



COMING UP ... **MAR 1** Ecclesiastes **MAR 8** 1 Kings 9–11 **MAR 15** 1 Kings 12–16 **MAR 22** 1 Kin 17—2 Kin 2

1 KINGS 5:1-9:9

In 970 BC, at about the age of 20, Solomon comes to Israel's throne
By 966 BC he begins fulfilling God's calling and David's dream ... building the temple
For the next 7 years Solomon is in the best place he ever gets in his walk with God
He has a deep level of relationship with God
There's a real sense of intimate fellowship

LESSON THEME: Practicing the presence of God

He Gathers The Materials (Ch. 5)

The materials (5:1-12)
188 tons of gold (1 Ch 29:7)
375 tons of silver (1 Ch 29:7)
Immeasurable tons of wood, stone and bronze
He only uses the very best materials
The workers (5:13-18)
Resident aliens
Israelites

He Builds The Temple (Ch. 6-7)

The structure (6:1-38)
It's twice the size of the tabernacle; otherwise it's identical in proportions to it
The furnishings (7:13-51)
Everything is larger (e.g. the altar, the laver)
There's more of certain things (e.g. lampstands)
He follows the blueprint of the Word of God (Ex 25-35; 1 Ch 28:19)

He Dedicates The Temple (8:1-53)

God's presence enters the temple (vv. 10-11)
Solomon prays that God would ...
Keep His eyes on the temple and keep His ears attentive to His people's prayers
Answer them as they pray toward it
Recognizing that ...
God would reward the obedient with blessing
And discipline the disobedient
All in accordance with His covenant (Dt 28-30)

He Dedicates The People (8:54-61)

They have a God Whose promises have never failed
Solomon asks that they would have "hearing" hearts to follow and obey the Lord
God answers Solomon's prayer with fire as He did with Moses 480 years earlier (2 Ch 7:1-3)

The People Celebrate (8:62-66)

The Feast of Tabernacles
Celebrates the Lord's care for them in the wilderness wanderings
Peace offerings

Part is dedicated to God and the priests; part is retained for the one making the offering
A fellowship meal with God
The Lord is—appropriately—at the center of His nation's and His people's hearts

God Speaks with Solomon (9:1-9)

I will continue to be with you (His promise)
Dedicate yourself to me; walk in my presence every day (Solomon's obedience)
But remember what will happen if you don't (God's warning)

Four Summary Observations

This seven-year stretch is the best it ever gets for Solomon's relationship with the Lord ...

1. He's fully aware that he's doing God's work
2. He's mindful of God's worth, and so gives only the best for His name and His work
3. From his prayers, he's steeped himself in God's Word, especially Deuteronomy
4. God's presence, power and promise-keeping are the "axis" of his worship—his prayer and praise

Application: Practicing the presence of God

Daily Practice 1 – Work

Every day Solomon was *mindful* that he was engaged in *God's work*
We were redeemed to serve God (Eph 2:8-10)
We need to be sensitive and responsive to His Spirit's leading
The Spirit can be grieved (Eph 4:30)
The Spirit can be quenched (Ps 66:18; 1 Th 5:19)
We need to remind ourselves *each day* that *we're* engaged in God's work

Daily Practice 2 – Worth

Every day Solomon was mindful of *God's worth*, and so gave only his best for His name and His work
We can build with wood, hay or stubble OR with gold, silver and jewels (1 Cor 3:12)
In light of God giving His best for us in Jesus Christ, doesn't He deserve our best today?
In time, talent and treasure?
We need to remind ourselves *each day* that God deserves our best today

Daily Practice 3 – Word

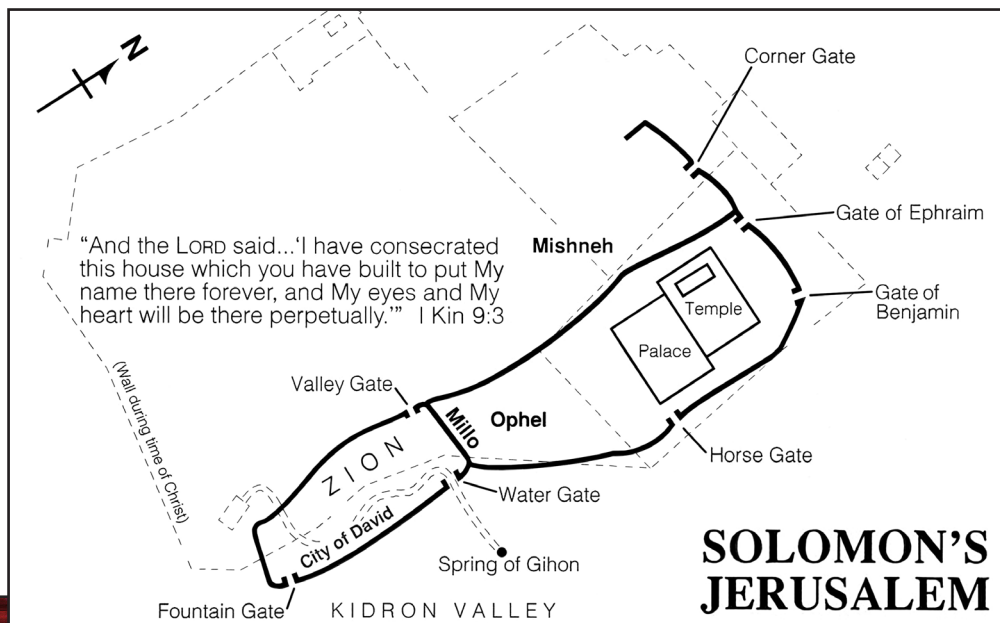
Solomon's work, and especially his prayers, revealed a *deep knowledge* of God and His Word
We can't be mindful or consciously aware of what (or Who) we don't know
The Word of God is our spiritual food
The sermon notes are one great resource
We need to be "swimming"/immersed in God's Word *each day*

Daily Practice 4 – Worship

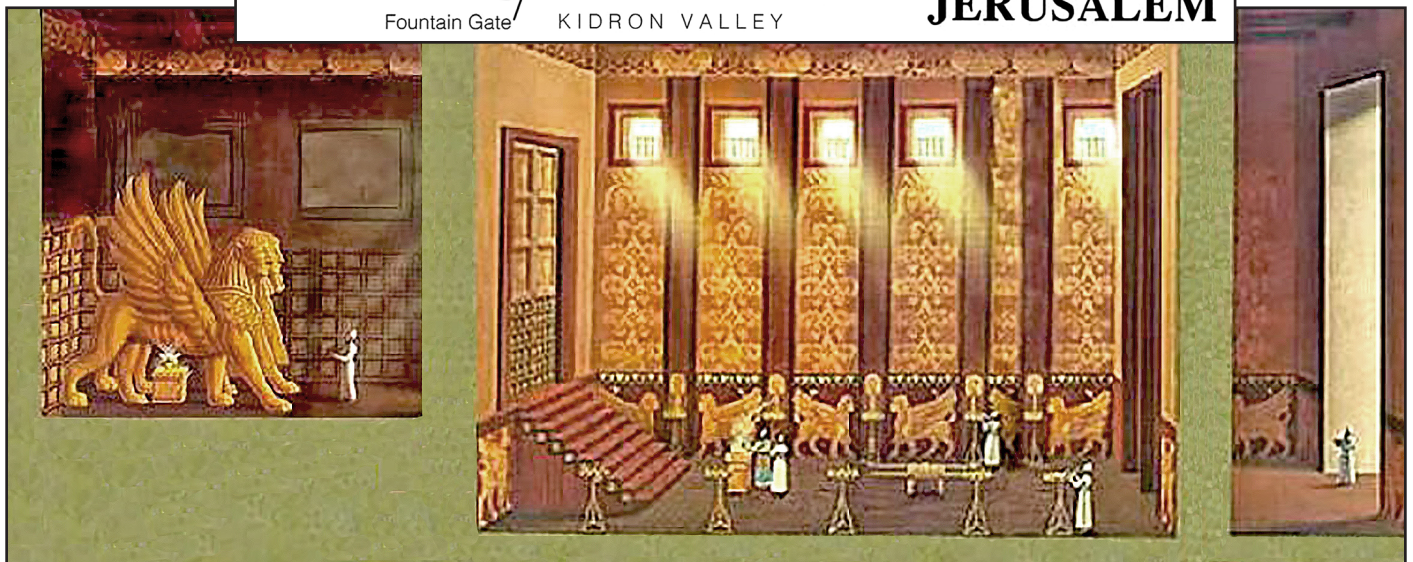
God's presence, power and promise-keeping were the "axis" of Solomon's worship
Walk each day in grace; no longer looking toward a temple but toward Jesus Christ
Turn to Him first in prayer (1 Peter 5:7)
Offer praise for Who He is, what He *has done* and what He *is doing* (Heb 13:15; Rom 8:28)
We need to have our lives revolve *each day* around praise of and prayer to God – worship

Drawing Close In Busy Times

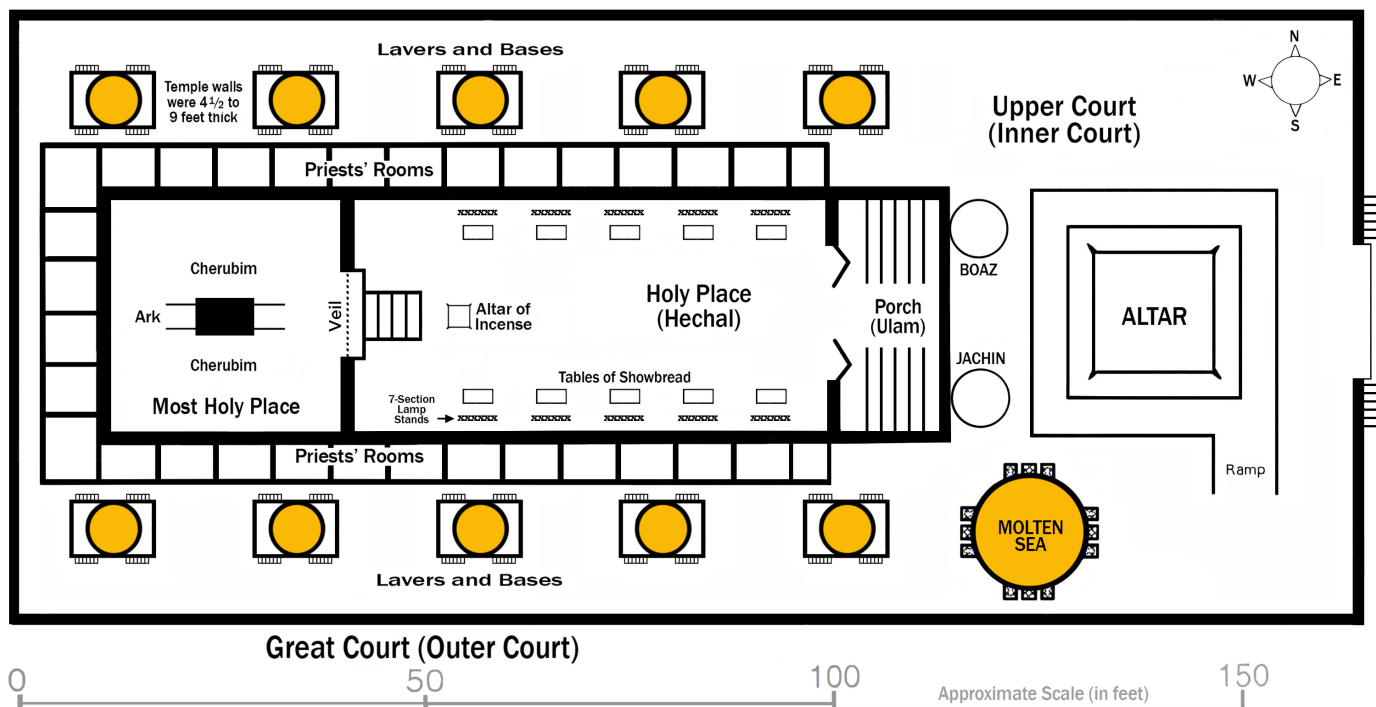
Each day walk in conscious awareness that you're engaged in and ready, willing and available to do God's **WORK**
Each day offer God your best because He's **WORTH** it; determine to offer Him no leftovers
Each day saturate yourself in God's **WORD**
Each day keep God as the axis of your life and activities through an on-going conversation of praise and prayer—**WORSHIP**



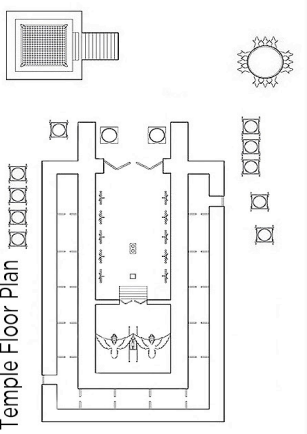
SOLOMON'S JERUSALEM



Artist's Rendering of Solomon's Temple Interior by S. George Khalaf, Virtual Center for Phoenician Studies



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



A structure was built around the walls of the temple containing three levels. The lower chamber was 7.5 feet wide, the middle chamber was 7.5 feet wide, and the upper chamber was 10.5 feet wide (1 Kin 6:5-6, 8, 10).

Two ornate wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the inner sanctuary from the nave (1 Kin 6:31-32).

The nave had clerestory windows with recessed frames (1 Kin 6:4).

The vestibule was 30 feet wide and 15 feet deep (1 Kin 6:3; 2 Chron 3:4).

The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "Boaz" and the one on the south was called "Jachin" (1 Kin 7:21; 2 Chron 3:17).

Two ornate wooden folding doors overlaid with gold separated the nave from the vestibule (1 Kin 6:33-35).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet high and 30 feet long and wide (2 Chron 4:1).

The inner sanctuary (Most Holy Place) was a 30-foot cube (1 Kin 6:15-29; 2 Chron 3:8-14). Such rooms were often elevated in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubim were on either side of the ark, each 15 feet tall with 15-foot wingspans (1 Kin 6:23-28). The ark of the covenant was between the two cherubim (1 Kin 8:1-11; 2 Chron 5:2-14).

The nave (Holy Place) was 60 feet long and 30 feet wide (1 Kin 6:15; 17-18; 2 Chron 3:5-7). It contained the golden altar of incense, the golden table of the bread of the Presence, and ten golden lampstands, five on the north and five on the south (1 Kin 7:48-49; 2 Chron 4:7).

Ten bronze wheeled stands and basins held water for rinsing off what was used for the burnt offerings (1 Kin 7:27-38; 2 Chron 4:6).

The "Sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet tall and 15 feet in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kin 7:23-26; 2 Chron 4:2-5).

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build "the house of the LORD" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the spring of 967 or 966 B.C. (1 Kin 6:1, 2; 2 Chron 3:1-2). The temple itself, not including the surrounding chambers on three sides, was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It at in the center of a court with boundary walls.