

March 16, 2025

1 Kings 5 – 7

Solomon Built the Temple

Have you ever seen a national monument, such as the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, or the Lincoln Memorial? Monuments remind us of an important person's life, an important event, or principles and ideals that we cherish.

What materials are used in the construction of monuments? Paper? Cardboard? Particle board? Sheetrock? No; monuments are supposed to last a long time, so they are built of durable materials such as steel, concrete, and stone.

King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem and it stood for 400 years. Long after Solomon died, the Temple continued to reveal his commitment to obey and honor God. Many generations met with God at the Temple Solomon built. Let's learn more about it.

1 Ki. 5:1 **King Hiram** of **Tyre** was a close friend of Solomon's father, King David. Hiram sent greetings to Solomon.

1 Ki. 5:2-3 Why couldn't David build the Temple?

1 Ki. 5:4 What circumstances had changed?

1 Ki. 5:5 Why did Solomon want to build the Temple?

1 Ki. 5:6 What did Solomon ask Hiram?

1 Ki. 5:7-8 How did Hiram respond to Solomon's request?

Solomon purchased building materials and hired skilled craftsmen from King Hiram. Cedars from Lebanon were very strong and valuable.

1 Ki. 6:1 When did Solomon begin building the Temple?

The 480th year since the Exodus and the 4th year of Solomon's reign both refer to the year 966 B.C.

1 Ki. 6:2 "The length thereof was _____ cubits, and the breadth thereof _____ cubits, and the height thereof _____ cubits." The Temple was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet tall.

1 Ki. 6:11 Who spoke to Solomon?

1 Ki. 6:12 What did God require of Solomon?

What did He promise?

1 Ki. 6:13 "And I will _____ among the children of Israel, and will not _____ my people Israel."

The rest of chapter 6 describes the elaborate and expensive construction of the Temple. The Temple was built of huge stones and the inside was lined with cedar boards. The entire structure was overlaid inside and out with pure gold. The Temple was surrounded by a stone wall, which formed the first of several courtyards.

1 Ki. 6:37-38 How long did the construction of the Temple take?

1 Ki. 7:1 What did Solomon build next?

How long did that building project take?

Solomon's "house" was actually a huge royal palace complex consisting of buildings and courtyards.

1 Ki. 7:2 Part of the palace complex was the "House of the Forest of Lebanon." It was probably called this because of its extensive use of Lebanese cedar. "The length thereof was an _____ cubits, and the breadth thereof _____ cubits, and the height thereof _____ cubits." This building measured 150 feet by 75 feet, and it was 45 feet tall.

The rest of chapter 7 describes the elaborate furnishings of the Temple. Solomon's two great building projects took a total of 20 years to complete (1 Ki. 9:10).

1 Ki. 7:51 What did Solomon do after the Temple was completed?

The Temple was complete. Next week you will learn about the Temple's great dedication ceremony.

Concluding Thoughts: The Temple Solomon built stood for almost 400 years. Solomon invested his energy, time, and resources into building the Temple so generations of Israelites could worship the true and living God. Solomon's Temple had lasting significance. Anyone who saw the Temple could easily understand that Solomon loved and respected the God of Israel. Solomon's testimony was evident in what he built and left for future generations.

What are you "building" that has lasting significance? Are you investing your energy, time, and resources into anything that will last (such as the souls of people and God's work on earth)?

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus said, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*"

Are your priorities in order? Are you making wrong choices by investing in temporary things, or are you giving yourself to things that will last for eternity? Confess your sins of short-sightedness and selfishness. Ask God to help you build something that will last.

Project: Invest some time in others this week. Make a phone call, send a text, or write a note. Mentor a younger believer. Tell others how the Lord is teaching you and growing your faith.