

2/6/11

Solomon Contracted Hiram For the Temple
1Kings 5:1-18

God appeared and spoke to Solomon when he went to Gibeon, endowing him with wisdom as he asked Yahweh, in order to judge his people.

When Solomon returned to Jerusalem the case of two prostitutes was brought before him and one presented her case, accusing the other of rolling over her baby in the middle of the night, then switching her own dead infant for the defendants live infant.

And the people witnessed the wisdom of God upon Solomon, as he commanded the child be cut in two that each would have half of the child, knowing the true mother would speak out against such a judgment to save the child. So the child was given to the true mother!

Then Solomon has also appointed his cabinet officials to help him in the administration of the kingdom, as well as governors throughout the land of Israel.

Solomon now is going to make the preparations to build the temple, which unfolds for us in three movements: 1Kings 5:1-18

- I. The congratulations sent to Solomon by Hiram for being anointed king. vs. 1-6
- II. The celebration Hiram expressed to Solomon in his willingness to participate with the anointed king. vs. 7-11
- III. The organization set up by Solomon to work with Hiram, being the wise anointed king. vs. 12-18

- I. **The congratulations sent to Solomon by Hiram for being anointed king. vs. 1-6**
 - A. The King of Tyre extended his kindness to Solomon out of his friendship to David. vs. 1
 - 1. The initiator of the communication was Hiram. vs. 1a
 - a. He sent his servants to Solomon. vs. 1a
 - b. He had known David for at least 33 years, the first record of the two is when David conquered Jerusalem from the Jebusites, when David was 37. 2Sam. 5:9-11
 - 2. The news had reached Hiram that Solomon had been anointed king by in place of his father David. vs. 1b
 - a. The implication, being that David was now dead.
 - b. The motivation was to continue the alliance and relationship with Israel.

3. The motivation of Hiram was his love for David. vs. 1c
- a. The Scripture says that Hiram had always loved David.
 - 1) The word always “yown”, means literally, all the days.
 - 2) The length of time as we stated is at least 33 years.
 - 3) There is no evidence that Hiram had ever put his trust in Yahweh, yet he was a faithful friend to David.
 - b. The trade agreement between Hiram and David turned into a genuine love for David from the very beginning, when he took the city of Jerusalem and demonstrated his love tangibly.
 - 1) “Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house.”
2Sam. 5:11
 - 2) The loss of a good friend is irreplaceable and always grievous.
- B. The king of Israel expressed the right time to build the Temple. vs. 2-3
- 1. The formal response of Solomon was sent to Hiram, either by a letter or a personal messenger. vs. 2

- a. Without doubt Solomon had come to know King Hiram through the years, as he grew up.
 - b. The encounters of David and Hiram could not of been few.
2. The nature of the response of Solomon was to confirm to Hiram information that he already knew about David his father. vs. 3
- a. Solomon reminded Hiram that he knew his father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side. vs. 3a
 - 1) It is apparent that David had shared his heart with his close friend Hiram, even this very detail of his personal relationship with his God.
 - 2) It is also apparent that both men were very confident with each others trust.
 - 3) David had been denied by God through Nathan to build a house for God, due to being a man of war and blood. 1Chron. 28:3
 - 4) Take note that David did not want to build a house for Yahweh, but **for the name of Yahweh his God**, as Moses commanded. Deut. 12:5, 11

- 5) As Solomon would attest that the heavens of heavens can not contain God and He does not dwell in temples built by man's hands.
- b. Solomon indicated the period of delay, "until the LORD put his foes under the soles of his feet." vs. 3b
- 1) David was conquering his enemies, all around him.
 - 2) David by the time of his death, had conquered them.
- C. The king of Israel explained his commission from God to build the Temple. vs. 4-5
1. Solomon indicated the time had arrived. vs. 4
 - a. The phrase "But now", is a contrasting conjunction, indicating the period of waiting to the time to build.
 - b. The recognition that it was God Who brought it about, "the LORD my God has given me rest on every side." vs. 4a
 - c. The peace of the land is described in two ways. vs. 4b
 - 1) There was neither adversary "satan", one who withstands.
 - 2) There was no evil occurrence "ra'pega, disagreeable or problem situations in all the nation.
 - 3) This is confirmed. 1Chron. 22:9

2. Solomon indicated he was the one to build the Temple. vs. 5
 - a. The indication is emphatic, "And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God." vs. 5a
 - 1) David had laid up many of the materials already. 1Chron. 22:1-4
 - 2) David had charged Solomon and the leaders to build the Temple. 2Sam. 7:12-13, 1Chron. 22:5-19
 - 3) David encourage the people by his own example of giving to give to the work of the temple. 1Chron. 29
 - b. The indication was in view of Yahweh's revelation, "as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name." vs. 5b-e
- D. The king of Israel entreated the aid of the king of Tyre to build the Temple. vs. 6
1. Solomon declared his desire to continue the trade agreement for he needed timber for the building, "Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon." vs. 6a-b
 - a. The word command "tsavah" means to give a charge, but it is within a friendly relationship.

- b. The cedars of Lebanon were famous for their beautiful and hard wood that was impervious to insects and bugs.
 - c. The interesting thing is that God gave Israel Lebanon, but they did not take it or drive out the Zidonians and Gebalites. Josh. 8:5, Judges 1:31
 - d. The cedars were greatly desired by rulers of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Syro-Palestine for their building projects.
 - e. Hiram was known from Phoenician sources as a conqueror, a strong leader in his own country, and a builder of temples at Tyre. Becons
2. Solomon declared his willingness to send a work force to help, “and my servants will be with your servants.” vs. 6c
 - a. The work would be a joint-venture.
 - b. The work would continue the strength of their alliance.
 3. Solomon declared he would pay the going labor rate, “and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say.” vs. 6d
 - a. He did not try to take advantage of his father’s old friend.
 - b. He did not want to try and negotiate a lower price.
 4. Solomon declared a high complement to Hiram, “For you know there is none

among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians.” vs. 6e

- a. They were known for their expertise and were used by Ezra to provide cedar logs by the command of Cyrus. Ezra 2:7
- b. Sidon was the ancient Phoenician city, on the Mediterranean coast, north of Tyre and the Canaanites that inhabited the area were called Zidonians.
- c. They were great ship builders. Ezk. 27

Illustration

It has been said that, “No one is a complete failure until he begins disliking men who succeed.” **#2676**

Vol. 1

Hiram was not such a man!

Application

1. How important it is for the believer to be an example of love and compassion in times of tragedy and death.
 - a. To believers who have been good friends throughout life.
 - b. To their children, as an extension of their parents.
 - c. To those who are not believes, but they have been kind and good friends.

- 1) “For if you love those who love you, **what** reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” Matt. 5:46
 - 2) “And if you greet your brethren only, **what** do you do **more** than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” Matt. 5:47
 - 3) “But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” Matt. 6:3-4
 - 4) “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and **widows** in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” Ja. 1:27
2. The Lord Jesus has certain things for each of us to do and be part of throughout our lives.
- a. There the normal things of life all of us are to do, such as being respectful to parents and adults,
 - b. Prepare for life and earn a living through honest work.
 - c. Be faithful as believers in our Christian role, be it husband, wife, sons or daughters.
 - d. But each of us must seek God for our part in the church, to be the church and not just go to church by knowing my gifts and calling of God.

- * ‘For we are His **workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.’ Eph. 2:10
3. The most important thing in doing the work of God is that God gets the glory.
- a. Knowing God is in it and opening the doors.
 - b. Knowing God has called me to venture along side others.
 - c. Knowing it is to further the Kingdom of God and the salvation of sinners.
- * “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unreachable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.” Rom. 11:33-36

This was the congratulations sent to Solomon by Hiram for being anointed king!

II. The celebration Hiram expressed to Solomon in his willingness to participate with the anointed king. vs. 7-11

- A.** The consent of the king of Tyre to help Solomon in the building of the Temple . vs. 7-9
- 1.** The astonishment of Hiram. vs. 7
 - a.** He was elated, “So it was, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly.” vs. 7a
 - b.** He was gracious, “and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, for He has given David a wise son over this great people!” vs. 7b
 - * Hiram acknowledge Yahweh as creator of heaven and earth, but it does not mean had proselyted into Judaism. 2Chron. 2:11
 - 2.** The agreement of Hiram to provide the trees. vs. 8
 - a.** He responded back to Solomon, “Then Hiram sent to Solomon.” vs. 8a
 - * It was by a letter. 2Chron. 2:11
 - b.** He would take the business venture, “saying: I have considered the message which you sent me, and I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs.” vs. 8b-d
 - c.** Solomon controlled all the trade routes, this was beneficial to Hiram.
 - 3.** The arrangement by Hiram. vs. 9
 - a.** His plan of transport was revealed “My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; I will float

- them in rafts by sea to the place you indicate to me, and will have them broken apart there; then you can take them away.” vs. 9a-d
- 1)** Floating them on rafts down the Mediterranean Sea about 1000 miles, delivering them at the port of Joppa, the same place Ezra had them delivered and Jonah took his ship, 35-40 miles from Jerusalem. 2Chron. 2:16
 - 2)** Peter was at Joppa when the Lord gave him the vision of unclean things and told him to eat and was sought out by the servants of Cornelius to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. Acts 9-10
- b.** His payment to be imparted was stated, “And you shall fulfill my desire by giving food for my household.” vs. 8e
- 1)** The city of Tyre was a rocky Island which old Tyre was built called “fortified city or stronghold” and had little land to cultivate traded for food. Josh. 19:29, 2Sam. 24:7
 - 2)** The household of the king.
 - 3)** Alexander the Great used the rubble left by Nebuchadnezzar, scrapping it like a plate and built a causeway out the Island to conquer

it, fulfilling the prophecy of
Ezekiel. Ezk. 26:4

- B.** The contract between the king of Tyre and Solomon was carried out to build the temple.
vs. 10-11
1. The materials were delivered. vs. 10
 - a. Hiram gave to Solomon cedar.
 - 1) The root word “araz” means firm and strong.
 - 2) The composition of the wood was excellent for the large building.
 - b. Hiram gave cypress logs.
 - 1) Cypress “b@rowsh”, indicate a fir or juniper wood.
 - 2) A more fine and refined wood.
 - c. Hiram gave according to all his desire.
 - 1) As much as Solomon wanted.
 - 2) As soon as Solomon wanted them.
 2. The payment was in goods was imparted.
vs. 11
 - a. And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food for his household.” vs. 11a
 - b. “and twenty kors of pressed oil.” vs. 11b
 - 1) This was the by pounding the olives when they were not quite ripe in a mortar, producing a whiter color, purer flavor and a

clearer light than the more ripe olives.

- 2) These commodities were not found in great quantities in the mountainous regions of Phoenicia.
 - c. “Thus Solomon gave to Hiram year by year.” vs. 11c
- C.** The covenant between Yahweh and Solomon was the key to build the Temple.
vs. 12
1. God was faithful to Solomon, “So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him.” vs. 12a-b
 - a. God called Solomon to be King.
 - b. God enabled Solomon as King.
 - c. It has been noted that the structure is in a “chiastic” form. vs. 10-12
 - 1) Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs. vs. 10
 - 2) Solomon gave Hiram commodities. vs. 11
 - 3) The LORD gave Solomon wisdom. vs. 12
 2. Solomon and Hiram continued the extended relationship of David, “and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon.” vs. 12c
 - a. The past history was well established and proven.
 - b. The present would only strengthen it.

3. Solomon and Hiram made a new political alliance, “and the two of them made a treaty together.” vs. 12d
 - a. To insure peace.
 - b. To benefit each other economically.

Illustration

God used the Rechabites to rebuke the unfaithfulness of Judah, as they would not drink wine or dwell in cities, but had only sought refuge due to the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar. Jer. 35

Application

1. Too many today do not have a sense of privilege when they are asked to partner by others in a work for God?
 - a. They at times think it is an imposition.
 - b. At other times they have the sense that they are beyond the kind of work to be done.
 - c. Still at other times, some just do not want to be bothered.
 - d. But there are those who rejoice greatly, like Hiram, when asked to be part of a work for God, whatever the work might be.
 - e. The size or quality is irrelevant!
 - * “Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.” Phil. 2:17-18

2. Have you and are you committed to a church faithfully in every way.
 - a. Have you witnessed and been part of a Bible study that turned into a church and regardless of the lack of facilities, conveniences, etc, you were there loyally?
 - b. Or did you go somewhere else where all your needs were met and once the church developed you went back to be part of it?
 - c. Are you one who is interested in building and developing the church and the ministry you serve in or just to see what you can get?
 - d. Are you a person of character or are you a flake, just bouncing from church to church, until you get tired of it or someone offends you?
 - e. God swore there would not lack a man to stand before Him forever, from the Rechabites. Do you know where you find the Rechabite working in the repatriation of Israel at Jerusalem?
 - 2) “Malchijah the son of **Rechab**, leader of the district of Beth Hacerem, repaired the Refuse Gate; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.” Neh. 3:14
3. The relations you will develop and forge are critical to your character and spiritual development, keeping an attitude of a servant.
 - a. They will test and refine your faith.
 - b. They will reveal your heart to God and yourself.

- c. They will enrich you spiritually or prove you a popper spiritually.
 * “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. 1Cor. 15:9-11

This was the celebration Hiram expressed to Solomon in his willingness to participate with the anointed king!

III. The organization set up by Solomon to work with Hiram, being the wise anointed king. vs. 13-18

- A. The king of Israel raised up a work draft of Israelites. vs. 13-14
1. Solomon made his selection from the fulfilled promised of God to multiply them greatly. vs. 13
 - a. The first group consisted of the seed of Abraham, “Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel.” vs. 13a

- b. The group consisted of, “the labor force was thirty thousand men.” vs. 13b
2. Solomon set up a work schedule for the labor force of 30,000 Israelites. vs. 14
- a. They would work in one month work crews, “And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts.” vs. 14a-b
 - b. They would then come home for two months, “were one month in Lebanon and two months at home.” vs. 14c
 * They would work four months in Lebanon and eight months at home in their fields or trade.
 - c. They were overseen by one of Solomon’s superintendents, “Adoniram was in charge of the labor force.” vs. 14d
 - 1) His name means “my lord is exalted”.
 - 2) He was appointed over the labor force by Solomon. 1Kings 4:6
- B. The king of Israel raised up a work force of non-Israelites. vs. 15-16
1. Solomon made a selection from those God promised they would conquered. vs. 15
 - a. He had seventy thousand who carried burdens.” vs. 15a

- * The 150,000 combined non-Israelites were a permanent tribute labor force from the Canaanites and others, but the Israelites were not made slaves. 1Kings 9:22, 2Chron. 2:17-18
- b.** He had eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains.” vs. 15b
- 1) These split the blocks from the quarries, in contrast to the more skilled and refined hewing or dressing that the Israelites and Phoenicians would do. vs. 13, 2Chron. 2:14
 - 2) There is what is called “Solomon’s quarries”, under the city of Jerusalem outside the Damascus Gate.
- 2.** Solomon made a selection for overseers. vs. 16
- a.** He chose, “three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon’s deputies.” vs. 16a
 - b.** He appointed these, “who supervised the people who labored in the work.” vs. 16b
 - 1) This is Confirmed in Chronicles. 2Chron. 2:18
 - 2) The building began May of the fourth year of Solomon’s reign, 967-966 B.C, 480 years after Israel

- came out of Egypt, 1447-1446 B.C . 1Kings 6:1
- 3) The build took 7 years to construct, in all its details and according to all its plans. 1Kings 6:38
- C.** The king of Israel ruled over the work. vs. 17-18
1. Solomon oversaw the perfectly quarried stones. vs. 17
 - a.** Three are mentioned, “And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones.” vs. 17a-c
 - b.** The purpose, “to lay the foundation of the temple.” vs. 17d
 - 1) Some foundation stones of Solomon’s house were 10 cubits and 8 cubits. 1Kings 7:10
 - 2) At 18 inches a cubit is 15 and 12 feet blocks.
 - 3) The sight was the threshing floor of the Jebusite, Arunah, on Mount Moriah, an incredible feat.
 - 4) The rugged summit has to be enlarged to 500 square yards.
 - 5) The present day “Wailing Wall”, from Herod, the largest being 570 tones, 44 feet long, 10 feet high and 12-16 feet deep.

2. Solomon coordinated the work efficiently. vs. 18
 - a. The first group working was, “Solomon’s builders.” vs. 18a
 - b. The second group was, Hiram’s builders.” vs. 18b
 - c. The third group was, “the Gebalites”, in the region of Lebanon, called Byblos by the Greeks, to the north of Beirut. vs. 18c
 - * They were experienced in the art of shipbuilding and were very skillful. Ezk. 27:9
 - d. The three groups worked together, “quarried them; and they prepared timber and stones to build the temple.” vs. 18c-d
 - * Each stone was numbers and fit exactly, so that no cutting, hammering was done on sight. 1Kings 6:7

Illustration

Nehemiah sought the Lord for the kings permission to return to build Jerusalem, the materials, the wisdom for the organization and protection and God did it all!

Application

1. There is nothing more exciting to see God raise up the number of people needed for the work of ministry, through the years.
 - a. For the children’s ministry.
 - b. For the nursery.
 - c. For the Jr. and High School.
 - d. For the prison ministry.
 - e. For the music ministry.
 - f. For the street witnessing.
 - f. For missions.
 - g. For the woman’s ministry.
 - g. For the men’s ministry.
 - h. For the prayer ministry.
 - i. For the tape and bookstore ministry.
 - j. For usher ministry.
 - k. For the elders.
 - l. For the pastoral ministry.
 - m. For the radio ministry.
 - * “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the **calling** with which you were called,” Eph. 4:1
2. The ministries at Calvary Chapel Pasadena, all have head leader, who supervise the ministry.
 - a. They train and instruct those who want to be used in the ministry.
 - b. They have start as mere helpers and aids, with someone more experienced with them.
 - c. The are constantly being equipped and trained, but encouraged to let God lead them in their bible teaching inductively.

d. There is a chain of command, but only for order, not for some authoritative control and in order to resolve problems in a clear and simple way.

* “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Eph. 4:16

3. The beauty of a ministry that is doing the Lord’s work is that they flow with one another.

a. There is no competition.

b. There is no complaining.

c. There is no job or task that is beneath the person.

d. There is a willingness to do what has to be done.

e. This is evident every week in the various ministries that go on in the church.

f. This is evident every time we have an outreach, be it a medical outreach, a concert outreach, etc, everyone is a great servant!

g. The bottom line is that God does an incredible work in reaching the lost, edifying the saint and receiving all the glory

* “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may

walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” Col. 1:9-12

This was the organization set up by Solomon to work with Hiram, being the wise anointed king!

Conclusion

Solomon has made preparations to build the temple, which unfolded in three movements:

I. The congratulations sent to Solomon by Hiram for being anointed king!

II. The celebration Hiram expressed to Solomon in his willingness to participate with the anointed king!

III. The organization set up by Solomon to work with Hiram, being the wise anointed king!