

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER 15 – 1 KINGS 9:10-28 & 2 CHRONICLES 8:1-18

A couple of studies ago we saw Solomon pray and as his prayer went up fire came down and glory filled the temple.

Then in our last study we watched the Lord graciously come along side the second time to have a good visit with our hero Solomon. The first time the Lord said, ‘what can I give you.’ He said, “I would like wisdom”, remember that when he was a young man taking over the kingdom. Now the Lord doesn’t say what can I do for you but the Lord says, ‘this is what is going to happen to you if you don’t do what I want you to do.’ It is like a WARNING with red flags all over it. It is like the Lord lovingly saying...‘It is not too late’.

‘You still have a choice.’ Solomon you have sixteen years left. The choices you make right now are going to determine the legacy you leave and the outcome of your life for all future generations.

When we come to a point like this we are asking ourselves the question, how is Solomon going to invest this time?

Solomon is getting himself caught up in building and prosperity. He is one of the guys who likes the good life. He has an insatiable desire for luxury to the point of extravagance.

Solomon is fast becoming the Bill Gates, Donald Trump and Warren Buffet all wrapped up into one from the standpoint of financial status.

He is the wealthiest man on the face of the earth. He has achieved so much of this because of what David, his father, did for him in leaving him the legacy of the kingdom.

The temptation to follow the track of materialism the last sixteen years of your life is totally cultural and politically correct.

Because, as soon as you get your watch school is out, you turn in your Bible and your towel and go play. You are just getting ready to go to the “BIG HOUSE” in the sky!

It is hard to fight against that. It is like we are counter cultural as believers when we say the call from the home office will let you know that they need you up there. Before then you are still on assignment down here for the glory of God in serving Him in some way.

When I use the word “temptation” we immediately think of sin, don’t we? My definition of temptation in this context is to spend our lives and energy on distractions. If Satan can throw one thing at you it is going to be something to get you distracted. If you are morally irresponsible he is going to throw a pretty girl in your path. If you are materialistically minded he is going to get you so consumed with the bottom line having enough to be able to do what you want to do. He will use all your energies and all your efforts to the detriment of your marriage and family in order to achieve this life that you have fantasized.

Solomon spent all of his energy and all of his efforts to the point that he has accumulated everything and when he was just getting ready to settle down and enjoy it, the Lord says you are out of here. This is how the Lord feels about those things. Temptation is very real and it comes from all sources.

(Prayer—The Great Adventure by David Jeremiah)
Ever heard the story about the minister who parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city? He was short on time and couldn’t find an open space with a meter, so he put a note under his windshield wiper that said, “I have circled the block ten times. If I don’t park here, I’ll miss my appointment. ‘Forgive us our trespasses.’”

When he returned he found a citation from a police officer along with this note: “I’ve circled this block

for ten years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. "Lead us not into temptation."

p. 153

Robert D. Foster has been the Executive Director of Lost Valley Ranch, a dude ranch in Colorado for about thirty-five years. He is the most productive, creative individual, and has a fabulous dude ranch. In The Challenge newsletter, was the news that Marion, his wife of nearly fifty years died. Listen to what he says about "contentment".

(From The Challenge by Robert D. Foster, November 15, 1996)

- 1) Contentment is not an economic quality but a spiritual attainment.
- 2) Contentment is not a state of account but a state of heart.
- 3) Contentment is found in making the most of the least.
- 4) Contentment does not depend on what you have or where you are but who you are.
- 5) Contentment is realizing that God has already given me everything I need for my present happiness.
- 6) Contentment is understanding that If I am not satisfied with what I have, I will never be satisfied with what I want.

v. 10 At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built these two building—the temple of the Lord and the royal palace

I would have to say that he has the “building bug”. He has the biggest construction company probably that has ever been on the face of the earth. His first two projects have brought a lot of satisfaction. He now is ready to rule and reign from the hall of justice and this beautiful throne that he has built and established.

(1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking by Michael Hodgin)

ALL IS WELL

Charlie Brown tells Lucy about his birdhouse project: “Well, I’m a lousy carpenter. I can’t nail straight. I can’t saw straight, and I always split the wood. I’m nervous, I lack confidence, I’m stupid, I have poor taste and absolutely no sense of design.” And then in the last frame he concludes, “So, all things considered, it’s coming along okay.” (“Peanuts”)

pp. 319-20

v. 11 King Solomon gave twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram king of Tyre, because Hiram had supplied him with all the cedar and pine and gold he wanted.

Do you remember Hiram back in the early studies? Hiram is the king of Tyre.

He has been a real good friend of David. He supplied all the cedar and the timber for David's palace. So, when Solomon comes to the throne, Hiram writes a diplomatic letter because he wants peace with this new king. The diplomatic relationship was this; Hiram you supply me with all the timber and all the gold and I will supply you with wheat, barley, and wine and olive oil. So they are importing and exporting, back and forth all of these years. King Solomon is feeling good about Hiram for all that he has done he wants to give him a gift, but what do you give to a guy that has everything? He decides he is going to give him twenty towns up in northern Galilee. He thought that was a great gift. It is not too far from Tyre and he would be able to enjoy those twenty towns but it backfired on him.

v. 12 But when Hiram went from Tyre to see the towns that Solomon had given him, he was not pleased with them.

There are two possibilities with that. It could be like when you bought that real estate deal and thought it was real cool and when you looked at it, it was a bunch of weeds in the swamp or it was something sitting out in the middle of sage brush in Colorado and you were fooled and you paid a good price for that little chunk of land. Now if that is possible, it would be like twenty towns somewhere between Abilene and El Paso.

The second possibility as to why he didn't like it, geographically Galilee is a rich, fertile area. I would take it that Hiram could care less about owning a farm. He is more into timber and as you are going to see he is a "man of the sea". He built boats and has a big fleet. In fact he gets Solomon involved in some of that. The Israelites, by nature, are people of the earth. Their exports tell you that. Wine, olive oil, barley and wheat. So these were probably real nice farming communities and Hiram didn't know anything about that and he didn't want to get into it. So it didn't please him.

v. 13 "What kind of towns are these you have given me, my brother?" he asked. And he called them the Land of Cabul, a name they have to this day.

I hope you don't have the word "Cabul" written on your tombstone. It means "good for nothing". That is the way he summarized these twenty towns.

v. 14 Now Hiram had sent to the king 120 talents of gold.

That is 9,000 pounds of gold. I see that Hiram gave this gold to him as a loan. I think he got a clue here. Solomon has had an incredible cost over run in his building program because of his love of luxury as gold is everywhere. He asks Hiram for a loan of 9,000 pounds of gold to finish up a bunch of these projects because he just loves the luxury and all the little extras. This is the reason Hiram loans him that.

v. 15 Here is the account of the forced labor King Solomon conscripted to build the Lord's temple, his own palace, the supporting terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer.

You are going to have a lot of geographical names mentioned here and what I did so this will be easier for you I came up with seventeen major building projects that Solomon is involved in. If you just took one of these projects every year for sixteen years he would still have one left when he got done. But to accomplish what is described in these verses is going to be a miracle to get it done in sixteen years.

v. 16 (Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He had set it on fire. He killed its Canaanite inhabitants and then gave it as a wedding gift to his daughter, Solomon's wife.

Early in his administration he took a political move with Egypt to make things peaceful in the south by asking to marry Pharaoh's daughter. It was a political move not a move out of love. She and her whole entourage move up to the city of Jerusalem. You are going to see she has been living with Bathsheba or somebody there in the city because she can't be in David's palace as she is considered unclean, you are going to see that.

v. 17 Solomon rebuilt Gezer, he built up Lower Beth Horon.

Gezer and Lower Beth Horon are about 10 miles north of Jerusalem. It is not too far away but he builds up both of them. You will see that in the Chronicles passage.

Solomon's number one priority is projects and work and leaving his mark on the landscape in some incredible way as you get ready to leave. It is loving this world and the things of this world which are going to pass away. I am going to share the results of a survey that Industry Week did with all of our major CEO's of corporations in America. Here are the ten major concerns with their percentages of the cross section of the "big guys" in business and industry in America:

- 1) 73% are concerned with health and fitness**
- 2) 49% are concerned with their family and leisure**
- 3) 43% are concerned with their children's problems**
- 4) 43% are concerned about job related stress**
- 5) 39% are concerned about the security of investments**
- 6) Estate Planning**
- 7) Relationships with children**
- 8) Aging**
- 9) Income level**
- 10) Marriages**

What is wrong with that? There is absolutely nothing spiritual. It doesn't even appear in the survey. It is like a man who is leading a major corporation is not concerned about bringing God into his life to the point

that it will show up on a survey. These are the ten things.

v. 18 Baalath, and Tadmor in the desert, within his land.

Tadmor is on a critical trade route 130 miles north.

v. 19 as well as all his store cities and the towns for his chariots and for his horses—whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled.

Notice that little phrase; “*whatever he desired to build*”

(The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Solomon’s store cities, scattered throughout Israel, were fortified towns in which surplus food was Stockpiled....towns...[for] his chariots and horses were ready to defend Israel against any invader.

p. 506

Wherever Solomon wants to build he builds.
Whatever he desires he gets it.

(The Seeking Heart: Volume 4: The Library of Spiritual Classics by Fenelon)

The important question is not “Do I enjoy being a Christian?” but rather, “Do I want what God wants?”

Confess your faults. Do not be too attached to things of this world.

p. 182

v. 20 All the people left from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites),

When Joshua invaded the land he told the people to drive the enemy out and remember they didn't. They left them there as shown in the Book of Judges. This is the next generation.

v. 21 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites could not exterminate—these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day.

v. 22 But Solomon did not make slaves of any of the Israelites; they were his fighting men, his government officials, his officers, his captains, and the commanders of his chariots and charioteers.

v. 23 They were also the chief officials in charge of Solomon's projects—550 officials supervising the men who did the work.

There are a total of 3,850 government employees. All of the Israelites are in one of these seven administrative positions;

**Fighting Men; Government Officials; Officers;
Captains; Commanders of Chariots; Charioteers;
and Chief Officials.**

They are involved in Solomon's project. When you look at that you say that "guy" has a great gift of administration. He has a great gift of organizing and employing people to get these things done.

When we get to verse 24 we see the great marital wisdom of Solomon.

v. 24 After Pharaoh's daughter had come up from the City of David to the palace Solomon had built for her, he Constructed the supporting terraces.

v. 25 Three times a year Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar he had built for the Lord, burning incense before the Lord along with them, and so fulfilled the temple obligations.

What word in that verse makes you suspicious?

Obligations.

If you are sitting here and married to that sweet little person next to you and you feel obligation to her, you have a problem. If you are in love it is a privilege to give of yourself sacrificially for that person to their joy and their blessing. That is REAL LOVE.

I think that Solomon has lost his heart for God. It has become hard because of material things. It is showing up at church, put in your offering but you sure don't like it. It's an obligation for the sake of your family and your peers. You are going through the motions.

The picture I get of Solomon is a picture of moving from relationship to ritual. The reason that happens is something comes into your heart and life that captures the love that belongs to Him and to Him alone. Instead of obedience in the relationship it is OBLIGATION because this is the way it has to be done. It is one thing to fulfill religious' obligations and it is another to keep on every day developing an ever-deeper relationship with that wonderful Lord who loves you and gave Himself for you. You wake up every morning and should be excited to be with Him and deepen that relationship. There is a lot of difference.

David, his dad, never lost that. He was a man after God's own heart. You can't read the Psalms without sensing the love and excitement and the thrill that he had.

William Gurnall, the only book he wrote (The Christian in Complete Armour) says:

(The Christian in Complete Armour by William Gurnall)

Does your heart still receive the same generous portions of spiritual nourishment when you go to

commune with God? This communion should strengthen both your faith and your obedience.
(May 10)

(The Seeking Heart; Volume 4: The Library of Spiritual Classics by Fenelon)

I also warn you not to let your business distract you from your spiritual life. If you allow yourself to be constantly distracted, your heart will grow hard.

p. 18

Instead of drawing closer and growing stronger Solomon is drifting away and, growing weaker spiritually and harder in heart because materialism always does that to you.

v. 26 King Solomon also built ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath in Edom, on the shore of the Red Sea.

v. 27 And Hiram sent his men—sailors who knew the sea—to serve in the fleet with Solomon’s men.

v. 28 They sailed to Ophir and brought back 420 talents of gold which they delivered to King Solomon.

Ophir which is probably in Saudi Arabia. Some think it is in India. I think that is too far away for navigational progress at this time, and they brought back 420 talents of gold which they delivered to Solomon. Do you know

how much that is? 32,000 pounds. Now if you get a ship or ships that can carry 32,000 pounds of gold you have some pretty large ships to carry that kind of load.

Now lets switch to the Chronicles' passage. Only because there are two or three salient things that we have to put into the biography. I won't repeat where we have already been in the Kings' passage.

v. 1 At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built the temple of the Lord and his own palace,

v. 2 Solomon rebuilt the villages that Hiram had given him, and settled Israelites in them.

There is the gift, the twenty, but now is rebuilt and settled Israelites in them.

v. 3 Solomon then went to Hamath Zobah and captured it.

This is the only military campaign that is recorded in all of Solomon's kingdom. This is 300 miles north of Jerusalem, a military campaign that is quite a distance away. He does capture the city but that is the only one recorded.

v.4 He also built up Tadmor in the desert and all the store cities he had built in Hamath.

v. 5 He rebuilt Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horan as fortified cities with walls and with gates and bars,

v. 6 as well as Baalath and all his store cities, and all the cities for his chariots and for his horses—whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled.

Let's take a look at some passages in Ecclesiastes. And tell me this doesn't describe the mid-life crisis and this is where we are.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-11 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself, and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. Yet when surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-21 So I hated life, because the work

that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool. Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.

Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on men: God gives a man wealth, possessions and honor, so that he lacks nothing his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them, and a stranger enjoys them instead.

This is meaningless, a grievous evil.

Ecclesiastes 7:29 This only have I found; God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes.

Ecclesiastes 10:1 As dead flies give perfume a bad smell so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep his

commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Now is that a survey that puts meaning and brings to light what is going on in Ecclesiastes right here.

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

If you think about it, there are a lot of people who live like that. They get the good education and the good job, they provide for their children so their children can provide for their own children, then they grow old, retire, die—and leave it all behind. As the song says, “If that’s all there is, then let’s keep dancing.”

p. 72

That is really the way to deny the reality of it.

(Strength of Soul: The Sacred Use of Time by W. Phillip Keller)

Looking back in retrospect I now see clearly that my on fast pace of life; my haste in the heat of getting things done, my drive to “go, go, go” or “do, do, do” had combined to turn me into a hard person. Hard on myself, hard on others, hard for God my Father to handle.

pp. 20-21

(The Seeking Heart: Volume 4: The Library of Spiritual Classics by Fenelon)

Listen to God, live in His presence, and avoid things that draw you away from Him. Find Him within you, and pour out your heart to Him. Love Him above everything. Submit your plans to His will. Find out what He wants for you and then do it quickly. Small things become great when they are done as God wills.

p. 74

v. 7 All the people left from the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites)

v. 8 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites had not destroyed—these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day.

v. 9 But Solomon did not make slaves of the Israelites for his work; they were his fighting men, commanders of his captains, and commanders of his chariots and charioteers.

v. 10 They were also King Solomon's chief officials—two hundred and fifty officials supervising the men.

v. 11 Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the Lord has entered are holy,."

This is not a holy relationship. It is being said in essence right there.

Warren Wiersbe says:

David was know for his battles, Solomon for his buildings. It is disappointing that Solomon married a foreign woman who could not be identified with the Lord's throne.

Solomon was faithful in his public worship despite these inconsistencies in his life, and he continued to increase the wealth of the nation. But the people were not growing in the things of the Lord.

Alexander Whyte wrote that "the secret worm...was gnawing all the time in the royal staff upon which Solomon leaned."

p. 240

What a man is, determines what a man will do! For out of the heart come the issues of life.

v. 12 On the altar of the Lord that he had built in front of the portico, Solomon sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord.

v. 13 according to the daily requirement for offerings commanded by Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons and the three annual feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles.

v. 14 In keeping with the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their duties and the Levites to lead the praise and to assist the priests according to each day's requirement. He also appointed the gatekeepers by divisions for the various gates, because this was what David the man of God had ordered.

v. 15 They did not deviate from the king's commands to the priests or to the Levites in any matter, including that of the treasuries.

He did not deviate from anything that his Dad said that had to do with religious observance but he deviated in his personal life. When you deviate in your personal life it is going to eventually affect your public life. As what a man sows that shall he also reap.

v. 16 All Solomon's work was carried out, from the day the foundation of the temple of the Lord was laid

until its completion. So the temple of the Lord was finished.

v.17 Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and Elath on the coast of Edom.

v. 18 And Hiram sent him ships commanded by his own officers, men who knew the sea. These, with Solomon's men, sailed to Ophir and brought back four hundred and fifty talents of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.

In the process of all of that he got involved in importing gold from Ophir. As I read that it seems as though Solomon will never stop. He will move from one project to another. Could it be that he is avoiding some of these more personal matters with regard to some specific things that are offensive to the Lord in his personal walk?

I have been around guys who literally organize the Lord right out of their lives. It is difficult to get them to sit down in a bible class and have serious reflection because they just don't do that. I believe that cell phones, beepers, laptops, faxes, internets and e-mail are tools of distraction to cover an empty life if you let it be that way. Granted those things facilitate in the hands of those who are walking with God but, I see so many guys just walk up the ramp on an airplane, flip the cell phone on, sitting down with their lap top and sending this and doing that.

It is like they never have time to pick up the bible and be still and know that He is God.

Remember in 1990 when Perrier had that great crisis and they had to recall 160,000,000 bottles of Perrier. It happened on Valentine's Day of all things. The great city of Love thinks they are going to go into Hell because they can no longer serve the world the drink that everybody desires. What happened, somebody in Carolina forgot to change a filter. You know what Solomon wrote in Proverbs 4:23:

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for It is the wellspring of life.

Everything that comes out of your heart if it is not guarded will contaminate everybody else around you. It is what is inside that comes out and Solomon is getting ready for a major crisis because he is not following his own advice in guarding his heart. I did not know this but when Dwight Eisenhower got ready to die he called for Billy Graham. Billy Graham could have thirty minutes but it turned into a lot longer.

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

Before General Eisenhower died, Billy Graham was invited to visit the former President. He was told he could stay thirty minutes. But when the time was up, the general asked him to stay longer. "Billy," he said, "I want you to tell me once again how I can be sure my sins are forgiven and that I'm going to heaven, because nothing else matters now." Billy took out his New Testament and read several verses.

He pointed out that we go to Heaven totally...on the merits of what Christ did on the cross. After prayer General Eisenhower said, "Thank you. I'm ready." It is the Word of God, and not man's opinion, that people want when they are stepping into eternity.

Thomas F. Zimmerman

pp. 16-17

On the basis of the Word of God you too, can have that peace and that assurance in your life that Christ is yours and yours alone. A great treasure.

CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How good it would be if we would make a commitment to contentment with all that the Father is doing in and through our lives.

LESSON# 2: Solomon and Hiram demonstrate the great value of team work in accomplishing greater objectives.

LESSON# 3: Solomon and Hiram did not let differences affect their long term friendship.

LESSON#4: May it be our deepest desire that no one would say “Cabul,” good for nothing when they are describing us.

LESSON#5: Whatever Solomon desired to build, he built.

LESSON#6: Has your religious observance become more of a ritual than the deepening of a relationship?

LESSON#7: What priority does money and material things have in the total picture of your life?

LESSON#8: Are there any areas of your life that you are compromising on in your relationship to the Lord that need to be dealt with?

LESSON#9: Are you avoiding issues in your spiritual life by consuming yourself with projects in the here and now?

LESSON#10: Solomon has been snared by the desire for material things and the good life.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

STUDY NUMBER FIFTEEN – 1 Kings 9:10-28 & 2 Chronicles 8:1-18

1 Kings 9:10-28

9:10 At the end of twenty years, during which Solomon built these two buildings—the temple of the Lord and the royal palace—

9:11 King Solomon gave twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram king of Tyre, because Hiram had supplied him with all the cedar and pine and gold he wanted.

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9:16 (Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He had set it on fire. He killed its Canaanite inhabitants and then gave it as a wedding gift to his daughter, Solomon's wife.

9:17 And Solomon rebuilt Gezer.) He built up Lower Beth Horon,

9:18 Baalath, and Tadmor in the desert, within his land,

9:19 as well as all his store cities and the towns for his chariots and for his horses—whatever he desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon and throughout all the territory he ruled.

9:20 All the people left from the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (these peoples were not Israelites),

9:21 that is, their descendants remaining in the land, whom the Israelites could not exterminate—these Solomon conscripted for his slave labor force, as it is to this day.

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9:23 They were also the chief officials in charge of Solomon's projects—550 officials supervising the men who did the work.

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2 Chronicles 8:1-18

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8:14 In keeping with the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their duties, and the Levites to lead the praise and to assist the priests according to each day's requirement. He also appointed the gatekeepers by divisions for the various gates, because this was what David the man of God had ordered.

8:15 They did not deviate from the king's commands to the priests or to the Levites in any matter, including that of the treasuries.

8:16 All Solomon's work was carried out, from the day the foundation of the temple of the Lord was laid until its completion. So the temple of the Lord was finished.

8:17 Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and Elath on the coast of Edom.

8:18 And Hiram sent him ships commanded by his own officers, men who knew the sea. These, with Solomon's men, sailed to Ophir and brought back four hundred and fifty talents of gold, which they delivered to King Solomon.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read 1 Kings 9:10-28 and 2 Chronicles 8:1-18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What was King Hiram's response to the gift from Solomon, according to verse 12 & 13?

3. Outline the building projects that Solomon was involved in, according to verse 15?

4. What is Solomon doing in verse 19 that is in direct disobedience to the Law of God? (see Deuteronomy 17:16)

5. What does Solomon do faithfully, according to verse 25?

6. What project is Solomon involved in, according to verses 26-28?

7. How does Solomon handle the question of Pharoah's daughter, according to 2 Chronicles 8:11?

8. What does Solomon do for the ministry of the temple, according to chapter 8:14 & 15?

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

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: How good it would be if we would make a commitment to contentment with all that the Father is doing in and through our lives.

LESSON# 2: Solomon and Hiram demonstrate the great value of team work in accomplishing greater objectives.

LESSON# 3: Solomon and Hiram did not let differences affect their long term friendship.

LESSON#4: May it be our deepest desire that no one would say “Cabul,” good for nothing when they are describing us.

LESSON#5: Whatever Solomon desired to build, he built.

LESSON#6: Has your religious observance become more of a ritual than the deepening of a relationship?

LESSON#7: What priority does money and material things have in the total picture of your life?

LESSON#8: Are there any areas of your life that you are compromising on in your relationship to the Lord that need to be dealt with?

LESSON#9: Are you avoiding issues in your spiritual life by consuming yourself with projects in the here and now?

LESSON#10: Solomon has been snared by the desire for material things and the good life.