

WORK WITH WISDOM

CORE PASSAGE: 1 KINGS 6:8-13; 8:3-11

CONTEXT

King Solomon grew in the Lord's wisdom, gaining fame as the wisest person on earth (1 Kings 4:29-34). Israel flourished under his rule, and the Lord gave His people peace on all sides from conflict or war. Solomon then turned his attention to the construction of temple for the Lord that God and David had appointed him to build. First Kings 6-7 details the building and furnishing of the temple with a brief interruption describing the building of Solomon's palace (7:1-12). After completing the temple, Solomon assembled the people of Israel to celebrate the ark of the covenant being brought within its sacred walls (8:1-3).

KEY CONCEPT

God desires to dwell with His people.

As you read 1 Kings 6:8-13; 8:3-11:

- Notice that God reminded Solomon that walking in His ways was the prerequisite for His dwelling with His people.
- Reflect upon God's glory, which is more magnificent than any building human beings could make to contain it.



TIMELINE

Solomon Becomes King upon David's Death (1 Kings 1–2)

SESSION STUDY: Solomon Builds the Temple and His Palace (1 Kings 5–9)

Solomon Turns to Idolatry and Is Disciplined by the Lord with Enemies (1 Kings 11)

Solomon Asks the Lord for Wisdom (1 Kings 3)

The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon to Observe His Wisdom (1 Kings 10)

Daily Readings

☐ **Day 1:** 1 Kings 6:1–38

☐ **Day 4:** 1 Kings 9:1–9

☐ **Day 2:** 1 Kings 7:1–51

☐ **Day 5:** 2 Chronicles 3:1–7:22

☐ **Day 3:** 1 Kings 8:1–66

☐ **Day 6:** Psalm 84



Scan this QR code to access this session's Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

1 KINGS 6:8-13

GOD'S GLORY DEMANDS OUR OBEDIENCE.

Highlight the promises of God in this passage.

8 The door for the lowest side chamber was on the right side of the temple. They went up a stairway to the middle chamber, and from the middle to the third. **9** When he finished building the temple, he paneled it with boards and planks of cedar. **10** He built the chambers along the entire temple, joined to the temple with cedar beams; each story was 7 ½ feet high. **11** The word of the LORD came to Solomon: **12** “As for this temple you are building—if you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep all my commands by walking in them, I will fulfill my promise to you, which I made to your father David. **13** I will dwell among the Israelites and not abandon my people Israel.”

GOSPEL CONNECTION

God has always desired to dwell with His people, and with Jesus, Immanuel, God with us, He dwelt with humanity in human form to be a substitute for the penalty of sin. He dwells with us still through the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.



When reading Scripture, especially parts of the Old Testament, it's easy to become bogged down in details. Genealogies, in particular, can make our eyes glaze over; so too can accounts of exact structures and measurements for important buildings, such as the tabernacle (Exodus 25–31; 35–40). We might skim these passages and miss the significance embedded within them, or we might do the opposite and spend too much time looking for significance that wasn't intended. We must rely on the Holy Spirit to help us understand God's Word as He intended it to be interpreted.

We cannot make the mistake, however, of believing the details of the Bible are insignificant. With the construction of the temple, the details mattered to Israel because the Lord had given them to David, who had given them to Solomon (1 Chronicles 28:19). This was a plan to be obeyed to the letter so as to honor the Lord. For us as readers, the record of the details displays the heart of Solomon and the people to obey the Lord.

How might believers today honor the Lord through the details of their obedience and worship?

While Solomon was overseeing the building of the temple, God reminded the king in verses 11-13 that walking in His ways is the prerequisite for His dwelling with His people. Even though Solomon was building a place for the Lord according to the direction of God Himself, this was not enough for the people to earn favor in God's eyes. The temple was important for the people of God and their relationship with the Lord, but the people's continued obedience to the Lord was of utmost importance to Him.

This highlights the most important aspect of the temple—not its beauty or precision but that it was where God, in His grace, allowed heaven and earth to overlap as He dwelled among His people. The details given about the temple point to the future, when God will dwell with His people forever because there will no longer be sin or death (Revelation 21).

How does our obedience relate to our experience of God's presence in our lives?



GOD'S TEMPLE IS A PLACE FOR HIS GLORY TO BE DISPLAYED.

Circle each phrase that includes "the LORD."

3 All the elders of Israel came, and the priests picked up the ark. **4** The priests and the Levites brought the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and the holy utensils that were in the tent. **5** King Solomon and the entire congregation of Israel, who had gathered around him and were with him in front of the ark, were sacrificing sheep, goats, and cattle that could not be counted or numbered, because there were so many. **6** The priests brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the most holy place beneath the wings of the cherubim. **7** For the cherubim were spreading their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim covered the ark and its poles from above. **8** The poles were so long that their ends were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they were not seen from outside the sanctuary; they are still there today. **9** Nothing was in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt. **10** When the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the LORD's temple, **11** and because of the cloud, the priests were not able to continue ministering, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

After the temple was built and furnished, the ark of the covenant was ceremoniously carried into it. The ark of the covenant was the vessel that held the tablets on which God inscribed the Ten Commandments (Exodus 25:16,21). But the ark was not just carried into the temple, it was placed in the Most Holy Place, the innermost part of the temple. Only the high priest could enter this area once a year on the Day of Atonement (Hebrews 9:7; cf. Leviticus 16), as this was where God's presence would dwell with the ark. It's important to keep in mind that before Christ, God's holy presence could not dwell among sinful humanity, so the symbol of His presence, the ark, was secluded from the people.

How has the gospel of Jesus opened up access to the presence of the Lord?

Because the ark represented God's presence, Israel gathered to celebrate its entrance into its permanent home, praising God through sacrifices and worship (1 Kings 8:5). After the Levites placed the ark in its designated spot and the priests exited the holy place, God's glory filled the temple with such intensity that the priests could not re-enter for a time to continue their duties.

God's glory in the temple took precedence over the ministry of the priests, and this was for good reason! The temple was great and beautiful, but God's glory was and continues to be even greater than any physical construction or ministry role. The Lord's presence was to be the focus of the temple dedication and celebration, not the festivities or the Levites' work. Even today, our obedience to God, following His laws and loving those around us, is important, but God's glory must remain more important to us.

If someone were to evaluate the priority of your life, would they pick your work, ministry, role, or God's glory? Why?

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

× ————— × TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit indwells the church, both individually and corporately (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 12:13). As the temple of the Holy Spirit, we live our lives differently than before, bearing the virtuous fruit that comes only by the indwelling work of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). This indwelling work of the Spirit also equips individual members of the church with gifts for the work of the ministry (1 Corinthians 12:11).

THE WORK OF THEIR HANDS AND HEARTS

Read 1 Kings 6:8-13; 8:3-11. Describe the work each person or group performed that led to God's filling the temple.

KING SOLOMON

PRIESTS

CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL

Think about a time when you witnessed God's glory.
What circumstances led to recognizing God's presence?

Key Concept: God desires to dwell with His people.



HEAD

How can you seek understanding rather than moving on to “easier” verses when reading Scripture?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Pray through Psalm 84, thanking and petitioning God for your local church congregation, among whom He resides. Consider prayer-walking around your church and through the surrounding neighborhood to see God's name glorified in your area.



HEART

What are some reasons you may struggle to focus on God's presence and glory?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

What steps will you take this week to overcome temptations that keep you from experiencing God's glorious presence?

