

1 Kings Ch 5-7

We left off with regards to the Wisdom of Solomon and how people came from all over to check this guy out whom God had blessed with such mind-boggling insight to the mysteries of life. Word had gotten around that Solomon was a very unique and peculiar person, someone special, who just might be able to help you when no one else can. And we noted how that God has given each and every one of us the opportunity to be that same person to some degree or another in the lives of the people that are with in the sphere of *our* influence and even beyond as people come to the end of themselves and begin to seek out answers when nothing else seems to work. Because the bible says, “... *you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,* (why) *that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*” 1 Peter 2:9 That you might point people to Jesus Christ when they come to you for answers regarding the mystery of this life and what’s the point in it all. That you might testify to the reality of the answer that lies in Him who called *you* out of darkness into His marvelous light, and how He can do the same thing for them if they’ll just give their heart and their lives to Him. And then the mystery of life will be answered for them, they’ll be given purpose, and fulfillment, direction, and forgiveness. People came from everywhere to listen to what he had to say because they realized that he had something that they didn’t, that he was different, and they wanted to check that out.

Vs1

You recall that this Hiram is the same guy who built David’s house for him. We read there in 2 Sam 5:11 as David was basically crescendoing up to the height of his greatness, “*Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house.*” and Now that David is dead and he’s caught wind that David’s son now reigns in his place, he’s basically sending a note of congratulations to him and apparently he extends himself in such a way as to say, “Is there anything I can do for *you* in order to honor your dad.” He doesn’t really know Solomon yet, but because he loves David he’s willing to bless Solomon. And of course if we wanted to reach down in there somewhere we could graft an application that would say to us that God doesn’t bless us because of who we are either, it’s not because we’re so lovable that He blesses and does good by us. It’s because of the greater than David, the Son of David Jesus Christ that He has blessed us and given us a home in Heaven, and has established for us a dwelling place there. But because of who *David* was, Hiram reaches out to, and extends himself to Solomon, and he’s prepared to bless Solomon if he’ll just ask.

Vs2-4

You remember back in 2nd Samuel that David had it in his heart to build God a house. He’d looked around, seen how God had blessed him so abundantly, he had this palace and all, and yet the only structure that stood to honor the God of the universe was (really, by this time) just a ratty old tent that was probably dilapidated and looking pretty sad. And David thought, “This isn’t right.” and He thought, “I’m going to build God a house.” and You remember Nathan came to him with a word from the Lord.

And that word was basically, “Thanks, but no thanks.” and He went on to say that it was awesome that it was in his heart, but He didn’t desire that from David, nor did He in anyway require it. He created everything, Heaven is His throne, the earth is His footstool. Now what structure am I going to build from the things of the earth that’s going to actually house the radical magnitude of who God is? It can’t be done.

The heavens can’t contain Him, how much less a little structure on the earth? and Later on God told David that the reason He didn’t want him to build a temple for him was because he was a man of blood. And God didn’t want the Temple to be associated with war, and bloodshed, and forced submission, but rather with peace, and the idea of reconciliation, and rest. And since David’s life was really comprised of the former, He said that He would allow David’s son to build the Temple. And that’s what Solomon is in reference to hear in regards to David’s heart towards the temple yet because of all of the warfare and all, he couldn’t build it. “But now,” Solomon says, “The Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence.” A couple of things to note here briefly, #1 Solomon had peace, and rest on every side *because* David was a man of war. And because David was willing to go to war on the kingdom’s behalf, and subdue his enemies, Solomon was able into the rest that was paid for as David’s expense. Now you see where I’m going, we read in Rom 5:1, “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*” because Jesus was willing to go to war on our behalf, we can now enter into the rest that He’s provided at His own expense. The bible says, “*For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*” Col 1:19-20 and Again, “*And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*” Col 2:13-15 Because He was willing to go to war, and subdue the enemy under the soles of His feet we can enter into the rest that He has provided for all who will but come *to* Him, and call *upon* Him. Which brings me to point #2 here.

Only God can truly give you peace, on God can cause you to experience rest on ever side where there is neither adversary who can oppose you, nor evil occurrence. Jesus said it like this, “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*” Matt 11:28-29 and God had given Solomon rest on every side, because He’d subdued Israel’s enemies through David. And we enter into the rest God has provided for us because He subdued the enemy of our soul through the cross of Jesus Christ And because of the victory of the cross we have peace, both peace with God, and the peace *of* God which we spoke a little bit about Sunday morning, His personal peace that He’s given us that our hearts be not troubled, or afraid.

Vs 5

Now there's an order of things going on here that we need to see. And I like the way that OKJV reads here, because instead of reading, "I propose," it reads, "I purpose." and The 1st thing that Solomon purposes on his heart here after the Kingdom was established in his hand, and he was filled with the wisdom from God was to fulfill the dream of his father. Which was also the plan of God for his life, He wanted to see the plan of God for his life become a reality. And he wanted to be a blessing to the Lord just out of the overflow of the way that the Lord had blessed him. And that's what I want you to see, only God can give you peace, only God can give you rest, and He does that through the person of Jesus Christ but once He's given you peace, once you've entered into the rest that He has extended to you in the person of His Son, the natural overflow of your heart should be to want to now be a blessing to God, just because He's been such a blessing to you. You should be pursuing His plans, and His purposes for you life.

Now again there was a # years that went by whereby things were being established, and surely God would that there would be that period of being rooted and grounded in Him, and in His word in our lives as well. The bible calls it discipleship. But there comes a definite point in our lives when it's time to move forward with the reason that God has placed you in His Kingdom and established you where you are, and we need to purpose in our hearts to be busy about the plan of God for *our* lives. Solomon didn't get placed on the throne just to enjoy the perks of the kingdom and take life easy, God wanted to use him, and He placed him where he was so that He might accomplish the plan He had for his life in the most effective manner possible. And so see these things here, why has God called you into His Kingdom and established you where you are in life, why has He given you rest through the victory of the cross of Jesus Christ And what's His plan for your life, and are you purposed in your heart to pursue it?

Vs6-7

Now had Hiram come to know the Lord through the witness of David? I don't know, it's possible, but overall the land wasn't Israelite, it was Canaanite. Which brings up another point. See here that Solomon saw wisdom in doing business with this nation, and these people even though they weren't "believers." Why do I bring that up? Because there's a common dilemma in the minds of many Christian business people, or Christians in general that wonder what they're to do in regards to having business relations with people who are in the world. Well herein is wisdom, if they offer a better product for a lower price, or they're more skilled in the trade that you need done, than anyone you know who is a Christian, then employ them for the job. Now I'm all for supporting the body and seeing if there's a believer who can get it done just the same 1st. But God has by no means called us to live in Christian bubbles and isolate ourselves from the rest of the world. We're to be *in* the world, just not *of* the world. Paul said, *"I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world."*

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner -- not even to eat with such a person." 1 Cor 5:9-11 So often we're afraid that people's sin is going to rub off on us and so we're careful not to associate with them. And obviously there's no need to be best buddies and allow their bad company to corrupt your good morals. But on a purely professional business relationship, or even on a general level, Jesus said that it's not the well who are in need of a physician but the sick. It's not the righteous that He came to save, but the sinner, and we're to be lights in this dark world, but if you're never around anyone who's *in* the world, than how can you be a light *to* the world. You don't need to go to their parties, or place yourself in a compromising position, but don't *isolate* yourself either, rather *avail* yourself. And in this case, the bottom line is that if they're better at the trade than anyone else, hey, put them to work. Just be careful to not compromise yourself, and the convictions that God has placed in your life.

Vs8-12

What are we seeing here? Mark it well, we see Jews and Gentiles co-laboring in the building of the Temple. Which of course stands to give us a picture of what would happen ultimately in Jesus Christ (Turn to Eph Ch 2, Vs 11-18).

And so Jew and Gentile alike comprise the body of Christ, being living stones formed and fashioned together, there's no distinction in Christ, we're one in this thing together.

Vs13-16

70,000 who carried burdens, what a powerful picture of intercessory prayer, those who carry the cause into the Kingdom.

The bible teaches us that God is searching for even one who is truly willing to bear the burden and stand in the gap. We talked Sunday about the power and the privilege of prayer, and you show me a vibrant, flourishing ministry that's following the biblical protocol, and I'll show you a ministry that's praying. Bearing burdens, carrying the cause, that Kingdom business might be done on earth, even as it is in Heaven. And we see 80,000 who quarried stone, who chipped, and chiseled on the stones that they might become exactly what was needed in order to accomplish the task. This of course is a picture of what the word of God does in our lives, it chips on us, chisels on us, fashions and forms us into the image of God's own Son. And God is honing on us and breaking us down that we might be the living stones that He's called us to be, fit together of one accord, making up the body of Christ. And 3,300 overseers to the work, and so really it's a practical picture of body life, Jew and Gentile alike building the Kingdom, not of actual rocks, but as the bible says, "*Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house,*" 1 Peter 2:4-5 of which the bible teaches us that Jesus Christ Himself is the Chief cornerstone. And we see the ministry of prayer, the work *of* the word, and the overseeing of the overall progress, making sure that things are being done according to the specifications laid out *in* the word.

Vs17

Notice they were “costly” stones. A couple ways to see this, from our point of view as David said when buying the threshing floor of Ornan, “I refuse to give to God of that which cost me nothing.” These stones were costly, they were meaningful, and forged from the heart. And when we do what we do as unto the Lord, it needs to come from the heart, we want to offer sacrifices that are worthy, and acceptable to our God. Also we note from God’s point of view what it required of Jesus Christ to purchase us “living stones” was costly, there’s a higher price placed on purchasing us than what I think we’ll ever understand fully, in this life or the life to come. Jesus purchased us, and we were costly to Him, even His very life and blood was poured out so that you and I might be redeemed. He bought the whole field (according to the parable) that He might extract the treasure out of the field, you and me, and it took all that He had in order to purchase the field. It cost Him everything, we were costly stones.

Ch 6

Vs1

When Israel came out of Egypt that basically marked the birth of the nation, and so that was the reference point of their dating. We were born as a nation, a little over 200 yrs ago, but we don’t use a calendar that reflects that our inception as a nation. But what I want you to see here (and this month of Ziv is equivalent to our May,) (or right around there) is that this is where his purpose becomes practice. Back in vs 5 of ch 5 we saw that which was purposed on Solomon’s heart, to build the temple. And here he puts that purpose into practice, another way we could understand this is that there has to come a point where we put feet to our faith. Because having a purpose on your heart is an awesome thing, that’s where it starts, but if you never place it into practice what’s point, what good does it do? So Solomon had a purpose on his heart, then he began to pull together resources and get equipped for the work, then he put those things into practice.

Vs2

A cubit is about 18”, so the temple was 90’ long, 30’ wide, and 45’ tall. So it was basically a tall rectangular building, and as the next vs says it had a porch on the front that was 15’ long and the width of the temple itself, so 30’.

Vs4 tells us there were windows in the temple and vs 5-6 tells us that he wrapped the temple in side chambers on every side (meaning every side except the entrance). And there was a stairwell that accessed these various levels (vs 8), and so it’s like a 3 story apartment complex that wraps around the temple and the rooms were used for the service and storage of the priests. And each level was larger than the previous, the 1st level rooms were 7 ½ ft wide, the next was 9’, and the top was 10 ½ .

Vs7

It must’ve been a total trip to see this prefab temple going up in total silence, with the stones cut so perfectly that they didn’t even use mortar to secure them together.

But this is how it is with us, right now you living stones are in the rock quarries of this world, you're in the "pits" so to speak. And you're being hammered on, chipped and chiseled at, and all of the ruckus that goes along with that you get to experience here in the quarry of this life, (I'm sure you know the feeling) as you're being polished and perfected, prepared to be perfectly joined to the temple of God not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. But when you're delivered into the presence of God, ushered into that place of peaceful perfection, all the chipping, all the chiseling, all the hammering and polishing will be over. You'll be like Jesus Christ for you'll see Him as He is, and there'll be no more sorrow, no more pain, for the former things will have passed away. So if you ever feel like something is grinding on you, take heart, it is, you're being prepared to enter into that place where everything comes together smooth and peaceful, into the very presence of Jesus Christ.

Vs9-14

Now we've spoken about being busy about the plan of God for your life, but please bear in mind, don't confuse business for godliness. God is always concerned more for your person than He is for your plan, even when your plan is all about Him. When Solomon is in the throws of things and coming to a close on things, God comes to him again, and reminds him of the fact that the priority doesn't concern the *project*, but rather his *person* and continuing in that personal relationship with God as demonstrated by obedience to His word. And so we do well to remember that God is concerned way more for our person than He is for our projects. We can get so absorbed in our projects that we begin to substitute our dedication to the project for our keeping focused on our personal relationship with God. And God is saying, "Don't do that." Remember the priority, let the project be the overflow of the personal relationship, not a substitute for it.

Now vs 16 tells us that the Most Holy Place was a 30' square that was open all the way to the top of the temple, so the main sanctuary was 30x60, and then the Holy of Holies was 30x30 (this room is 40x40). As for the remainder of the ch it deals with the intricacies and complexities of the temple that I'll leave for you to read at your convenience, but it's worth reading, it's fascinating the detail that went into the project.

Vs38

CH 7

Vs1

2 ways to see this, Solomon's priorities are already sliding, or he placed much more emphasis and labor into the construction of God's house and this shows right priorities. I'll let you decide on that one. In these next vs we have some details regarding his house, and some of his government type office structures, now look at vs 8.

Vs8

Again we have a divine order here in these 2 ch's. God's house 1st, his house 2nd, and his wife's house 3rd. You say, "Well shouldn't he have placed his wife's' house before his own?" Practically, possibly, principally no.

Our 1st priority is towards the Lord, but then if we don't secure ourselves, then we have no grounds by which to minister to our wives. Those of you who have flown have heard the speech about the oxygen bags, and how you should tend to yourself before you tend to your children. And that goes against the grain of everything we know, but if we don't we'll both be dead, if you're not able to function, you can't be of proper service to anyone else. And so to with this principle, if you haven't secured yourself in Christ 1st (husbands) you can't minister properly and effectively to your wives. Or kids, or whatever the case may be, we have to secure our own personal relationship, and then we can adequately minister to our family. So God 1st, ourselves 2nd in regards to making sure we're where we need to be spiritually, and then we're able to minister to our family and on out from there.

Vs13

This "Hiram" or "Hiram" is a different man from the King of Tyre, and this next portion tells of his incredible work with bronze that he fashioned for the temple and for Solomon. In vs21 we read (read).

So there were 2 pillars on the outside of the temple, and Jachin means, "He shall establish," and Boaz means "In it's (His) strength." and So whenever you would go to the temple you would be reminded of the fact that it's not about what we do, but what *He* does, God will establish you in His strength, with out Him we can do nothing. And the idea was that the Lord would establish Israel in His strength as long as they looked to Him and remained in obedience to Him.

Next we see the Brass Sea, which was used by the priests for washing. It was 15' around and a handbreadth thick and held around 12,000 gallons of water, it was basically a big above ground swimming pool that was 7 ½ feet deep. And it was stationed on 12 brass oxen 3 looking in each direction N, S, E, and West. And of course brass speaks of judgment, the water points to the word, and all of these things were outside the temple that dealt with washing us by the water of the word, or our sin being judged and the need for washing. The bronze altar, the 10 smaller carts, and 10 smaller lavers that contain 40 baths instead of 2,000. And when you get to vs 47 you see that there was so much brass that they finally quit keeping track, the weight was undetermined. As for the gold that overlaid the cedar in the inside of the sanctuary, and the cherubim, the 10 lampstands, the altar of incense, the table of showbread, the basins, trimmers, censers and all the rest. The estimated cost in today's standard is over a billion dollars. And to give you an idea of how much a billion is if you sat down to count to 1 billion, it would take you 95 years. To stack a billion kids upon one another would build a tower that would reach higher than the moon. According to a certain statistic a billion seconds ago it was 1959, a billion minutes ago Jesus was alive, and according to the rate of our government spending a billion dollars ago was about 8 hrs and 20 minutes.

Now we have brass on the outside dealing with judgment, and the water for washing, the altar of sacrifice, and then gold on the inside, speaking of the Heavenly scene. Look at vs51

