



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY • NEW LIVING TRANSLATION

MAIN IDEA: Everything in the Temple had a purpose. Worship required cleansing, preparation, faithful service, and dependence on God's presence.

1 CLEANSED
Before God

2 PREPARED
To Serve

3 FAITHFUL
To Finish

1 Cleansed Before God | 1 Kings 7:23–26

- Hiram was a highly skilled craftsman sent by King Hiram of Tyre. He was especially gifted in working with bronze.
- The Bronze Sea was about 15 feet across, 7½ feet high, and held approximately 11,000 gallons of water.
- Second Chronicles 4:6 explains why it was so large: the priests used it for washing before serving.
- Exodus 30:20: “They must wash with water whenever they go into the Tabernacle...or they will die.”
- The twelve oxen may picture the twelve tribes of Israel, arranged three in each direction as in Numbers 2. Scripture suggests this connection but does not directly explain it.

BEFORE SERVICE CAME CLEANSING.

PERSONAL APPLICATION: Before asking, “What am I doing for God?” ask, “Is my heart right with God?”

2 Everything Had a Purpose | 1 Kings 7:27–40a

- Hiram made ten bronze carts to move the smaller washbasins wherever water was needed.
- Second Chronicles 4:6 says the smaller basins were used to wash the sacrifices, while the Bronze Sea was used by the priests.
- Even the carts, wheels, shovels, bowls, and basins were carefully made because they were used in service to God.

No part of serving the Lord is unimportant. The work may seem ordinary, but when it is done for God, it matters.

- Hiram completed everything Solomon assigned him—from the largest pillars to the smallest utensils.
- The bronze pieces were cast in clay molds in the Jordan Valley. Scripture gives the location but does not directly say why it was chosen.
- Verse 47 emphasizes the enormous scale of the work: so much bronze was used that Solomon did not attempt to weigh it.

God is not asking us to complete someone else's assignment. He is asking us to be faithful with ours.

THE GOLD ALTAR	Used for burning incense before the Lord, which Scripture often connects with prayer.
BREAD OF THE PRESENCE	Twelve loaves represented the twelve tribes and reminded Israel of God's provision and fellowship. They point to Jesus, the Bread of Life.
THE LAMPSTANDS	Ten lampstands provided light so the priests could serve. They reminded Israel that God is the source of light and truth, and they point to Jesus, the Light of the World.

David prepared. Solomon completed. Both were faithful to their part in God's work.

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Is my heart prepared for worship?

Is there anything I need to confess?

Am I faithfully serving where God has placed me?

May we come cleansed through Jesus, serve Him faithfully, give Him our best, and desire His presence above everything else.

REVIEW & APPLICATION

FILL IN #1	Before the priests could serve, they had to be _____.
FILL IN #2	David _____; Solomon _____.
DEEP THOUGHT	Is worship something I prepare my heart for, or simply an activity I attend?
APPLICATION	Before worship this week, take time to confess sin, pray, and choose one place to serve faithfully.

NOTES
