

## 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

In our 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 want? Wisdom. An understanding mind to govern the people and discern good and evil.

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 who were fighting over a baby. Solomon figured out which woman was the real mother of the baby.

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

## David Prepared for the Temple

Even though David did not actually build the temple, he did have a part in it. He raised money for the temple and encouraged the people to offer their wealth and treasures so that the temple could be built. David gathered materials they would need to begin construction.

But what was the temple supposed to look like? Where did Solomon get the plans for the temple?

1 Chronicles 28:10–11

Slide #5

Let's read 1 Chronicles 28:10–11 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 in verse 10? Be strong and do it.

What did David give to Solomon in verse 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.

Pass out the Class Notes.

The Lord helped David understand exactly what the temple should be like. He gave very specific plans to David, who passed them on to Solomon. God’s promise to David that his son would build the temple was about to happen.

#### Slide #6

Let’s start the Class Notes. You’ll draw a line from the sentence on the left to the picture that matches on the right. Who will read #1 about how David helped prepare for the building of the temple? Choose a reader. Materials. Have students complete #1.

That’s right. They needed lots of materials like wood, stone, and gold.

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**

Everything was in place for the temple to be built. They began building at a special place called Mount Moriah. Earlier, David had sinned by counting all his fighting men, something God didn’t want him to do, so God punished him by sending a plague. David bought the land on Mount Moriah so he could offer sacrifices to God there and stop the horrible plague. Now this place would be used for everyone to come and offer sacrifices and worship the Lord.

1 Kings 6:1

#### Slide #7

Let’s see what happened next. Turn to 1 Kings 6:1. Choose a reader or read the verse.

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

Who began to build the house of the Lord, the temple? Solomon.  
How many years had Solomon been king when he began the building project? Four years.

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

#### Slide #8

Show Illustration #1 and pass out copies to students. This diagram shows different shapes for the rooms and the pieces of furniture and where they would have been. Can you see the different areas and items in the temple? Tell me what you see. Allow answers based on the diagram.

1 Kings 6:11–14

Slide #9Slide #10

What else does the Bible tell us about the temple? Let's read 1 Kings 6:11–14. Turn there in your Bibles. Choose readers.

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? Look at verse 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 in the temple and would not leave them. But the people would have to continue to be faithful and obedient to God.

After seven years, the temple was finally built. It was breathtakingly beautiful inside with many carvings of angels, palm trees, and flowers—and just about everything was covered in gold! Now the Israelites had a permanent place to worship God.

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

Slide #11Slide #12

Show Illustration #2 and pass out copies to students. The tabernacle included the tent of meeting and the furnishings Moses and the people made while they were traveling in the wilderness. It could be taken down and set up wherever the Israelites camped. It was made of materials like goat skins, fabric, and poles.

But the temple was made of stone and fine wood, like cedar. Solomon used a lot of gold, silver, and bronze to cover the wood and make the furnishings, like tables, lampstands, and utensils used for offerings.

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

Both have the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. The temple has many extra rooms, like storage rooms and upstairs rooms. 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? Ten 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 #13

Slide #14

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's one kind of wood Solomon used? That's #5. Choose a reader. Cedar. Have students complete #5.

## God Dwelt in the Temple

The Bible gives many more details about the temple, such as how big it was, what it was made of, all the gold and different kinds of wood used, and the decorations. The temple was a magnificent place designed by God. And, just like in the tabernacle Moses built, the temple had a special room for the ark of the covenant.

Does anyone remember what this ark was? Allow answers.

Slide #15

Slide #16

Show Illustration #3. The ark of the covenant was a special box or chest with the mercy seat and angels on top. God had the Israelites build it 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 with the Ten Commandments inside the ark. No one but the high priest was allowed to come into the same room with 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 priests brought the ark of the covenant and put it in the Most Holy Place. Outside, the people praised and worshipped God and

offered many sacrifices to the Lord—so many that they couldn't be counted!

## 1 Kings 8:10–13

### Slide #17

### Slide #18

How many of you think God was pleased with Solomon and all the work the people did? Show of hands.

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.

### Slide #19

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. God's glory came in a cloud just like it did when the people finished the tabernacle in the wilderness. The temple was full of the glory of the Lord! The priests couldn't even be in the temple because of the cloud.

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

### Slide #20

Let's finish the Class Notes. Who will read #6. What was in the Most Holy Place? Choose a reader. Ark. Have students complete #6.

And what did God send to show he was with the people at the temple?

Who will read #7? Choose a reader. Cloud. Have students complete #7.

## **Application**

### Slide #21

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God had commanded Solomon to build this beautiful temple for worship. It was not like the tabernacle of the desert, which was moved from place to place. This was to be a permanent temple on a mountain where God would dwell with his people. You might wonder why we would take time to study a building from so long ago. But when we look closely at God's Word, we find that, like the tabernacle, God used the temple design with all the specially made furnishings as a picture of things in the future.

### Slide #22

Refer to the bronze altar in Illustration #1. For example, notice the bronze altar in the temple diagram? That's where the priests would offer the animals to God. The blood of these animals was needed to cover the sins of the people. God used these temple sacrifices to point to Jesus. The sacrifices made at the

temple had to be done over and over again. But when Jesus died on the cross, he was the perfect sacrifice to God. Now all who believe in Jesus, turn from their sins, and trust him for forgiveness will be saved. There's no need for animal sacrifices anymore.

God still demands and deserves our worship. But there isn't one special temple that we have to go to. We can worship right where we are—right here, right now because 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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