesson Text

“Great Is Our God”

[2 Chronicles 2:1-6](#)

¹ (KJV) And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom. ² And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them. ³ And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, *even so deal with me*. ⁴ Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate *it* to him, *and* to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This *is an ordinance* for ever to Israel. ⁵ And the house which I build *is* great: for great *is* our God above all gods. ⁶ But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who *am* I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?

[2 Chronicles 2:11-12](#)

¹¹ (KJV) Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them. ¹² Hiram said moreover, Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

“Garnished . . . With Precious Stones”

[2 Chronicles 3:1-6](#)

¹ (KJV) Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where *the LORD* appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan the

Jebusite. ² And he began to build in the second *day* of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign. ³ Now these *are the things where-in* Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure *was* threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits. ⁴ And the porch that *was* in the front of *the house*, the length of *it was* according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the height *was* an hundred and twenty: and he overlaid it within with pure gold. ⁵ And the greater house he cieled with fir tree, which he overlaid with fine gold, and set thereon palm trees and chains. ⁶ And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold *was* gold of Parvaim.

2 Chronicles 5:1

¹ (KJV) Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in *all* the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.

“Glory . . . Filled the House”

2 Chronicles 5:2

² (KJV) 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 Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14

¹³ (KJV) It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD; ¹⁴ So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

Questions for Study

“Great Is Our God”

1. How did Solomon’s request to King Hiram bring glory to God?
2. What qualities must we possess to succeed in church building?

“Garnished . . . With Precious Stones”

3. What is significant about the location of the temple site?
4. Why is it attractive today to emphasize spiritual life and neglect practical obedience?
5. How does a thorough knowledge of God’s past dealings with His people contribute to church building?

“Glory . . . Filled the House”

6. What were the benefits of bringing the ark and other furnishings into the temple?
7. What may be some reasons God manifested His presence when the singers “were as one” (5:13)?
8. In what ways does God manifest His presence and blessing in the church today?

Analysing the Passage

In relating to Hiram, a Gentile, Solomon was careful to give a right image of God. This house was to burn sacrifices to God, not to contain Him (2:4, 6). The house would be great from man’s perspective, not necessarily God’s (2:5-6). _

Cunning (2:7, 13) means “skilful or artful.” It is the adaptation of what man knows to what he has or ought to do.

Solomon garnished the house for beauty. This was a reminder of the brightness and beauty of God’s glory and holiness.

The leaders of Israel were present as the Levites brought the ark and other furnishings into the temple.

The appearance of the cloud showed God’s acceptance of the efforts of His people and made it clear that this is where He would meet with them.

Principles and Applications

“Great Is Our God”

1. Effective church building requires men of inspiration and vision (2:1). Godly men will make choices according to God’s revealed will and live by careful planning. They will draw daily on the Word. The size of the task or difficulties in the way will not change their choices. They recognize the effect of their choices on the next generation.

2. Effective church building requires faithful administrators and willing workers (2:2). Faithful leaders and willing workers inspire each other. Mutual respect for the roles each one fills enhances church building. Leaders must “feed the flock of God, . . . taking the oversight, . . . neither as being lords . . . but being ensamples” (1 Peter 5:12-3). Husbands love their wives and bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Wives reverence their husbands. Children obey their parents. In the brotherhood, each must esteem others better than themselves.

3. Worship to God is an essential element in effective church building (2:3-4). Our Sunday morning schedule should be known to all around us—we are at church. We prostrate ourselves before God. We joy in praise and hearing the truth expounded. Our desire to give a right image of God is seen in our responses to life, our attire, and our use of material goods.

4. A lofty view of God and a humble attitude toward ourselves is necessary for effective church building (2:5-6). God is always right and good. Of ourselves we never are. We give God our affection by daily dying to the old man. We put on the new man, renewed in knowledge. Do I live by all of God’s directives? The sacrifice it takes to do so brings no regret.

5. Men of wisdom and integrity are a testimony to others of God’s blessing (2:11-12). We are accountable for the testimony we leave of God and the brethren. Does my life rebuke sin both by what I say and how I live? Am I sound in the faith, or do I allow wrong thoughts to linger?

“Garnished . . . With Precious Stones”

6. A proper view of God’s past dealings with His people is necessary for effective church building (3:1). If God’s people are going to remain faithful, their guiding principles must remain the same. David gave Solomon a written pattern for building (1 Chronicles 28:19). A written standard, carefully followed, gives strength from generation to generation. Carelessness in adherence will bring weakness in the battle against the world’s inroads.

7. Effective church building requires following God’s prescribed patterns (3:3). Baptism is administered upon confession of faith. The Lord’s Supper is observed as a memorial of His death by those of like

faith. Scriptural brotherhoods practice feet washing. Christian women cover their heads as a sign of submission. The holy kiss is appropriately practiced. The sick who call for it in faith receive anointing with oil. Marriage between one man and woman is dissolvable only by death. Ordained leaders emphasize the centrality of the cross.

8. God's chosen people radiate the beauty of His sanctifying work (3:6). Consistent holiness is one of the Spirit's strongest appeals to the ungodly to repent. Diligent Bible study and practical application bring favour with God and men. A love for the souls of men takes an interest in others that encourages them to think about God.

“Glory. . . Filled the House”

9. God's blessing and approval is experienced when godly leaders are faithful to the prescribed patterns of worship and administration (5:13-14). Leaders must be directed by patterns set by God and brethren gone before. Then the Spirit can fill their lives and the lives of those who hear them. The desire to be one with God first, and then one with others who are one with God, will doubtlessly result in successful church building.

Important Teachings

1. Effective church building requires men of inspiration and vision (2:1).
2. Effective church building requires faithful administrators and willing workers (2:2).
3. Worship to God is an essential element in effective church building (2:3-4).
4. A lofty view of God and a humble attitude toward ourselves is necessary for effective church building (2:5-6).
5. Men of wisdom and integrity are a testimony to others of God's blessing (2:11-12).
6. A proper view of God's past dealings with His people is necessary for effective church building (3:1).
7. Effective church building requires following God's prescribed patterns (3:3).
8. God's chosen people radiate the beauty of His sanctifying work (3:6).

9. God's blessing and approval is experienced when godly leaders are faithful to the prescribed patterns of worship and administration (5:13-14).

Answers to Questions

1. How did Solomon's request to King Hiram bring glory to God?

Solomon said, "I build an house to the name of the LORD my God." This temple was to be a marvel to man, and a memorial to the God whom even the heavens could not contain. Solomon communicated all this in His request. Solomon's question, "Who am I?" suggested that his part in building this house did not earn him more honour than those who sacrificed here.

2. What qualities must we possess to succeed in church building?

We take our accountability seriously. Worship and church activities must be a priority. "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (1 Peter 2:17). We must support the church discipline and desire to bring other souls into the kingdom.

3. What is significant about the location of the temple site?

This place is where Abraham's and David's wills met God's will and where they surrendered their wills wholly to whatever God asked. It was here too that the Saviour surrendered to suffering and death, thus fulfilling the types set forth by Abraham offering Isaac.

4. Why is it attractive today to emphasize spiritual life and neglect practical obedience?

Dying to self is difficult. Obedience requires humility. It is possible to repent and be saved but then fail to follow on to know the Lord because of the cost. Discipleship demands accountability.

5. How does a thorough knowledge of God's past dealings with His people contribute to church building?

It takes faith to build the church according to God's Word, and being aware of how God directed and blessed past efforts can inspire our faith. We also benefit in church building by knowing what methods worked because God's blessing was on them and what methods failed because God could not bless them.

6. What were the benefits of bringing the ark and other furnishings into the temple?

The former worship patterns were linked with the present for a continuation of godly worship. The ark represented God's presence. Now the altar and the ark were together again, and worship could be carried on according to God's plan.

7. What may be some reasons God manifested His presence when the singers "were as one" (5:13)?

The singers reflected the joy and unity of the people. God blesses into His service with His presence those who unitedly and joyfully enter obediently into his service.

8. In what ways does God manifest His presence and blessing in the church today?

Changed lives represent God's work in the hearts of men. Preaching emphasizes the centrality of the cross and allows the Spirit to make practical applications to life. Others are attracted to the truth. Drawing a clear line of separation creates a united defense between us and the world.

Summarizing the Lesson

Solomon's carefulness in following directions for this building was one reason it could stand more than three hundred years. In his own house he disregarded some principles, and it deteriorated after his death. The church life we enjoy is a result of obedience. God requires spiritual life guided by His Word and the conclusions of faithful forebears.

Research Guide

1. Look up Temple in a Bible dictionary, and read about Solomon's temple.
2. Study New Testament passages related to church building, such as 1 Corinthians 3 and 12.