

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER 12 – 1 KINGS 8:1-21 & 2 CHRONICLES 5:1-14

One of the things we have been studying in the Life of Solomon is we have been trying to find the little things during the height of his success that, contributes to his ultimate demise. Through all of this we come to the epitome of his career. This is the high point. After you get the capsule today it is not going to ever be the same.

There is a lot of stuff that you can get entangled in. Once you get entangled in it you can't get out. So you can't serve God like you would serve God and you waste your life on secondary issues. Too many people are like that. Solomon is heading that way. What I am saying is Solomon is getting there and getting there fast after what we saw him build last week. That five building complex on that campus, the fabulous house that he builds to make a statement to minister to his pride. He is tied up big time in the city of Jerusalem. The sad part about it is he only has fifteen and one-half years of his life to live in this place that took him thirteen years to build and to use all the resources of the kingdom in order to build it. Certainly David had a palace there that was adequate for him if he would have been humble enough to move into it. But, when you are the new kid on the block, the new king and the

new CEO, you have to make a statement. I just think that is where Solomon is.

Bob Foster is in Sedalia, Colorado. Bob lost his wife this year and he has lost Valley Ranch. He has a bi-weekly newsletter called “*The Challenge*” to men that you get every two weeks. In two of the issues he writes about Solomon and this is what he says:

Solomon is the 10th son of David, the 2nd by Bathsheba and the 3rd king of Israel who reigned for 40 years. This man, this son of David is a Combined Einstein, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize Winner. Do you realize that the building he built had 230 million dollars of gold in it. 50 million dollars in silver, 800 tons of bronze and 4,600 tons of iron. Along with precious stones and costly jewels and tons of marble.

He said, when you go to the Western Wall, there is a stone there that is 38 feet long, 7 feet high and weights 100 tons. Magnificent, marvelous structure that he built. I found this the other day, even a woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head. I wish in some ways that Solomon was wise enough to do that for the last half of his life.

When we got to the end of last week’s study we were at the 24-1/2 year mark in his career of forty years. As he just had his house built. It is interesting in the

historical books that he builds the temple in Chapter 6, he builds his palace complex in Chapter 7 then he comes back and dedicates the temple in Chapter 8. I am following the chapter sequence but it is not the chronological sequence. I cannot justify the fact that Solomon spent 7-1/2 years building this fabulous temple and he leaves it sitting empty for 13 years while he is building his house. I think coinciding with the building of his house is also the dedication of the temple and you are going to see that. I am backing up thirteen years.

I am following the sequence in the books in 1 Kings but I am backing up thirteen years historically to dedicate the temple which he built. Are you ready?

v.1 Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David.

Solomon is a brilliant leader! How are you going to get as many of the Israelites in Jerusalem for this phenomenal display and the dedication of the temple? A good executive will sit down and start looking for opportunities to do that where you can kill two birds with one stone. He says ah, we have the Feast of Tabernacles coming in the seventh month. All the guys have to be in town so why don't we just put this thing together. So he does that. Seven months, it's actually

eleven months after they finish the building, he calls all these people together. You have this big crowd and this phenomenal thing we are getting ready to look at.

v. 2 All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

How do you know it was eleven months from the time they got finished? Back in 1 Kings 6:38 on the building of the temple, the temple was finished in the month of Bul which was the eighth month. We are dedicating it on the seventh month so it has to be eleven months. We are in the 12th year of the reign of King Solomon, seventh month, when we have this wonderful dedication service.

v.3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark.

Remember when David went down to get the ark out of Philistine territory, the Philistines had this thing on a cart, David was dancing and having a great time. All of a sudden one of the oxen steps in a hole and the cart jiggles and the ark starts to slide off and Uzzah reaches out to steady it and bam, he's out of here. Instant fatality, stop the party we are quitting right now. David got so scared he left it there for quite a while. He goes back, and when all else fails, reads the instructions that the priests are suppose to carry the ark and nobody is suppose to touch that. The next time

he does it, it is a big deal.

You know Solomon had to be affected by that. Just to show you what kind of a guy he was he strategically planned the time, eleven months after the finish to this great celebration at the Feast of Tabernacles and, as an administrator he also is very careful to see to it that the priests are the only ones going to carry the ark and, they are going to carry it right.

Get in your mind a big parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, this is a big deal. They are not just taking the ark; they are taking everything that had to do with the tabernacle up to the new residence on the hill at Mount Moriah, the temple itself. The ark is the only old piece of furniture that is going to go into the new building. Everything else is new, new tables, new lamp stands and new wash basins. They have everything new except the ark. This is the ark that was built back at Mount Horeb, Mount Sinai when Moses came down with the instructions for the tabernacle and it has been carried through the wilderness. It has existed all this time and now, this which represents the presence of God, is going to be lodged in this new building.

v. 4 and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up.

Just like they did in the wilderness, an instant replay. Look what happens

v. 5 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

Just get the picture of the temple courtyard buzzing with activity and animals being sacrificed and people expecting what is going to happen on this wonderful day. Now we have a permanent place to worship. We have a chance, as God's people, to demonstrate that God is alive and he intervenes in the affairs of men.

v. 6 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

The Holy of Holies is the back room it's a thirty ft. cube. It is 30 feet high, 30 feet wide, 30 feet long. It is solid gold. In there were two cherubim. Those cherubim are angelic beings and they are fifteen feet high covered in solid gold. They have a wing span of fifteen feet. Their wings touch in this thirty foot room all the way across. The ark is brought right in front of them and put right down in the middle of the room. What a spectacular thing this must have been and an awesome, fearful thing. God is getting ready to take up residence in this place so it is graphically described here.

v. 7 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles.

When Uzzah touched the Ark and it took his life, these guys respect that. I mean if they are going to carry this Ark they are going to have poles long enough to make sure they don't get touched. These poles have to be at least around twenty-five to twenty-eight feet long that go through the sides of the ark. Look at the next verse.

v.8 These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

So these poles were close to thirty feet long. Solomon wanted to be sure they were long enough so that he didn't have a disaster on this wonderful day of dedication.

v. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

Horeb is another word for Mount Sinai, where The Ten Commandments were given.

What is not in there? The jar of manna, the memorial jar. They took a jar and put it in there to remember the

wilderness journey. What else was in there? Why do you think those two things are out of there? The reason they are out is probably because the Philistines took them out. Notice they didn't do anything to the rocks that were in there. Those tablets stayed. Remember how those were given. Moses went up there for forty days. God inscribed those Ten Commandments on them and Moses came down with them while they were worshipping a calf for forty days. He got so mad he threw the rocks down and broke them all to pieces and God says, take the rocks up and we will re-write the commandments. When they do he brings them down and puts them in the Ark of the Covenant. What is the significance of that? Everything that relates to God and them is on the basis of that Law. They are under the Law. They are living by that Law and their relationship was conditioned upon that Law. You should thank God every day you live, if you have experienced the grace of God in the new birth, to realize that you are no longer under those tablets. Because if you were, it would be dead city instantaneously for every one of us. Because Romans 3:23

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

v. 10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord.

Do you remember what happened when they got through building the tabernacle and they put the furniture out there in the wilderness? This is instant replay. When something is an instant replay in the Bible you want to pay attention because there is probably some principles you need to learn. Exodus 40:34-35:

Exodus 40:34-35 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

The reason for Solomon's existence and living has now happened. God has a place to live and He has affirmed what Solomon has been doing these last seven and one-half years with these 183,850 employees. The accomplishment of this incredible project and now the crowning jewel, the diamond, the thing that makes it all meaningful has just happened. **THE LORD HAS COME and He is manifesting **HIS PRESENCE** and **HIS APPROVAL** to this building that has been built. What a time for celebration.**

v. 11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

Here Solomon has his prayer answered. The cloud is so incredible.

v. 12 Then Solomon said, “The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud;

v. 13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever.”

Solomon says, “boy God we did it and you blessed, you honored and you were faithful to do what you said you would do, you showed up for the party. Here you are in the place.”

v. 14 While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them.

What would a king do with his blessing. If he is specific with the word Numbers 6:24-26 says:

Numbers 6:24-26 “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

v. 15 Then he said: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David. For he said,

He sees God's sovereign hand in this and that God keeps His promises. 1st Thessalonians 5:24

1st Thessalonians 5:24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

God keeps His promises.

He is quoting God here in verse 16.

v. 16 'Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there, but I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.'

v. 17 "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

David took that to the grave, remember. He wanted to do that more than anything and he made all those provisions.

v. 18 But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart.'

In other words it is o.k. I am glad you had it in your heart but, even to a man he greatly loved verse 19, you are not the one that is going to build it.

v. 19 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who in your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.’

Now God’s sovereign purpose is revealed in the fruition of the promise and the dream. I started thinking; Solomon must have some kind of handle on the sovereign purpose of God. I was disappointed. I read the book of Proverbs and while I am reading it in sovereignty and view I came across three passages. This is from (*The Message: Proverbs* by Eugene H. Peterson)

Proverb 16 Make your motions and cast your votes, but God has the final say.

Proverb 19 We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God’s purpose prevails.

Proverb 21 Nothing clever, nothing conceived, Nothing contrived, can get the better of God.

Do your best, prepare for the worse— then trust God to bring victory.

Sovereign God is working in this. Now let’s look at the next couple of verses. Watch Solomon as there are four verbs that really jump out.

v. 20 “The Lord has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord, the god of Israel.

v. 21 I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers when he brought them out of Egypt.”

What a statement. Focus on the four verbs with me:

I have succeeded David my father.

I sit on the throne of Israel.

I have built the temple for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

I have provided a place there for the ark.

Can you say that? Can you say that what I have done today, what I have been involved in today has been a clear, vital part of God’s will and, the fulfillment of that will and what I have done today has contributed to the accomplishment of it. When are you going to get around to it if you can’t say YES to that.

I love Howard Hendricks. He has written a book:

(*As Iron Sharpens Iron* by Howard & Williams Hendricks)

Imagine that I board a plane leaving Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport for Chicago. Twenty minutes into our flight the pilot comes on the speaker and says, “Well, folks, we’re leveling off at our cruising altitude of thirty-six thousand feet. By the way, I know this flight is booked for Chicago, but I thought we would just fly around instead and see the country-side. We’ll land whenever we’re low on fuel. I really can’t say where we’ll end up. We’ll just see what happens.”

Imagine such an announcement! A flight plan like that not only would be ridiculous—it could be perilous! Yet a lot of guys are no different in terms of life: just flying along. Where are they headed? There’s no telling. Certainly *they* don’t know! Worst of all, they don’t seem to care. They sort of have the attitude, “Wherever I end up, that’s fine with me.”

Now few guys would dream of doing that in their jobs.

But the amazing thing is, they’ll do it in their marriages, with their kids, in their spiritual and personal lives, and so on. They have no direction or aim. They just drift.

pp. 48-49

You don’t see that in Solomon anywhere. The problem with most people like that is they are waiting for an

opportunity.

(Life Is a Contact Sport: Ten Great Career Strategies That Work by Ken Kragen & Jefferson Graham)

Opportunities are usually disguised as hard Work, so most people don't recognize them.

ANN LANDERS

p. 105

(No More Excuses: Be the Man God Made You to Be by Tony Evans)

A young concert pianist was asked why she was so incredibly successful and she answered, "By planning to neglect anything that did not contribute to my goal of becoming a concert pianist."

p. 305

I am going over to Chronicles for two verses because a lot of them are repetitious but, there are two things in the Chronicles' passage that are not in the other one.

2 Chronicles 5:1-14

v. 1 When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver

and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God’s temple.

Circle the word **FINISHED**. Every time I see the word finished in the Bible, I recognize again, God acknowledges finishers. It is just a part of the word of God. Think of the word finished 183,850 employees working for seven and one-half years and the task is finished. What a magnificent manifestation of management by itself.

(Life Is a Contact Sport: Ten Great Career Strategies That Work by Ken Kragen & Jefferson Graham)

The secret of managing is to keep the guys who Hate you away from the guys who are undecided.

Casey Stengel

p. 154

v. 2 Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord’s covenant from Zion, the City of David.

v. 3 And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month.

v. 4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark,

v. 5 and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up;

v. 6 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

v. 7 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

v. 8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles.

v. 9 These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

v. 10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

v. 11 The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions.

Now Verses 2, 3, 4, and 5 are exactly what we read.

Verses 6 and 7 are the same thing, all about the placing of the ark.

Verses 8, 9 and 10, are the length of the poles.

Look at Verse 12.

v. 12 All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.

We have the choir here. We rolled it out. This is big time stuff. Can I give you a principle? The Lord truly does inhabit the praise of His people. The praise of God triggers His action to manifest His presence. That all goes together. When we begin to praise God begins to work.

v. 13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: “He is good; his love endures forever.” Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud,

Principle: THE PRAISE OF HIS PEOPLE TRIGGERS THE PRESENCE OF GOD AMONG THEM!

**2 Chronicles 20:21-22 After consulting the people, Jehoshat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:
“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever.”**

As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

Praise is almost the only thing we do on earth that we will not cease to do when we go to heaven. Just start to praise the Lord and rejoice in His goodness and what He has done for us. Revelation 19 isn't that great, three times in the New Testament where we have it:

Revelation 19:1 “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

Revelation 19:3 “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

Revelation 19:6 “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

When you start praising God heaven opens and there is Jesus on a white horse, King of Kings, Lord of Lords coming to assume the responsibility of His reign.

v. 14 and the priests could not perform their services because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18: And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Do you know what this does for me. It reminds me that God wasn't too far off target when he wrote Revelation 3:20:

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Maybe what you need to do, as a believer, is let the glory back in. It may be all the entanglements of your life and priorities have gotten fouled up. That is a possibility right? Welcome Him back in, tell Him come on in, simplify my life. I want to live with a loose cord. I am looking forward to doing whatever you want. That would bring a revival!

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

Some say revivals don't last. Neither does a bath, but it helps!

Billy Sunday

p. 171

(A Heart Like His: The Shaping of Character in the Choices of Life by Rebecca Manley Pippert)

I conclude now with a story of a young man by the name of Sam that was serving our country on foreign soil. There was a lady in New York who began to write to him as a pen pal. Each letter that came seem to bring new joy to Sam so lonely in that faraway country. Low and behold she mentions her faith in one of the letters. He is so ecstatic as he was a believer too. Every time he got a letter it picked up his spirits. They developed a relationship by letter. He found out he was going to be on furlough in New York City where she lived and he wrote her. He said I sure would like to meet you just to say “THANKS” for the fact that you did so much for me. She wrote back and said I would love to meet you too. I tell you how you are going to know me. I will have a red carnation on my dress. Sam wants to see her so bad, he gets there about a half hour early and he is reading the paper on the bench looking for carnations. Pretty soon it is getting close and all of a sudden this beautiful girl, blond, slim and probably the most beautiful girl he had ever seen was walking up to him. She is radiant. She is beautifully dressed. His heart just skips a beat. He thought to himself, *If only the Lord would send a woman to me like that!* To his astonishment he heard the woman say “Hi, soldier! Would you like to have some lunch? There’s a

marvelous restaurant right around the corner to your right.” He glanced at his watch to see how much time he had before the rendezvous with the woman who had supported him in prayer. Just five minutes is all he had. So he glanced at his watch and looked across to the bench and saw an elderly woman in her eighties, weather-worn face that was deeply lined. She was dressed very poorly, an old black coat around a tattered dress. And in her coat lapel was a bright red carnation. His heart began to sink and he felt torn with this beautiful woman in front of him. She heard him saying: “I would love to go, you have no idea how much but I have a prior commitment. I owe a great deal to someone who has helped me through a difficult time, and I am not free to do anything else. But thank you with all my heart for inviting me.”

She just smiled and said, “Well if anything changes your mind, I’ll be at the restaurant. As she strode off he began to pray, “Lord, sometimes I wish I didn’t know so much about being obedient. Yet, as much as I want to go, if it was your will, you would have worked out the circumstances. So I will obey you and trust in your plan for my life, even though perfection just walked by me.”

He sighed and walked over to the elderly lady. Smiling at her and putting out his hand, he said, “I believe we have a lunch date today.” To his amazement she replied, “No, we don’t. But I’ll tell you who you *do* have one with. That lovely young lady who just came

over to you pinned this red corsage on me. Then she pointed to you and told me that if that soldier sitting on the bench came over and offered to take me to lunch, I was supposed to tell you that *she* was the one you are really looking for. And she is waiting for you at the restaurant right around the corner to your right.” He was bowled over, but started to sprint to the restaurant.

They continued to correspond and some years later were married.

pp. 160-61

You see God always leaves the best for those who leave the choice with Him. What he expects from us is obedience. With obedience comes His presence and His blessing and the unexpected joy of seeing Him fulfill His purpose. Don't ever lose that.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: His presence authenticates obedience.

LESSON #2: His presence will be seen in us when our hearts are full of obedience and our lips are full of praise.

LESSON #3: A promise made is a promise kept.

LESSON #4: The Lord will fulfill His plan and purpose in His own time and way.

LESSON #5: God's "NO" always obligates Him to a better Plan.

LESSON #6: What joy to meditate on Solomon's tribute to the Lord: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David". (1 Kings 8:15).

LESSON #7: "Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds" (Psa. 72-18).

LESSON #8: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21)

LESSON #9: Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Prov. 16:3).

LESSON#10: "He has made everything beautiful in its time" (Ecc. 3:11).

LESSON #11: The Lord does inhabit the praise of His People.

LESSON #12: The praise of our lips moves the hand of God. God will only mend a broken heart when He is given all the pieces.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER TWELVE – 1 KINGS 8:1-21 &

2 CHRONICLES 5:1-14

8:1 Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David.

8:2 All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

8:3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark,

8:4 and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up,

8:5 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

8:6 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

8:7 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles.

8:8 These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

8:9 There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

8:10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord.

8:11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

8:12 Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud;

8:13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

8:14 While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them.

8:15 Then he said: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David. For he said,

8:16 'Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there, but I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.'

8:17 "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

8:18 But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart.

8:19 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.'

8:20 "The Lord has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

8:21 I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers when he brought them out of Egypt."

2 CHRONICLES 5:1-14

5:1 When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple.

5:2 Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of

David.

5:3 And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month.

5:4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark,

5:5 and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up;

5:6 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

5:7 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

5:8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles.

5:9 These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

5:10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

5:11 The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions.

5:12 All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.

5:13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud.

5:14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: His presence authenticates obedience.

LESSON #2: His presence will be seen in us when our hearts are full of obedience and our lips are full of praise.

LESSON #3: A promise made is a promise kept.

LESSON #4: The Lord will fulfill His plan and purpose in His own time and way.

LESSON #5: God's "NO" always obligates Him to a better Plan.

LESSON #6: What joy to meditate on Solomon's tribute to the Lord: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David". (1 Kings 8:15).

LESSON #7: "Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds" (Psa. 72-18).

LESSON #8: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21)

LESSON #9: Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Prov. 16:3).

LESSON#10: "He has made everything beautiful in its time" (Ecc. 3:11).

LESSON #11: The Lord does inhabit the praise of His People.

LESSON #12: The praise of our lips moves the hand of God. God will only mend a broken heart when He is given all the pieces.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 8:1-21 and 2 Chronicles 5:1-14 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What project does Solomon have in mind, according to verse 1?

3. What was in the ark, according to verse 9?

4. What happened when the priest withdrew from the holy place, according to verse 10?

5. Why were the priests unable to perform their service, according to verse 11?

6. How does Solomon summarize the whole situation, according to verse 20 ?

7. What do the trumpeters and singers do, according to 2 Chronicles 5:13?

8. What song did they sing, according to verse 13?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?
