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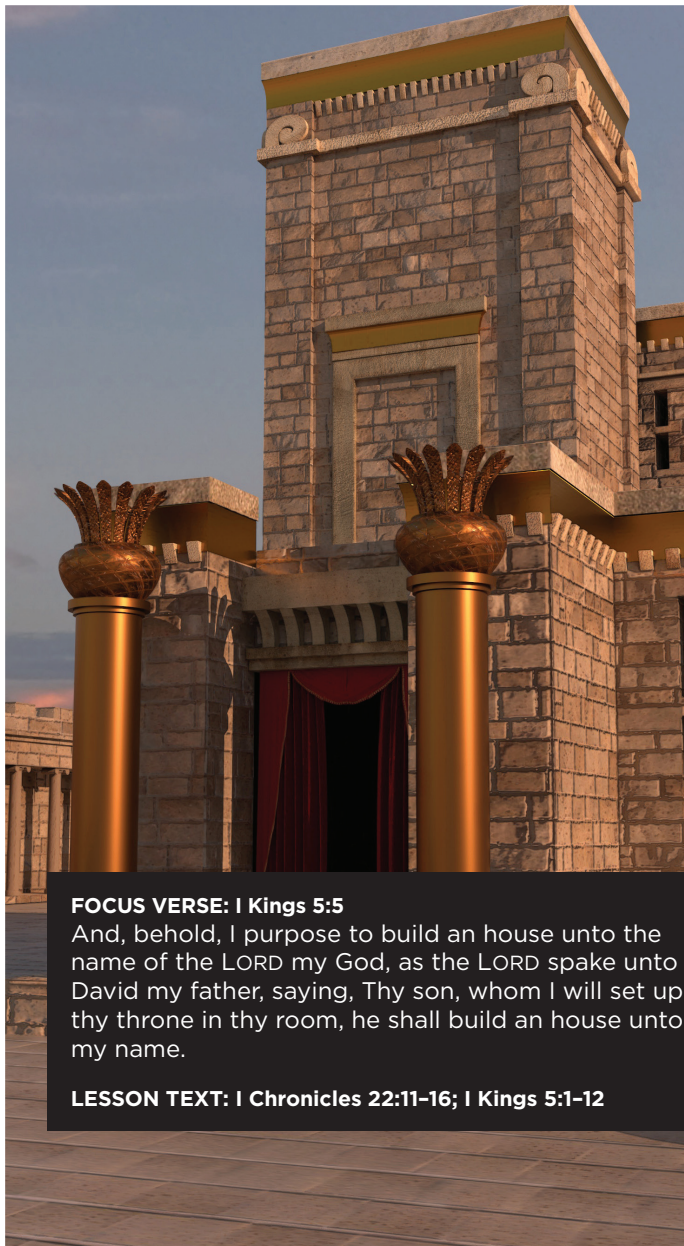
BUILDING THE TEMPLE

TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God's plan and promises extend to multiple generations.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will do what God calls me to do.



FOCUS VERSE: I Kings 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.

LESSON TEXT: I Chronicles 22:11-16; I Kings 5:1-12



BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

Lesson Text: I Chronicles 22:11-16; I Kings 5:1-12

David passed many things along to his son Solomon: facial features, hair color, and verbal tics might have been among these. However, the most important features David passed down to Solomon were a love for God and dedication to His promises. David encouraged Solomon to pursue wisdom (I Chronicles 22:12), which would later prompt Solomon to request wisdom from the Lord rather than riches or fame (I Kings 3:3-15; II Chronicles 1:7-12). David also prepared materials and workers for Solomon to use in building a Temple for the name of the Lord. David had wanted to build the Temple himself, but God denied his request, promising instead to allow David's offspring to build it (II Samuel 7:1-17). David's passion for this project was evidenced by his energetic preparation of the materials and his enthusiastic encouragement for young Solomon.

In I Chronicles 22:13, David's admonishment to Solomon to "be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed" echoed the words of Moses in Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Moses gave this charge shortly before he died, encouraging the Israelites that God would be faithful to every generation who is faithful to Him. Solomon, like any good Hebrew familiar with the Torah, would have recognized David's words as a reference to Moses. Like Moses, David was seeking to pass on to the next generation the same faith and trust in God that preserved him, knowing this same faith would preserve the next generation.

David's passion and preparation for the next generation provided an inspiring model for advancing generational blessing. David was not just willing to encourage his successor verbally, but David did everything reasonably within his power to set Solomon up for success. David could not build the Temple himself, but he could prepare the materials. He could not oversee the building himself, but he could instill wisdom and knowledge in the next generation. David did not let what he was not allowed to do to deter him from still doing what he could do.

DAVID HAD WANTED TO BUILD THE TEMPLE HIMSELF, BUT GOD DENIED HIS REQUEST, PROMISING INSTEAD TO ALLOW DAVID'S OFFSPRING TO BUILD IT.

DAY 1

I Chronicles 22:11-13

¹¹ Now, my son, the LORD be with thee; and prosper thou, and build the house of the LORD thy God, as he hath said of thee. ¹² Only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God. ¹³ Then shalt thou prosper, if thou takest heed to fulfil the statutes and judgments which the LORD charged Moses with concerning Israel: be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

Biblical Insight

David's charge to Solomon began with a reminder: "the LORD be with thee." David recognized God's presence as the all-important first step in any successful endeavor. David framed God's presence as the source of prosperity, building acumen, wisdom, and leadership ability. David also placed heavy emphasis on Solomon adhering to God's law throughout his kingship. These two ingredients—God's presence and God's Word—provide the foundation for any successful spiritual endeavor. God is near those who keep His law, and those who keep God's law will always be near His presence.

Daily Devotion

Imagine living in a home with structural flaws in the foundation. You may not notice it at first, but occasionally you may see cracks appear in the wall. These cracks may seem fine until a storm or earthquake comes.

In June 2020, small cracks in a wall were the only warnings before a three-story building collapsed into a canal in West Bengal, India. After the collapse, investigators discovered that too much ground material was removed during construction, which reduced the foundation's integrity. The lack of integrity was revealed by heavy rainfall, leading to the building's collapse.

Just as natural disasters can reveal flaws in the integrity of foundations, the storms of life reveal flaws in our spiritual foundation and integrity. When the winds of doubt are blowing, do you begin to doubt God's Word? When you receive an unexpected call and your world begins to fall apart, does your character also fall apart? When the thunder of worldly applause roars, do you sacrifice your integrity?

Before the next storm comes, take time to check the foundation. It is important to fix the small cracks before your foundation leads to your integrity, witness, and character collapsing.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 2

I Chronicles 22:14-16

¹⁴ Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto. ¹⁵ Moreover there are workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work. ¹⁶ Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee.

Biblical Insight

David's preparation for Solomon's Temple was so zealous, it exceeded measurement. David mentioned "one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver" (NKJV), but these amounts are figurative to indicate an overwhelmingly large quantity. David went on to note "there is no limit" (NKJV) to the gathered gold, silver, brass, and iron. David also prepared countless skilled workers. David's language when describing his preparation reveals his passion for this project; he concluded with, "Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee." David's emphasis on God's presence bookends his charge to young Solomon, highlighting its importance once again.

Daily Devotion

Modern America was built on steel. Because of steel, railroads crisscross the nation, highway systems connect states, cars transport us, and river dams generate electricity. Steel is an alloy of iron and carbon that can only be forged in immense fire, heat, and pressure. Only in the fire are impurities such as sulfur, phosphorus, and nitrogen removed from the iron. In addition to removing impurities, fire adds crucial elements to the iron, such as manganese and nickel, which transform the iron into steel.

Peter warned that we will experience fiery trials in life (I Peter 4:12). These trials are meant to test us by revealing impurities in our hearts, minds, and actions. While this process is painful, it is also the process by which God adds essential elements into our lives to strengthen us. When impurities in us are removed, there is more room for joy, peace, love, faith, and patience.

If you are in a fiery trial, do not fight the process. Rejoice knowing that God is forging you into someone stronger than you were before the trial.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 3

I Kings 5:1-4

¹ And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David. ² And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, ³ Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. ⁴ But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.

Biblical Insight

Tyre was a Phoenician island port city, and apparently Hiram had been a close friend and ally to Solomon's father, David. Hiram had sent David building materials when David was constructing his own house (II Samuel 5:11; I Chronicles 14:1). Solomon's assuming language in verse 3—"Thou knowest how"—demonstrates how close David and Hiram were. David had confided in this neighboring king his desire to build the Temple. Even more remarkable, David had apparently confessed to Hiram why God prohibited him from building the Temple. Hiram could bear witness that Solomon was a king of peace, although David was a king of war and bloodshed.

Daily Devotion

In 1874, bookseller Josep Maria Bocabella decided Barcelona needed a new cathedral. He spent eight years campaigning and fundraising. Enlisting the help of architect Francisco de Paula del Vilar, they produced a design inspired by the neo-Gothic cathedrals across Europe.

With a plan in hand, the two men purchased land and laid the cornerstone in 1882. One year later, the project took a different shape when a new chief architect was selected, and the original plans were abandoned. During the Spanish Civil War, the plans for the basilica were destroyed. During Francisco Franco's long dictatorship, four architects, each with his own design, continued the basilica's construction. Since the fall of Franco's regime, there have been multiple architects and designs. Considered to be the world's oldest building site, the Sagrada Familia remains unfinished and looks nothing like the original architect's design.

Spiritual maturity is like constructing a building. God has the master blueprint for our lives, but if we are not intentional in listening to His voice and following His Word, we slow down the construction process. If we are not careful, we can find ourselves being constructed by the world's architects instead of God.

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 4

I Kings 5:5-6

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. ⁶ Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.

Biblical Insight

Solomon described the Temple as a place where God's "name" would reside. Solomon used this language again in his blessing and prayer over the Temple (I Kings 8:16-20). This language reflects Solomon's understanding that God could not be contained by any human construction, which was part of the foolishness of pagan idolatry. Later, Solomon mused, "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?" (I Kings 8:27). Solomon understood the Temple was a place to commune with and honor God, thus His "name" was housed there, but the Temple could not contain God's fullness.

Daily Devotion

What would you name your house?

Today, most homes are identified by a numbering system, with houses on the left side of a street being assigned odd numbers and houses on the right side assigned even numbers. Prior to the twentieth century in Great Britain and the United States, most homes were identified by who lived in the home instead of by an assigned number. Homes would be known by the name of the family who lived there, such as House of Cameron, Loomis Homestead, and Robbie House. Some houses would gain a new name upon marriage as a public declaration of love, such as "Emma Cottage" on 914 Pallanance Road. Other homes would be given a new name to represent hopes or dreams, such as immigrants building a home in 1926 and naming it "Belmont," which means "beautiful view," or immigrants naming their home "Esperanza Loft," signifying hope.

When we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, we become the temple of God because He lives inside of us. While we know that God resides in us, can other people tell? Are you identified by who lives inside of you? Or do you resemble all the other houses?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*

DAY 5

I Kings 5:7-12

⁷ And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people. ⁸ And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. ⁹ My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household. ¹⁰ So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire. ¹¹ And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year. ¹² And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

Biblical Insight

Hiram was eager to supply provisions for David's son to build the Temple. Hiram and Solomon formed an alliance, probably similar to the one Hiram had with David.

Daily Devotion

One morning a young George Washington excitedly called for his Pa to come outside. The young boy began pulling his Pa through the garden to a garden bed. Inscribed on the bed with young plants was "GEORGE WASHINGTON."

Little George asked his father how such a wonderous thing could have happened. The old man declared that it must have happened by chance. Appalled at his father's answer, George just knew someone had to have planted the seeds in the perfect places to create the letters.

Suddenly, George's eyes grew big, and he looked up at his father. Smiling down at his son, the old man confessed that he had planted the seeds to teach George that nothing happens by chance. Father and son then sat down in the garden and talked about how our heavenly Father is actively working in our lives.

Because of the seeds his earthly father planted in his life, George Washington spent his life giving honor to his heavenly Father. What seeds are you planting in your children's hearts?

Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this principle to your life today?*
