

1 Kings.

God gets a house



Key verse: 1 Kings 6:11-12.

The word of the LORD came to Solomon: "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfil through you the promise I gave to David your father.

Study two...



Big Idea: We are kept safe because Christ kept the covenant.

Kick Off

Disciples of Jesus spend their life doing two things in response to our love for God in saving us.

1. We put off sin in our lives. 2. We aim to do good works. Both are hard. What do you work harder at; removing sin or doing good works?

STUDY

In chapters 5-9 we have the record of Solomon's temple to the Lord. These chapters follow closely other ancient near east building projects. This shows us we're dealing with a real historical event and also helps us divide the chapters into sections for study. The known five part formula for recording buildings of significance is as follows:

1. The decision and authorisation of the project. Ch 5:1-5
2. The acquisition of the building materials. Ch 5:6-18.
3. The actual building process and description of the building and furnishings. Ch 6-7
4. Dedication of the temple including dedicatory prayers. Ch 8
5. Divine blessing on the king. Ch 9: 1-9.

A few questions to consider:

1. In Solomon's conversation with Hiram, King of Tyre (1 Kings 5:3-5), what is clearly driving Solomon's desire to build the Lord's temple? Should the Lord's faithfulness in the past be the primary reason behind all kingdom work?
2. The exterior and interior of the building are described in detail in chapters 6-7. In 1 Kings 6:19-28 how are the things described meant to leave us feeling about the inside of God's house?

3. 1 Kings 7:1-12 is the section talking about Solomon's other buildings... necessary government buildings... although these buildings took longer to build and are more impressive in size, they're only given 12 little verses set in the centre of massive amounts of information on the Lord's temple. Do you think it's possible the author wants us to see worship of the Lord as the most significant thing in the life of a nation?

4. 1 Kings 8: 1-11. What is the most significant thing the temple of the Lord houses? What is in the ark of the Lord?

5. 1 Kings 8:22-61. This prayer of Solomon is so significant. Solomon, the son of David, has built the house of the Lord according to the promises. As king of Israel he now pleads to the Lord on behalf of the people of Israel into the future.

What is the focus of Solomon's prayer vv22-29?

Solomon throws up 7 different scenarios Israel may find themselves in. Whether it's forgiveness for sin or strength for battle, where is Israel to turn for help?

6. The blessing, peace, protection and provision of God towards his people Israel is all contingent on Solomon's perfect obedience to the covenant stipulation held in the ark of the covenant on the two tablets of stone. If Solomon succeeds or fails what happens 1 Kings 9:1-9?

THINK AND APPLY

Where Solomon failed in covenant faithfulness Jesus, the one greater than Solomon, the true Son of David, succeeded. On what basis are we confident that the Lord loves us unconditionally?

Where must we look for strength to overcome sin, and power to achieve good works? Do you do this?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
1 Kings 10-16**