

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 1-11

It usually isn't enough just to say words; you need to mean them.

For example, it wouldn't make any sense at all if you would tell your parents, "I love you," but then go about disobeying them and mistreating them.

Saying words like, "I love you," would be much better followed up with helping to keep the house clean, doing the dishes, or mowing the lawn.

See if you can find the ways in which King Solomon showed or failed to show his love for his God.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven,

You have given me so much. Please help me to learn from Solomon so that I, too, will use the time, talents and treasures You have given me in a God-pleasing way. Be with me as I listen and study Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



The Story - 1 Kings 1-11

SOLOMON ANOINTED - Now when King David was old, advanced in years, he ordered Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet to anoint Solomon as king over Israel. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

DAVID'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS TO SOLOMON - When the days of David drew near that he should die, he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man; and walk in the ways of the LORD your God, to keep His statutes, commandments, judgments and testimonies, that you may prosper in all that you do.

Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary."

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the courts of the house of the LORD and of all the chambers all around.

Then the leaders of the tribes of Israel offered willingly for the house of the LORD gold, silver,

bronze, iron, and precious stones; with a loyal heart they offered willingly to the LORD. And David rejoiced greatly and blessed the LORD.

So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER - And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David. Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne. Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I



may discern between good and evil."

And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said, "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor riches, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor. So if you walk in My ways, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and offered up burnt offerings.

SOLOMON'S JUDGMENT - Then two women who were harlots came to the king. And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son."

Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."

Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king.

And he said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!"

But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

And all Israel heard of the judgment, and they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

SOLOMON PREPARES TO BUILD THE TEMPLE - Then Solomon sent to Hiram, king of Tyre, saying, "Behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD. Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and I will pay you wages for your servants." So Hiram gave

Solomon cedar and cypress logs.

And Solomon sent thirty thousand workers to Lebanon. And Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains, besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work. And they quarried large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation.

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE - In the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of Egypt, Solomon began to build the house of the LORD.

Its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits. The vestibule in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the breadth of the house, and its width extended ten cubits from the front of the house. Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around.

And the temple was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

THE MOST HOLY PLACE - And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. It was twenty cubits long, wide, and high. The whole temple he overlaid with gold. He was seven years in building it.

THE DEDICATION - And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, to the Most Holy Place. And when the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: "LORD God of Israel, behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple! Yet regard the prayer of Your servant, that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day.

"When Your people are defeated before an enemy; when the heavens are shut up and there is no rain; when there is famine in the land, or pestilence, whatever plague or sickness there is; whatever prayer and supplication is made by anyone toward this temple, then hear in heaven and forgive Your people who have sinned

against You."

And Solomon arose from before the altar of the LORD, and blessed all the congregation of Israel.

And Solomon offered a sacrifice to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him.

SOLOMON'S LAST DAYS - But King Solomon loved many foreign women. When he was old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

So the LORD became angry and said, "Because you have not kept My covenant, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David."

Now it happened at this time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field.

Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you.'"

SOLOMON'S DEATH - And the period that Solomon reigned over all Israel was forty years. Then Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

Outer Aim - God gave Solomon wisdom, riches and honor to use to glorify His Name in Solomon's rulership of Israel and in the building of the Temple.

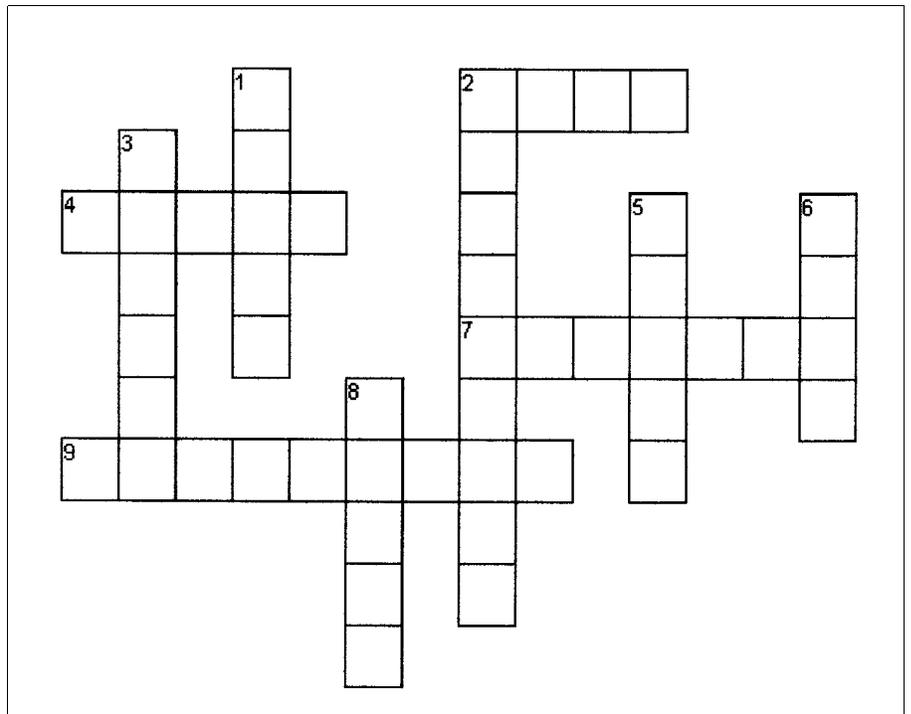
What the Story Tells Us - Complete the Crossword Puzzle with answers from the story.

Across

2. what a woman mistakenly killed by rolling on it in the night
4. Solomon asked the Lord for an understanding one of these to judge the people
7. the third king of Israel
9. the capital city of Israel

Down

1. the king of Tyre
2. Solomon's mother
3. what Solomon spent 7 years building in Jerusalem
5. what Solomon's unbelieving wives led him to worship
6. Solomon was one
8. Solomon's father



What God's Word Tells Us

SOLOMON BECOMES KING - Find the correct answers below.

1. Solomon became the (second -- third -- fourth) king of Israel.
2. Who were the priest and prophet involved in Solomon's anointing as king?
3. When David died, where was he buried? (Jerusalem -- Bethlehem -- Hebron -- Gibeon)
4. What preparations had David made for the building of the Temple? *Choose one.*
() He had prepared the foundations.
() He had caused much of the lumber to be cut.
() He had prepared the pattern (plans) for it.
5. T F The people gave willingly of their time and treasures for the Temple construction.
6. T F It was extremely noisy while the Temple was being built.

SOLOMON'S PRAYER -- Put the proper word in the blank.

riches	Gibeon	Israel	ask	wise	understanding
sacrifice	pleased	fame	dream	prayer	

King Solomon went to _____ to offer a _____. While he was there the LORD appeared to him in a _____, saying, "_____ whatever you want of Me."

Solomon asked for a _____ and _____ heart to be able to judge God's great people, the children of _____.

The LORD was _____ with Solomon's _____, and gave him not only what he had asked for, but also great _____ and _____ as well.

THE TWO WOMEN -- True and False

1. T F The two women were next door neighbors.
2. T F Each woman had a child.
3. T F The one child died because of a high fever.

4. T F The mother of the dead child exchanged him for the living one.
5. T F This was done while the mother of the dead child was sleeping.
6. T F The mother of the living child discovered the trade in the middle of the night.
7. T F At the trial both mothers claimed the living child.
8. T F The king actually intended to have the child cut in two.
9. T F The real mother said, "Give her the child; don't kill him."
10. T F Solomon gave the living child to the wrong mother.

WORK ON THE TEMPLE

1. Hiram was king of (Ammon -- Syria -- Egypt -- Tyre).
2. What kind of wood did Solomon want from Hiram? *Circle all correct answers.*
poplar -- maple -- fir -- cedar -- oak -- cypress
3. Write down how many men of Israel did each of the following:
 - a. helped cut trees in Lebanon _____
 - b. were burden bearers _____
 - c. quarried stone in the mountains _____
 - d. overseers and managers _____
4. The whole Temple was overlaid with (bronze -- silver -- gold -- copper).
5. How long did it take to build the Temple?
6. What does it mean to "dedicate" the Temple?
7. When Solomon said, "LORD, the heavens cannot contain You," what was he revealing about God?
 - a. He is holy.
 - b. He is omnipresent.
 - c. He is eternal.

Inner Aim - We should use all the blessings God gives us (time, talent, treasure) to glorify God in our work, worship and recreation.

SOLOMON'S LATER YEARS

1. What led King Solomon away from the LORD?
 - a. His great wealth
 - b. His great fame
 - c. His heathen wives and concubines
2. How many wives and concubines did Solomon have?
3. Does this mean that we today should be careful who we take as a spouse?
4. What did God cause to happen because of Solomon's sin?
 - a. The people rebelled against him.
 - b. God caused a large part of the kingdom to be torn from his family.
 - c. Solomon's enemies overpowered him.
5. How long did Solomon reign?
6. Who took over the throne after Solomon?

Passages

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Psalm 26:8 - LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalm 84:12 - O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You!

1 Corinthians 10:12 - Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #466 v. 1, 4

Christ, Thou art the sure Foundation,
Thou the Head and Cornerstone;
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Thou Thy Zion's Help forever
And her Confidence alone.

Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory,
While unending ages run. Amen.