

2 Chronicles 3-6

The book of 2nd Chronicles you recall begins w/Solomon seated on the throne of his father David being “strengthened” in his kingdom. & Of course the “secret” of his success is brought to our attention from the very beginning. We read in the very 1st Vs of this book, “...*the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly.*” 2 Chron 1:1 & Of course if God be for you who can be against you? So we find Solomon beginning his reign well, seeking & serving the Lord personally & leading the people to follow suit *nationally*. You recall that after Solomon had offered 1,000 burnt offerings to the Lord that God appeared to him in a vision that night and said, “Ask! What shall I give you?” and As you know Solomon asked for wisdom to rule and reign and give leadership to God’s people. His request was “kingdom oriented” not self-centered, and because he sought 1st the kingdom of God, God said, “Not only am I going to give you wisdom, I’m going to give you riches and wealth and honor unlike any before you or any shall have after you.” So Israel’s economy was boosted immeasurably, everyone was prospering under the reign of Solomon.

Then in Chapter 2 we find him determining to build a temple for the name of the Lord. So he began to set things in order accordingly, he established the labor force, worked out foreign policy for the obtaining of certain materials needed specifically. Set the best master craftsman around over the project as the general contractor, and now things are ready. And so we pick up here in Chapter 3 where we read.

Vs1

Couple of things here right off the bat. #1 We like this phrase, “Solomon *began to build* the house of the Lord.” It goes back to that “motivation” thing that we’ve been speaking of here and there as of late. We’ve referred to “Vision,” and “Initiative” or having a plan, but then being productive with it. It’s one thing to determine something, but it’s quite another to actually *do* it. Making *proclamation* and *application* are 2 different things, the vision was in place, the provision was there, now it was time for production, fabrication, application of all those things. How many times we have the vision, we’re *hearers* of the Word, we know what the vision is. As it pertains to our lives personally, or in the ministry, or how things are supposed to pan out maritally, God has given us the vision; He’s supplied the provision by His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. But somewhere between the proclamation of His word and the application of it in our lives there’s a break down. We fall prey to being hearers of the Word, just not doers of it. Solomon had a determination, and he made application of the resources that God had provided.

#2 It’s relevant where he began to build, where the “Job site” was located; you noted it there, “...at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah.” And of course we’ve referenced this before; it’s that place where about 1,100 yrs prior to this Abraham was instructed to sacrifice his son, his only son whom he loved. Isaac carried the wood up the mountain, Abraham made the altar, placed his son upon it, raised the knife and then the angel interceded. And God said, “Don’t lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him.”

Now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me.” And Abraham lifted his eyes and there was a ram caught in the thicket and of course that became the sacrifice in that moment. This is the same place that David saw both the wrath and the mercy of God extended when after his sin of numbering the people God sent a plague throughout the land. And when David came to this place he saw the angel of the Lord with his sword outstretched over Jerusalem.

You remember the story, David was instructed to sacrifice there at the threshing floor of Ornan, so he bought the floor (and later the field) at full price. And he made a sacrifice to God by which God answered by fire and of course that was David’s signal (so to speak) that God was to meet with His people at that place, that’s where the temple was to be built. But on up that same set of hills is where another sacrifice would be one day made, the sacrifice of God’s only begotten Son whom He did *not* withhold, for the sin of the world.

So where did Solomon begin the build? At the place of sacrifice, what does that tell you and speak to me? That the place of beginning, when God begins a work in you, or a new work in you, or a work through you that - sacrifice will be involved. He begins at the place of sacrifice; it may be a sacrifice of time, of money, of energy, or my wants personally. But at some point there will be sacrifice made if I’m going to begin to do what God has called me to do.

Vs2

Now that doesn’t mean that he waited 4 yrs to get started, it probably took a few years just to acquire enough material to get going, be it cedar, quarried stone, building molds to cast various furnishings in and all the rest. But in the 4th yr he’d amassed enough material to begin to justify the actual build. So again God may call you to a particular project, or to do a certain work, but be patient, don’t just get out there ahead of the Lord in it, wait for Him. So often we sense God’s call, or a project He wants us to spearhead and we just jump, when in reality there was some prep work God would establish before us if we’d just learn to wait. Solomon spent sometime seeing the benefit of having things well prepared before he just dove right in. We’re talking order and structure here.

Vs3

A cubit measures about 1 ½’, so you’re looking at a building approximately 30’ wide by 90’ long.

Vs4-8

So there were 3 parts to this thing just like with the tabernacle. There was a courtyard (or outer courts) that all could come into. Then there was the inner court which only a few by comparison would ever see, and then there was the Most Holy Place, or the Holy of Holies that was reserved for only 1, the high priest and he came in only once a year. We read here that the Most Holy Place was a 30’ cube, so the inner court was 30’ x 60’ and then the Holy of Holies was 30’ x 30’. And there are those who like to see in this a likeness to who we are as the temple

of God. In that even as there were 3 parts to the temple, there are 3 parts to you. You have an outer man, (that which everyone sees and basically has access to. The inner man (or the soul, the emotions) a place that by comparison only a few ever see. And then there's the most holy place; that inner recess of your heart reserved only for your great High Priest Jesus Christ.

I suppose with that we could also evaluate where we're at with respect to those 3 areas, do you find yourself in the outer court, that place of sacrifice, it's not a bad place to be, but there's a time to move on in to the inner court. That place of service unto the Lord, a great place to be as well, but our ultimate aim is the Holy of Holies, that place of sweet fellowship, and communion with the Lord, waiting upon Him, ministering to Him in intimacy.

Something else you're probably picking up on as we read through this is the enormity of wealth that went into it, no expense spared, even in the nails, notice.

Vs9

Of course the value of these nails is nothing in comparison to the worth of the nails that pierced the hands and feet of our Savior. Jesus spared no expense in obtaining you as His prized possession.

Vs10-13

We find in 1st Kings Ch 6 that they were made of olive wood, overlaid with gold, and that the Cherub were 15' tall. Here we read that their wings spanned 15' across meeting in the middle so that side by side their wings spanned the entire 30' across the Holy of Holies.

Vs14

And of course this is what separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place where the ark would reside. And what this veil basically said to humanity is that the way to God is not yet open. There's no sense of general access to Him, you can't just be in the place and presence of God. And the bible tells us that this veil speaks of Christ because the way *to* God is *through* Him. And you remember that when He was crucified we read that the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom signifying that the door had been open to believers into the very presence of God and that there was no other sacrifice needed other than that of Christ. The writer of Hebrews said, "*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,*" Heb 10:19-20 So this veil speaks to us of Christ and the work that's to be done through Him. Of course people see in these colors the colors of Heaven, royalty, the blood of Christ and all of that. But at this point that veil says, "You can not come here, the presence and person of God is off limits." Only one time of year the high priest would enter in there and it was with the blood of the sacrifice, and if there was sin in his life he'd be struck dead. But the work of Christ rendered that veil no longer necessary so God tore it in 1/2 from top to bottom when Christ died upon the cross.

Vs15-17

Some say that the chain work and pomegranates spoke of being bound together in unity and the fruitfulness that results from that. I'm not sure that that's what that was to signify but it's a neat picture and true nonetheless. There is an anointing and a fruitfulness that comes from being unified, likeminded as the body of Christ. And we don't have time to stop and develop that but there are all kinds of passages that deal with unity, the need for like-mindedness in the body and the fruitful results that come of it. It's not healthy to be divisive or divided, but it is healthy when we're united, it's fruitful.

As for these 2 pillars they were called Jachin and Boaz. Which means, "He shall Establish," and "In Him is Strength," so the reminders every time you would come to the temple that it was God who established the temple, them as a nation, and their lives personally by His strength. It was a place where they could receive what those pillars stood for. As they came to the temple they would be established, renewed, refreshed and restored, they would receive strength from the Lord to keep moving forward in their walk and relationship with Him. And we desire that this be a place where those things happen as well. But God wants to use you personally in this way, to be a pillar in the lives of people who need established, who need strength. God wants to pour Himself through you this way, again that's one plus to body life. Being able to come together and encourage one another in the Lord, that we be established in our walk and relationship with Him through His strength by His Spirit.

Finally before moving on and picking up the pace, I drew your attention a minute ago to the fact there was no expense spared in the building of the temple. Literally billions upon billions of dollars in today's standard. And it was a relatively small structure, I would just say it again; God is worthy of our very best. It's so sad that we often times try to skimp on the Lord. I'm not saying that we should seek to go beyond our means, but nor should we give God our cast offs.

This place is by no means extravagant, but even still there were people trying to convince me that certain things were over the top, not necessary, a waste of money. When it comes to doing what you're doing unto the Lord from the heart, there's no such thing as a waste. God's deserving of the very best we can do. Sure people will meet in a tent to worship God, and if that's all you can do, then do it, praise God for it, but we don't find the pattern anywhere in the scriptures of doing the least we can when we tag God's name on it, quite the opposite, He's worthy of the best we can do.

Ch 4

Vs1

The altar was 30'x30'x15' high, a fairly massive structure capable of offering several sacrifices simultaneously. And it was the 1st thing you would see upon entering the courtyard, and it stood there as a constant reminder that the approach to God came through sacrifice, apart from the shedding of blood there could be no remission. And nothing has changed there, it's still through sacrifice that we come to God, the sacrifice of Christ, the shedding of His blood

making for the remission of our sin, this altar was a foreshadowing of the cross where the ultimate sacrifice would be made for you and for me.

Vs2-6

The job of the priests was incredibly bloody, and so they would wash their instruments and various parts of the sacrifices in these lavers and the priests themselves would clean up in what they called the “Sea of cast bronze,” which was basically a small pool. It was 15’ across by about 7 ½’ deep and if you measured it’s circumference it would be 45’ around. It held around 17,000 gallons or so. Now in 1st Kings 7 it says it held 2,000 baths, here we read 3,000. So either it was capable of holding 3,000 but generally only carried 2,000, or perhaps since when this was written it was after the Babylonian captivity that the measurement of a bath in Babylon was a little less than what they measured in Israel prior to the captivity. But 70 yrs later, but the standard you’re using now it would measure 3,000, the bottom line is that it held a bunch of water. and It rested on the backs of 12 brass oxen, perhaps speaking of the 12 tribes, pointing toward the 12 apostles, I’m not certain but no doubt the #12 was significant.

Vs7-8

The tabernacle had only 1 lampstand and 1 table for the showbread, the temple had 10, so things are definitely happening on a larger scale. Of course the lampstands pointing toward the light of the world, the showbread speaking of the bread of life, it all points *to* or speaks *of* Christ, He’s the substance of which all these things merely foreshadow.

Vs9-16

This is something else we like to see and hear of, a job well *done*. Vs 11 tells us that Hiram *finished* doing the work that he was to do for King Solomon for the house of God. Beginning well is one thing, and it’s a good thing, but finishing well is what’s so critical, having the fortitude to follow through and finish what God has committed to our trust. Jesus said of the work of redemption the Father had given to Him, “*It is finished!*” John 19:30 Paul, when he was preparing to be poured out in martyrdom to the Lord he said, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*” 2 Tim 4:7 Here we read where Hiram *finished* the work that he was to do. What a great testimony, one that I pray we all have when we see Christ face to face. Man we want to hear well done you’re a good a faithful servant.

Vs17-18

Of course brass (or bronze) in the scriptures speaking of judgment. And the weight of it not even determined it was so great, and the weight of sin, of judgment that Jesus bore on our behalf upon the cross, so great, immeasurable by the standards of man.

Vs19-22

Ch 5

Vs1

When you read the account of this in 1st Kings you realize that the project took 7 yrs. This is 7 yrs later than Ch 3 Vs1. and I think it's good to realize that when God does a work it takes time. It doesn't matter (generally speaking) if it's a work in me personally or the body corporately, God rarely works in ways that *we* consider "fast." So perhaps you're in a place whereby you aren't seeing the growth you'd like to, or a particular ministry isn't exploding as you'd desire it to. Don't get all uptight and freaked out, God is chipping away, developing you, strengthening you, creating character in you, it doesn't happen overnight, but rather through a process of time. God's work often just takes time.

Vs2-10

This mention of the Exodus is significant because in a sense this is the culmination of that deliverance in that up until this point the ark had been kept in a tent. A symbol of something temporal at best. Now the ark is to stay in the temple which speaks of rest, permanence, security and surety. No more wanderings, we're home.

Now there was a time when in the ark would've been a jar of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the 2 tables of stone upon which God gave the Law. Apparently somewhere down the line in these last several hundred yrs something had happened to the rod and the jar of manna. Now all that was in it was the tables of stone with the Law inscribed upon them. and Of course the ark being a picture of both the deity and humanity of Christ. The wood speaking of humanity, overlaid with gold speaking of His deity and the law being kept therein is a neat picture because Jesus is the only one whoever kept the Law in its fullness. But because of that God is able to meet with us on the basis of mercy, and of course that's where God said that He would meet with them, from above the mercy seat which was the lid of the ark where the blood was sprinkled upon it, so a very rich picture as it pertains to typology.

But we have here a worship celebration as the temple is officially "opening" with the bringing in of the ark. People represented from all over the nation, similar to when David had the ark brought to Jerusalem.

Vs11-14

So they were having a radical time, every priest was on duty, they had a massive "worship choir" present, and when they were all as one (there's that unity we were speaking of), one voice before the Lord, God showed up in a powerful and profound way. Being "enthroned" as it were upon the praises of His people. Ratifying the work, showing approval and acceptance when the work is done according to the Divine order offered in sacrifice and praise.

This is that same cloud that was led them through the wilderness, that was present upon Mt Sinai, that was present there at the tabernacle. This is the same cloud from which God spoke to Moses, it was present at the transfiguration of Jesus, it received Him into Heaven at the

ascension and it'll display His glory at His 2nd coming. It was just so overwhelming that the priests couldn't continue ministering, everything just came to a raging halt and the glory of God took center stage. But even still His "self revelation" was ambiguous at best being "shrouded" as it were by the cloud. It wasn't until Christ came that John could finally say, "we've beheld His glory." In Christ dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Jesus having said, "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father."

Ch 6

Vs1-2

Of course here we have a foreshadowing of God dwelling in the midst of His people as would be fulfilled in the coming of Christ to the nation of Israel and then ultimately His dwelling in you and me as His holy temple.

Vs3-11

Couple of things here briefly. #1 We note the credit and the glory being given to God for the work that was done. Solomon said that God had fulfilled with *His* hands what He'd spoken to his father David. Again in Vs 10 that God had fulfilled His word as the *Lord* promised. Now it would be easy to look at that and say, "Wait, didn't Solomon order the materials?" Yeah, "Didn't Hiram general contract it?" Sure, "Didn't he have about 153,600 laborers?" and That's all true; "How then is it said that *God* did it with His hands?" Because, "...*it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*" Phil 2:13 We've been created for good works which God has created before hand that we should walk in them. So "yes" God uses you and me, but make no mistake He's the One who does the work, apart from Him you and I wouldn't be doing anything in His name, He's the One at work, we're simply vessels through whom He *does* the work.

#2 You might underline there in Vs 8 where the Lord gave David credit simply for having the desire to build the temple in his heart. He didn't actually get to do it but God commended him for even having the desire. God is looking to your heart. Now that doesn't mean that there's a loophole in the system whereby we can think about doing something and then not do it and consider God as having given us credit for it. He didn't say he had it in his head, he had it in his *heart*. If it were up to David, it would've been done, but God restrained him, we don't get credit for what pops up in our head, but if it's in your heart to glorify and magnify the Lord, God sees that and acknowledges/honors that.

Now Solomon goes from preaching, to praying, notice.

Vs 12-18

Solomon is here praying, calling upon God's faithfulness to keep His Word. Heaven and earth may pass away but His word will by no means pass away. He's magnified His word above all His name. and We note that Solomon wasn't confused as to the omnipresence of God, when he mentioned in Vs 2 that He'd built a place for God to dwell forever he didn't mean that God would literally be in his box, God doesn't dwell inside our little box.

Heaven and the heaven of heavens can't contain Him, you can't escape the presence of God, everywhere you go He's there. It's no wonder He'll never leave you, never forsake you, there's no such place that's "God forsaken." Oh there are things He doesn't bless or condone, there are ways we can lead our lives that separate us from Him in regards to personal intimacy and things of that nature. But there's no fleeing from His presence (ask Jonah).

Vs19-21

Really this is a prayer about prayer, and we won't comment on it too much but Solomon is calling upon the sure mercies of God. This whole prayer could really be summed up in that familiar passage, "*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" 1 John 1:9 It's a prayer that deals with problems with neighbors, with nations, and with nature, and Solomon requests righteousness, repentance, renewal, and effective outreach.

Vs22-31

Underline it again, God knows the heart and He's searching our heart. Solomon acknowledges here the stubborn tendencies of the human heart.

Often times it takes times of turbulence, and days of difficulty to wake us up to the reality of our need for repentance and to get us on our face before God crying out to God. Sometimes God chastens us through seasons of struggle. He'd prefer to lead us by His eye, but if He has to get out the bit and bridle He will. But His objective isn't our misery, it's to teach us the good way in which we should walk, that we might fear Him and walk in His ways as long as we live.

Vs32-33

The intent that God had for Israel was never to keep the goodness of God all to themselves while the rest of the planet perished. They were to be a light to the nations, their message was to be "Come and see." Of course our commission is "Go and tell." But it's always been the heart of God that none should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Vs34-39

There's no one who doesn't sin, all sin and fall short of the glory of God, if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Yet God is willing to forgive if we're willing to repent. But here's the deal; God doesn't want you to turn to Him with just a portion of your heart, He wants you to return to Him with *all* your heart, and *all* Your soul. Remember from where you've fallen, repent and repeat those 1st works, return to your 1st love relationship with Him.

Vs40-42

More than likely he was in reference to himself with the mention of, "Your Anointed" but certainly there's an allusion in there to the hope of the coming Messiah. and God didn't turn away, but rather accepted His work upon the cross, raising Him from the dead that in Him we might have everlasting life. A beautiful prayer.

Prayer Points:

God we thank You for Your mercies that are new every morning. Lord give us hearts of repentance that we might learn to walk in Your ways as long as we live. We thank You for the faithfulness of Your chastening hand, and Your faithfulness to forgive. and God we thank You for Your willingness to dwell *in* us and work *through* us, God we love You, and we give You praise, use us for Your glory.