



WEEK 3 || 1 KINGS 5-7

FOR GOD'S GLORY?

Motives can make all the difference. If I give you a chocolate éclair because I like you, that's one thing. If I do it because you're slimmer than me and I want you to put on weight, that's something else! As we look at Solomon's grand building program, we need to ask about his motives.

What do you think motivates most political policies around election time?

Is this different to what *should* motivate them? How so?

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Read 1 Kings 5:1-12

1. God made great promises to Solomon's ancestor Abraham and to his father David. List some of the partial fulfilments so far:

4:20-21
 5:4
 5:5
 5:7
 5:10-12

If this is all from God's promises, where should all the credit and glory go?

The temple was designed to replace the tabernacle, God's movable tent of meeting, with a permanent centre to symbolise God's permanent relationship with Israel (6:11-13). So it's interesting to compare the temple to the tabernacle.

2. With the tabernacle floor plan as a point of comparison, draw a floor plan of the temple, using the details from **6:1-10, 16-17, 19-20**. Try to make 10 cubits = 1 cm.

TABERNACLE LAYOUT



God's promise to Abraham

"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed."

Genesis 22:17-18

God's promise to David

David said to Solomon: "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God. But this word of the Lord came to me: 'You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign. He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'"

1 Chronicles 22:7-10, retelling 2 Samuel 7:11-16

3. What do you notice when you compare the temple to the tabernacle?

By itself, what does that suggest about Solomon's motivations?

4. Read **6:11-13**. Which matters more to God: the temple building, or the relationship with his people that it's meant to symbolise?

Already we get some hints of how that relationship is going to go...

Read 1 Kings 6:37-7:12

5. Which did Solomon invest more time in, God's temple or his own palace?
6. Using the details in 7:2-6 and the space below, draw a floor plan of Solomon's palace. 10 cubits = 1 cm.

7. What do you notice when you compare the palace to the temple?

How many such palaces did Solomon build and who were they for? 7:1 & 8

Would you say Solomon cares more for God's glory, or his own? Why?

8. Based on what you've seen of Solomon so far, how do you think Israel's relationship with God (6:11-13) is going to work out?



FOLLOW THE STORY

It's easy to start out doing something for God's glory, but then end up doing it far more for your own glory instead.

9. Have you ever done this yourself? When does it happen for you?

Is it easy to notice when we do that, or difficult? How so?

The apostle Paul brings together the ideas of temple building and personal glory in 1 Corinthians 3. After Paul planted the church, it was being ripped apart by people fighting over who was the most impressive leader! Look at his words in the sidebar:

10. What is the "temple" where "God's Spirit dwells" now?

If Sunday morning isn't about you, it's about God, what should change?

If Growth Group isn't about you, it's about God, what should change?

11. What will happen to people who care more for their own glory than God's?

How could the 'foolish message of the cross' (1 Cor 1:18) save us from these dangers?

What could people pray for you out of this session?

You are God's temple

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight... So then, no more boasting about human leaders!

1 Corinthians 3:10-21