

## Lesson 87

# **Solomon Builds God's Temple**

Solomon fulfilled David's desire when he completed the temple in Jerusalem.

# Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

## Introduction

Last lesson we read about the end of David's life and the anointing of his son Solomon as king.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him he'd give him whatever he asked for. What did Solomon request? An understanding mind to govern the people and discern good and evil. Wisdom.

Slide #3

Slide #4

Refer to Lesson 86 Theme Poster. God was pleased that Solomon asked for something that would help him be a good king. God made him the wisest man who ever lived and blessed him with riches and honor. Solomon used his wisdom to judge the people. We read an example of his wisdom in the case of the two women when Solomon discerned which woman was the real mother of the baby.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. In addition to his wisdom, Solomon is also known for building the temple in Jerusalem. The temple would be God's house, a permanent structure where people could come to worship God and offer sacrifices. The temple building was his father David's idea, but God told David that his son Solomon would build it.

## David Prepared for the Temple

Pass out the Class Notes.

Even though David did not physically build the temple, he did have a part in its building. He raised money for the temple and encouraged the people to offer their wealth and treasures so that the temple could be built.

After the materials had been gathered, construction on the temple was about to begin. But what was it supposed to look like? Where did Solomon get the plans for the temple?

1 Chronicles 28:10–12

Slide #5

Slide #6

Let's read 1 Chronicles 28:10–12 together to find out. In these verses, King David is speaking to his son Solomon. Assign readers.

What did David say God had chosen Solomon to do in verse 10? To build a house for the sanctuary.

What advice did David give Solomon at the end of verse 10? Be strong and do it.

What did David give to Solomon? 1 Chronicles 28:11. Plans for the temple.

Yes. David gave Solomon the plans for this grand temple—God’s sanctuary. It would have a vestibule, houses, treasuries, upper chambers, inner chambers, a room for the mercy seat, and lots of beautiful things dedicated to the Lord.

So David knew the plans, and he gave them to his son Solomon. But where did David get them? Allow discussion.

1 Chronicles 28:19

Slide #7

Someone read 1 Chronicles 28:19. Assign a reader.

David was talking about the plans he had for the temple. Who made David understand what he was to do? The Lord.

The Lord gave very specific plans to David, who passed them on to Solomon. And David collected money and materials to help build the temple. God’s promise to David that his son would be king and build the temple was about to happen.

Slide #8

Let’s start the Class Notes, which is a crossword puzzle. You’ll write the answers for each blank in the puzzle. Who will read #1 about how David helped? Choose a reader. Materials. Have students complete #1.

And #2? Who will read that and tell us what David gave Solomon? Choose a reader. Plans. Have students complete #2.

## **Solomon Built the Temple**

Let’s see what happened next.

1 Kings 6:1

Slide #9

Turn to 1 Kings 6:1. Choose a reader or read the verse.

Everything was in place for the temple to be built. And the building began! Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah. David bought this land earlier so he could offer sacrifices to God there and stop the plague God had sent as punishment when David had ordered the census of the fighting men in Israel.

How long had the children of Israel been out of the land of Egypt? 480 years.

Who began the building of the temple? Solomon.

God included a specific description of the temple design in the Bible. So, we can tell pretty much what it looked like.

Slide #10

Show Illustration #1 and pass out copies to students. Can you see the different areas and items in the temple? Tell me what you see. Allow answers based on the diagram.

1 Kings 6:9–14

Slide #11Slide #12Slide #13

What else does the Bible tell us about the temple? Let's read 1 Kings 6:9–14. Turn there in your Bibles. Choose readers.

What kind of wood is mentioned in verses 9–10? Cedar.

Solomon used a lot of cedar wood to build the temple.

Who is speaking in verse 11? The Lord.

Who is the Lord speaking to? Solomon.

Who would dwell in the temple with the people of Israel? 1 Kings 6:13.  
The Lord.

The Lord was telling Solomon that if the people continued to walk in his ways, like David did, then he would dwell with them and would not forsake them. The Lord would now dwell in this temple being built. But the people would have to remain faithful and obedient to God.

The temple was finally built; it took seven years to complete. Now the Israelites had a permanent place to worship God.

Before the temple, where did the people worship God? The tabernacle.

Slide #14Slide #15

Show Illustration #2 and pass out copies to students. Right. The tabernacle was a portable structure and included the tent of meeting and the furnishings Moses and the people made. The tabernacle was made of materials like goat skins, fabric, and poles. But the temple was made of stone and fine wood. Solomon used a lot of gold, silver, and bronze to cover the wood and make the furnishings and utensils in the temple. The inside rooms would have been beautiful inside with all that gold!

Refer to Illustrations #1–2. Let's compare the rooms in the temple and the tabernacle. How are they the same or different? Allow answers based on the diagrams.

They both have the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. The temple has other names for those rooms, too.

What is the other name for the Most Holy Place? Inner sanctuary.  
And the Holy Place? Nave.

The temple also has a porch called the vestibule.

What separates the rooms in the tabernacle? Veils.  
What about in the temple? Doors.

So that's different in the temple. Solomon built sturdy wooden doors and covered them with gold. These doors were at the entrance to the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. Note: the curtain separating the Most Holy Place and the Holy Place was in Herod's rebuilt temple beginning around 17 BC.

What about the furnishings? What items are in both the temple and the tabernacle? Ark of the covenant, altar of incense, lampstand, table, bronze altar, bronze basin (the sea).

Many furnishings are the same, but the temple had more tables for the showbread and more lampstands.

How many tables and lampstands are in the Holy Place of the temple?  
10 each.

The tabernacle had the bronze basin in the courtyard for priests to wash. Can you find "The Sea" on the temple diagram? Wait for students to find it. The sea was a huge, round bronze basin that could hold about 12,000 gallons of water! It stood in the courtyard of the temple and, like the bronze basin, was used by the priests for washing and also to supply water for other smaller basins throughout the temple.

#### Slide #16

Let's complete some more of the Class Notes. Who will read #3 and give the answer? Choose a reader. Tabernacle. Have students complete #3. And #4? Choose a reader. Worship. Have students complete #4. What kind of wood did Solomon use? That's #5. Choose a reader. Cedar. Have students complete #5.

## **God Dwelt in the Temple**

Some differences not shown on our diagrams are the additional rooms in the temple. It had storage rooms and upper chambers. The Bible gives many more details about the temple, such as how big it was, what it was made of, all the gold and woods used, and all the detailed carvings of cherubim (angels), palm trees, and flowers. The temple was a magnificent place designed by God. God was to be honored and worshipped here. And, as in the tabernacle that Moses built, the temple had a special room for the ark of the covenant.

Does anyone remember what this ark was? Allow answers.

#### Slide #17

#### Slide #18

Show Illustration #3. The ark of the covenant was a special box or chest that God had the Israelites build when they left Egypt many years before this—when they were wandering in the desert. The ark was made of wood and covered with gold.

God commanded the people to keep the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments inside the ark. No one but the high priest was allowed to come before the ark. Once a year he would make a sacrifice and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat, asking for forgiveness, or atonement, for the people's sins.

Refer to the ark of the covenant in Illustration #1. When Solomon finished the temple, the people praised and worshipped God as the priests brought the ark of the covenant and put it in the Most Holy Place, the inner sanctuary of the temple. They offered many sacrifices to the Lord—so many that they couldn't be counted!

## 1 Kings 8:10–13

### Slide #19

### Slide #20

Let's see what God did next. Who will read 1 Kings 8:10–13? Assign readers.

How did the Lord make himself known? What filled the house of the Lord? A cloud.

What did this cloud mean? It was the glory of the Lord filling the house of the Lord.

In verse 12, Solomon remembered something about the Lord. What was it? He would dwell in thick darkness.

God's glory came in a cloud just like it did when the tabernacle was completed in the wilderness. The temple was full of the glory of the Lord! The priests couldn't even come near the temple to minister because of the cloud.

### Slide #21

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. God showed he was pleased with the temple. He would dwell with his people there. The people would now come to this place—this permanent temple—to praise and worship the holy God.

### Slide #22

Let's finish the crossword. Who will read #6 about where the ark was placed? Choose a reader. Holy. Have students complete #6.

And what did God send to show his presence at the temple? Who will read #7? Choose a reader. Cloud. Have students complete #7.

## Application

### Slide #23

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God had commanded Solomon to build this beautiful temple for worship. It was not like the tabernacle—moved from place to place. This was to be a permanent temple on a mountain where God would dwell with his people.

### Slide #24

Refer to the bronze altar in Illustration #1. Notice the bronze altar in the temple diagram? That's where the priests would offer the animals to God. The blood of the animals would serve to cover the sins of the people. The temple sacrifices were something God used as a picture to point to Jesus. But unlike the sacrifices made at the temple over and over again, Jesus died once and was a perfect sacrifice to God.

After Jesus died on the cross, the sacrifices in the temple did not need to be offered anymore. Now those who believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, and trust him for forgiveness will be saved.

God still demands and deserves our worship. But there isn't one special temple that we have to travel to anymore, and there are no more animal sacrifices. We can worship right where we are—right here, right now. That's because now we can worship God through Jesus Christ, his Son.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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