

SOLOMON BUILDS A HOUSE FOR GOD

I Kings 5:1 - 6:38

5

*“And I will dwell among the children of
Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.
So Solomon built the house, and finished it.”*

I Kings 6:13-14

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GOD WILL DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE

King David loved the Lord God of Israel very much. The Heavenly Father became a living reality to him as he sat on the hills outside of Bethlehem as a young man tending sheep. As he saw creation all around him, David realized that the God of all loved and care for His creation. David expressed this realization in Psalm 8. *“O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. ... When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?”* (Vs. 8:1) Though David as far from a perfect man, he still was a *“man after God’s own heart.”* (Acts 13:22; I Samuel 13:14) His heart’s desire was to honor the God of Heaven. In II Samuel 6 the story of how David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem is found. When it was settled in Jerusalem, he decided that he wanted to build a temple for the Lord. He expressed this wish to Nathan, the prophet, who gave his blessing. However, later that night God

came to Nathan to tell him that He did not want David to build His house. His plan was that David's son and successor to the throne, Solomon, would build the Temple of the Lord. *"He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever."* (II Sam 7:13) Later God promises Solomon, *"And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel."* (I Kings 6:13) The important lesson from this, is that God sincerely wants to dwell among His people. In Exodus God gave specific instructions to Moses on how to build His Tabernacle so that He could walk (abide) with the people, and be with them day after day. God did not allow David to build the Temple because he was a man of war. He placed in the heart of Solomon, the king of peace, a desire to build the temple. Solomon said, *"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."* (II Kings 5:5) In the fourth year of Solomon's reign he laid the foundation of the Temple on Mt Moriah. (II Kings 6:6) *"So*

Solomon built the house, and finished it." (6:14) It was finished in the 11th year of Solomon's reign. (6:38) It took 7 years to finish the house of God in Jerusalem. The number 7 "is a number of completeness, divine perfection or something that is finished, as in the creation week of Genesis one." (Patheos.com. The Christian Crier) The period of about seven and one-half years suggests that the perfect God of Heaven would be worshipped there and would manifest Himself to men there. It reminds the believer that Solomon's temple was the type of the temple that one day will be built in the Holy City and in which the Lord Jesus, Himself would manifest Himself and dwell with and rule over mankind.

Solomon's Temple is the forerunner of yet one more temple. *"Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."* (II Corinthians 6:16) The Father desired to dwell among His people in Moses' day and in Solomon's day. He desires to dwell in the hearts of His children today. He lives in the

hearts of those who love and acknowledge Him.

God set certain conditions that He expected the people to obey if He was going to walk with them. *“And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying, Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel”* (Vs. 6:12-13a) God expected Solomon and the people of Israel to keep His Word, to do what He told them and obey what He told them to do. The promise then was *“I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.”* (Vs. 6:13) Similarly, God promises the believer today, *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”* (II Cor. 6:17-18)

God gave Solomon special wisdom to build the temple. (I Kings 5:12) The Father

desired a special building in which to manifest Himself to His people. He loves His people and desires to walk with them through their lives each day. Even today He walks with us and guides all of our lives. What a special thought, that God wants to have a relationship with the believer today. We should honor His desire and seek to please Him every day.

K&D = Commentary on the Old Testament in Ten Volumes.
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