

A Beautiful House

1 Kings 5; 6; 7:13-51; Prophets and Kings, pp. 35, 36

Come, daughter," said Vimalya's mother. "We will go to see the most beautiful place in India, the Taj Mahal."

And it was beautiful! But not as beautiful as the house Solomon built for God.

King Solomon sent for a servant. "It's time to begin building God's house," he announced. I've given a lot of thought to this great project. And now it's time to start!"

All the Israelites knew about this wonderful plan. King David, Solomon's father, had wanted to build a special house for God. But God had told him no. David's son, the next king, would build the temple. Now King David was dead, and Solomon had been the king of Israel for four years. And he was finally ready to begin building the temple!

"I want to send a letter to Hiram, the King of Tyre," Solomon said. He paced up and down the room. Finally he began to say what he wanted to write to Hiram. "You were a great friend of my father, David," Solomon began. "He was not able to build a temple to honor the Lord as he wanted to. Now I am to do it.

"Please cut tall cedar trees from your mountains for me. I will send men to help your servants with the work. And I will pay you whatever you ask." King Hiram was pleased to receive Solomon's letter. He sent word that he would, indeed, provide lumber for the temple. And he promised to send Hiram-Abi, a great artist, to help Solomon's workers.



The Message

I worship God when I show respect and reverence for His house.

Memory Verse

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty!”

(Psalm 84:1, NIV).



Hiram-Abi knew how to work with gold and silver, and bronze and wood. He knew all about stonework and carpentry. He also could teach about weaving and dyeing beautiful fabrics.

It took thousands of people to work on the huge temple project. King Solomon sent 30,000 men to King Hiram to help cut down trees and bring them home. Eighty thousand other men cut beautiful stone out of the mountainsides and shaped it into blocks. When taken to the temple, the blocks fit together like pieces of a puzzle. There was no sound of hammers, or axes, or any iron tools at the

building site. This was one way the workers showed reverence for the Lord.

Solomon's temple was probably the most beautiful building ever built on the earth. On the inside, the stone walls were completely covered with wood. The wood was decorated with carvings of angels, palm trees, and flowers. Then it was completely covered with gold! Even the floor and the ceiling were covered in gold!

Artists carved two great angels from olive wood. They overlaid the angels with gold too. The angels were placed in the Most Holy Place where the ark of God would rest. Their lovely wings stretched across the whole room.

All the furniture of the temple was beautiful and carefully made as possible. The Israelites wanted to honor the Lord in the very best way. “Who can really build the Lord a worthy home?” Solomon asked. “Not even the highest heavens can contain Him!”

Building and taking care of a church are acts of worship for us just as they were when Solomon built God's beautiful temple. And the things we do and say inside our church are also to be acts of worship.

S A B B A T H

READ If possible, go with your family to a place where there are cedar trees or read about them in a book. Then read your lesson together. Ask your family: Why do you think cedar trees were used in building the temple?

DO Help your family learn your memory verse.

SING Sing a praise song, then thank God for the place where you worship on Sabbath.

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, read 1 Kings 5. What two kinds of wood did Hiram supply? How did Hiram send this wood to Solomon?

DO Fill a basin with water. Make some “rafts” out of craft sticks and glue. Float some twigs on the rafts from one part of the basin to another.

PRAY Thank God for builders.

DO Put one word of your memory verse on each of ten pieces of paper. Mix up the papers, then ask your family to put them in the right order. Save the papers for another day.

T U E S D A Y

READ For worship today, read 1 Kings 6 with your family. What nature items were carved into wood in the temple? Circle the following words that are NOT in the scripture you read: cubits, quarry, hammer, chisel, cedar, maple, Most Holy Place, cement. What words are used in their place? Thank God for tools.

DO A cubit is the distance from your elbow to the tip of your finger—about 18 inches on an adult. Measure yourself. How long is your cubit?

DO Put your memory verse papers in order and say the verse together.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship today, read your lesson study together.

DO Start to make a diorama from a shoe box. (A diorama is a type of model. You use the shoe box as the temple and add rooms, furniture, etc.) Ask an adult to help you find a picture of Solomon’s temple. Make the rooms. Next week you will add furniture.

DO Think about your church. What makes it beautiful? Ask God to help you respect it.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ During worship today, read 1 Kings 7:13-51 together. How long did it take to build the temple? Find out what burnished bronze looks like.

DO Try building a model church without using nails or glue. What materials could you use? Thank God for the people who built your church.

DO Put your memory verse papers in order and say the verse.

T H U R S D A Y

READ For worship today read 1 Kings 6:2, 14-17. Go to a nearby field or parking lot and measure a space the length of the temple. Remember, a cubit is about 18 inches (46 centimeters) long. Mark off the length of the Most Holy Place (20 cubits) and the main hall (40 cubits). Compare the temple's size to your church. Which is bigger?

PRAY Thank God for your church. Tell Him what it means to you and your family.



King David prepared materials for the temple before he died. His gift to the temple was enough to build 2,500 houses.

F R I D A Y

DO With your family's help, finish the inside of your diorama temple. Read 1 Kings 6:14-22 together. Explain and compare the inside of the temple to your church. How are they alike? Different?

SING Sing "We Are the Church, Everyone" (Sing for Joy, No. 143), then thank God for your church family.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Read 1 Kings 6:14, 15, 23. Then unscramble the following words to find out the types of wood used in the sanctuary.

RAEDC

— — — —

ENIP

— — — —

VELIO

— — — —