

1 Kings 5

Building Lives

I. Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, because he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for **Hiram had always loved David.**

David had a strong influence on pagan Hiram...

- **Hiram loved David:** Provided material to build David's home

2 Samuel 5:11 ...Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. **And they built David a house.**

- Solomon will not treat Hiram as well as David did [1 Kings 9]
- Solomon seems to be using Hiram's relationship with David for his own gain

Hiram sends servants to Solomon after hearing David died...how can we help

2 Then Solomon sent [back] to Hiram, saying: 3 You know how my 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, until the Lord put his foes under the soles of his feet. 4 But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence. 5 And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, 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."

- **Solomon's response to Hiram**
 1. David wanted to build the Temple but was busy warring
 2. The LORD gave him victory and now we have peace on every side
 3. We no longer have enemies and violence is at a low point

God told David that I should build the Temple for the "Name" of the Lord my God

- **For the Name:** God is not confined to a building

6 Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and my servants will be with your servants, and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know there is none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians.

- **NOTE:** David had already prepared some building materials [1 Chron. 22]

Solomon to Hiram: You are the best at what you do...

"The Sidonians were noted as timber craftsmen in the ancient world, a fact substantiated on the famous Palmero Stone. Its inscription from 2200 b.c. tells us about timber-carrying

ships that sailed from Byblos to Egypt about four hundred years previously. The skill of the Sidonians was expressed in their ability to pick the most suitable trees, know the right time to cut them, fell them with care, and then properly treat the logs." [Dilday]

My people will work for/with your people

It is not every man who has every gift. Hiram and his Sidonians could hew timber more skillfully than Solomon and his Israelites. God can always find the right sort of men to do his work. Do not be dispirited because you cannot do everything; why should you? Should not somebody else have a share, and ... have the honor of serving his God? It is well that you cannot do all that has to be done, and that somebody else can do something better than you can. [Spurgeon]

It's amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit. [Harry Truman]

- **Solomon to Hiram:** You guys are the best...come and help us out!

7 So it was, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly and said, **Blessed be the Lord this day**, for He has given David a wise son over this great people!

- **Blessed be the Lord** [YHWH]? David's influence
- He [God] had given David a wise son!: Desires same relationship as with David

8 Then Hiram sent to Solomon, saying: I have considered the message which you sent me, and **I will do all you desire** concerning the cedar and cypress logs. 9 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. And you shall fulfill my desire by giving food for my household.

- **I will provide Timber...you just buy lunch!**
- Lit. "Solomon, I will do all your pleasure..."

2 Chronicles 2:11 [Read Parallel] Then Hiram king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon: Because the **Lord loves His people**, He has made you king over them. 12 Hiram also said: **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel**, who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for the Lord and a royal house for himself! 13 And now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram my master craftsman 14 (the son of a woman of the **daughters of Dan**, and his father was a man of Tyre), skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen and crimson, and to make any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him, with your skillful men and with the skillful men of my lord David your father. 15 Now therefore, the wheat, the barley, the oil, and the wine which my lord has spoken of, let him send to his servants. 16 And we will cut wood from Lebanon, as much as you need; we will bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, and you will carry it up to Jerusalem. 17 Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred. 18 And he made seventy thousand of them bearers of burdens, eighty thousand stonecutters in the mountain, and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people

work.

What about Solomon and Hiram being unequally yoked?

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

- Was Solomon unequally yoked in business with Hiram or did David get to him?
- Hiram LOVED David. **Hiram's own words:**
 1. "Blessed be the Lord this day
 2. "God has given David a wise son over this great people!" [YHWH]
 3. "The Lord loves His people"
 4. "[He is the God] who made heaven and earth"
 5. "He has given King David a wise son"
 6. "He has endowed with prudence and understanding"
 7. "[Solomon]...will build a temple for the Lord and a royal house for himself!"

[Solomon and Hiram's relationship...] was not confined to the exchange of gold, silver, and cedar- and fir-wood for grain, oil, and wine; for they also **exchanged questions and answers**. On one occasion Solomon sent Hiram riddles, asking for some in return; and he proposed that the one who could not solve them should pay a forfeit in money. Hiram accepted this proposition, and subsequently had to pay many sums, since he was unable to solve Solomon's riddles. Later, however, a Tyrian, Abdamon by name, came to Hiram's aid and propounded riddles to Solomon; and as the latter could not solve them, he was obliged to pay large sums to Hiram (Josephus, "Ant." viii. 5, § 3).

- So Hiram was a believer? **Alas probably no...**

Hiram, instead of being grateful to God for allowing him to attain to a good old age, began to imagine that he himself was a god, and endeavored to make people believe in him by means of seven heavens that he had artificially constructed. He had four iron pillars fastened to the bottom of the sea, and on these he erected seven heavens, the first being of glass, the second of iron, the third of lead, the fourth of molten metal (brass), the fifth of copper, the sixth of silver, and the seventh of gold. [Jewish Encyclopedia]

- **Sadly:** It is possible to get a taste of Salvation without being Saved
 1. Around believers
 2. Feel/Sense presence of Holy Spirit
 3. Agree that God is good
 4. Agree: Jesus died/rose again and forgiveness is necessary...**but not for you**

Hebrews 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have **tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come**, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. [Judas tasted but did not eat]

- **Enlightened but not saved:** Not trusting in their personal need of salvation

**Hiram: Nice Guy...Said kind things about God...Loved David and Solomon.
But not saved ... we not saved by osmosis.**

10 Then Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs according to all his desire. 11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food

for his household, and twenty kors of pressed oil. Thus Solomon gave to Hiram year by year.

- **God allowed Jew/Gentile** to work together building Temple for reason...

Is it not a very pleasing thought that both Jews and Gentiles built the temple of Solomon; put the big stones together, and cut the cedar and fir trees into the proper shape, yet they were Hiram's fir trees and Hiram's cedar trees, and he floated them by sea to the place where they were landed, [after] they were dragged to Jerusalem...God will let His people of every race and nation have a share in the building of his great spiritual house. [Spurgeon]

- **Alien/Foreigner:**
 1. Always welcome into God's family
 2. Only after getting in line **with** God's plan...One way Jesus

Isaiah 56:6 [Read] "Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants—Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant— 7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a **house of prayer for all nations.**" 8 The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him."

- Blood of Christ breaks down all walls of separation from God/His people

Ephesians 2:14 [Read] For [Jesus] **Himself is our peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **one new man from the two**, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

- Specifically Jew/Gentile but anyone who puts faith in/identifies with Christ

Galatians 3:26 [Read] For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus.** 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Colossians 3:10 [You...] have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the **image of Him who created him**, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Temple: House of prayer for all nations. All races. All ethnicities. All nationalities.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever** desires, let him take the water of life freely.

12 So the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty together.

- **Godly wisdom brings peace**

James 3:17 [Read] But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

- **Godly Wisdom?** Come at it sideways...
 1. **Pure:** *Not* contaminated; not driven by impure motives
 2. **Peaceable:** *Not* disturbing, not loud, not agitated or distressed
 3. **Willing to yield:** *Not* head-strong, stiff-necked
 4. **Eager/Ready to be Merciful:** *Not* unkind toward the afflicted

Godly wisdom is approachable; not intimidating...except to the proud and arrogant [NJC]

5. **Impartial:** Does not play favorites. Ignorance breeds favoritism/racism

I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. [MLK]

6. Impartial and **without hypocrisy: Today's "wisdom" is Satanic...**

[Dumb society] The most heinous racists of our day are those who use minorities for their own congratulatory agenda, pretending to advocate for the less fortunate while simultaneously walking up their backs to reach the next political plateau. [NJC]

- **Godly Wisdom brings peace:** Solomon and Hiram working together

13 Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel; and the labor force was thirty thousand men. 14 And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts: they were one month in Lebanon and two months at home; Adoniram was in charge of the labor force.

- **Adoniram:** Charge of the labor force [c.f. 4:6]
 1. **30,000** traveling construction workers to go North
 2. **10,000 at a time:** Work one month then two months home

15 Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens, and eighty thousand who quarried [chiseled] stone in the mountains, 16 besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work.

- **General Laborers:** 70,000
- **Skilled Labor:** 80,000
- **Supervisors:** 3,300

Tabernacle will no longer be put up/taken down or moved

- Materials gathered/Men ready...

Time to build the stationary Temple to Worship Eternal God

17 And **the king commanded** them to quarry large stones, **costly stones,** and hewn stones, to lay the **foundation of the temple.**

- Foundation not seen but made with costly stones...

This speaks to the way we should work for God. We don't work for appearance only, but also to excel in the deep and hidden things. "I want, dear friends, to urge that all our work for God should be done thoroughly, and especially that part of it which lies lowest, and is least observed of men." [Spurgeon]

1 Corinthians 12:22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. **23** And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor;

Work Begins: Foundation Ready to be built on
OT is a Physical Representation of a NT Spiritual Truth

Foundation: First and most important part of a building. Must be straight. Must be true

- We are the Temple of God of God with Christ as Foundation

1 Corinthians 3:9 [Read] For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are God's building.* ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

- Not church attendance
- Not church membership

Everything in our lives should be built on our relationship with Jesus

[cont.] ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will **receive a reward.**

- **Things that endure...things done by Jesus through us**
 1. Love
 2. Forgiveness
 3. Dying to self for someone else
- God, Silver, Precious Stones will endure the fire of Judgment
- When we allow Jesus to work through us we receive an **Eternal Reward**

[cont.] ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- **Things that burn...**
 1. Things we think are "just a good idea"
 2. Whatever we do apart from Jesus; i.e. leading of the Holy Spirit

3. Things to be seen by men

- When we do things apart from Jesus there is **NO reward**

[cont.] ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

- We are the Temple of God
 1. Pure
 2. Holy
 3. Sanctified

[cont. and supplemental] ¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. **If anyone among you seems to be wise** in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. ²³ And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

- Jesus is the foundation of our lives...

Matthew 7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

- **Jesus is a Living Stone:** Cornerstone of the Foundation of building build by God

1 Peter 2:5 [We come to Jesus] as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but **chosen by God and precious**, **5 you also, as living stones**, are being built up a **spiritual house**, a **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- We are to be straight and true as the Cornerstone of our foundation...

1 Peter 1:13 [Read]...gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, **"Be holy, for I am holy."**

"Be holy, for I am holy."

- **Gird the loins of your mind:** Be ready for action
- **Be Sober:** Living in expectation
- **Rest your hope on Grace:** Revelation [gr. *apokalypsis*] revealing of Jesus Christ

Don't be conformed to former lusts as when you were ignorant

"Be holy, for I am holy."

- **Jesus is the Living Cornerstone**
- **We are those stones built upon Him...we should look the same**
- **Christian:** Lit. "Little Christs"

18 So Solomon's builders, Hiram's builders, and the Gebalites quarried [chiseled] them; and they prepared timber and stones to build the temple.

- **Used the best:** No "junk for Jesus" thanks...

Nothing is too good or too costly to be given to God, and let us reckon no labor too hard or too heavy that will bring glory to his holy name. [Spurgeon]