

Life of King Solomon

SESSION #9: 1 Kings 5:1-18 & 2 Chronicles 2:1-18

TEXT:

1 Kings 5:1-18

v. 1 When Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms with David.

v. 2 Solomon sent back this message to Hiram:

v. 3 "You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the Lord his God until the Lord put his enemies under his feet.

v. 4 But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster.

v. 5 I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God, as the Lord told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.'

v. 6 "So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians."

v. 7 When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was greatly pleased and said, "Praise be to the Lord today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation."

v. 8 So Hiram sent word to Solomon: "I have received the message you sent me and will do all you want in providing the cedar and pine logs.

v. 9 My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the sea, and I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate them and you can take them away. And you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household."

v.10 In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and pine logs he wanted,

v.11 and Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, in addition to twenty thousand baths of pressed olive oil. Solomon continued to do this for Hiram year after year.

v.12 The Lord gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

v.13 King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel—thirty thousand men.

v.14 He sent them off to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.

v.15 Solomon had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hills,

v.16 as well as thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workmen.

v.17 At the king's command they removed from the quarry large blocks of quality stone to provide a foundation of dressed stone for the temple.

v.18 The craftsmen of Solomon and Hiram and the men of Gebal cut and prepared the timber and stone for the building of the temple.

2 Chronicles 2:1-18

v. 1 Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself.

v. 2 He conscripted seventy thousand men as carriers and eighty thousand as stonecutters in the hills and thirty-six hundred as foremen over them.

v. 3 Solomon sent this message to Hiram king of Tyre: "Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in.

v. 4 Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of the Lord our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel.

v. 5 "The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods.

v. 6 But who is able to build a temple for him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him?

v. 7 "Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson and blue yarn, and experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled craftsmen, whom my father David provided.

v. 8 "Send me also cedar, pine and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your men are skilled in cutting timber there. My men will work with yours

v. 9 to provide me with plenty of lumber, because the temple I build must be large and magnificent.

v.10 I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand cors of ground wheat, twenty thousand cors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine and twenty thousand baths of olive oil."

v.11 Hiram king of Tyre replied by letter to Solomon: "Because the Lord loves his people, he has made you their king."

v.12 And Hiram added: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the Lord and a palace for himself.

v.13 "I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill,

v.14 whose mother was from Dan and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple and blue and crimson yarn and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him. He will work with your craftsmen and with those of my lord, David your father.

v.15 "Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised,

v.16 and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them in rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem."

v.17 Solomon took a census of all the aliens who were in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600.

v.18 He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working.

INTRODUCTION:

(Cowboy Curmudgeon and Other Poems by Wallace McRae)

BROKE, AFOOT AND OLD

He'd prob'ly heeled ten thousand calves
And rode a million draws.
He'd sacked out a hundred brons
And broke some rank outlaws.

He maybe knowed a critter's mind
Some better than they did.
He started pluggin' after 'em,
When he was just a kid.

He tied a hundred fiadores.
Wore out a dozen rigs.
He forked his share of cold jaws,
Or ones with eyes like pigs.

But he had rode some good ones, too,
More, maybe, than his share.
If they had hair he'd ride 'em
(Unless they was a mare).

He never seemed to take much note
Of how a country lay.
But ranges he rode years ago
He recollects today.

"One of the best, I was," he says
(As he bums me for a smoke),
"One of the very best, but
I'm old, afoot and broke."

His stained and gnarled fingers clutch
a shaking double shot.
His eyes plead for another
To match the one I bought.

He rides his range in memory
His flick'ring fire grows cold.
I ease away. My eyes fill.
He's broke, afoot, and old.

(Cowboy Curmudgeon and Other Poems by Wallace McRae)

SIGNS

It's not the crying V's of geese
A-flying overhead.
Nor the inconspicuous buckbrush
Suddenly, strident red.

It's not the horses hairing-up,
The creek a-turning brown.
Or the ash tree getting gussied up
In her saffron dressing gown.

It's not the blue-tinged frosty morn,
The coyote getting bolder,
The faint ache in my steel-pinned leg
Reminding me I'm older.

It's not the spring-green grasses,
Now a tannish monochrome.
I know that fall's upon us—
Our cats are coming home.

p. 120

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

Remember when HIPPIE meant
 big in the hips,
 And a TRIP involved travel in
 cars, planes and ships?
 When POT was a vessel for
 cooking things in,
 And HOOKED was what
 grandmother's rug might
 have been?
 When FIX was a verb that meant
 mend or repair,
 And being IN meant simply
 existing somewhere?
 When NEAT meant well-
 organized, tidy and clean,
 And GRASS was a ground-cover
 normally green?
 When lights and not people were
 TURNED ON and OFF,
 And the PILL might have been
 what you took for a cough?
 When CAMP meant to stay
 outdoors in a tent,
 And POP was the way that the
 weasel went?
 When GROOVY meant furrowed
 with channels and hollows,
 And BIRDS were winged
 creatures, like robins and
 swallows?
 When FUZZ was a substance
 that's fluffy like lint,
 And BREAD came from bakeries,
 and not from the mint?
 When SQUARE meant a 90-
 degree-angled form,
 And COOL was a temperature,
 not quite so warm?
 When ROLL meant a bun,
 and ROCK was a stone,
 And HUNG-UP was something
 you did to a phone?
 When CHICKEN meant poultry
 and BAG meant a sack,

And JUNK, trashy castoffs and
 old bric-a-brac?
 When JAM was preserves that
 you spread on your bread,
 And CRAZY meant barmy, not
 right in the head?
 When CAT was a feline, a kitten
 grown up,
 And TEA was a liquid you drank
 from a cup?
 When SWINGER was someone
 who swung in a swing,
 And PAD was a soft, sort of
 cushiony thing?
 When WAY OUT meant distant
 and far, far away,
 And a man wouldn't sue you for
 calling him GAY?
 When DIG meant to shovel and
 spade in the dirt,
 And PUT ON was what you
 would do with a shirt?
 When TOUGH described meat
 too unyielding to chew,
 And MAKING A SCENE was a
 rude thing to do?
 Words once so sensible, sober and
 serious,
 Are making the FREAK SCENE
 quite PSYCHEDELIRIOUS.
 It's GROOVY, MAN, GROOVY,
 but English it's not!
 Methinks that our language has
 gone straight to POT.

p. 115-16

These are exciting days in the LIFE OF KING SOLOMON. It is always a joy to see the evidences of God's work in the life of an individual.

Now that the kingdom is secure and established, it is time for Solomon to launch his life's work.

The PASSION and PURPOSE for which Solomon has become king is to build the temple.

His father and predecessor on the throne made tremendous provisions and preparations for this glorious occasion.

I think that it would be good for us to meditate for a few moments upon some of the KEY PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP and then to listen to Solomon as he speaks briefly in Psalm 72.

(Over the Top by Zig Ziglar)

You are at the top when . . .

1. You have made friends with your past, and you are focused on the present and optimistic about your future.
2. You have the love of friends and the respect of your enemies.
3. You are filled with faith, hope, and love, and you live without anger, greed, guilt, envy, or thoughts of revenge.
4. You know that failure to stand for what is morally right is the prelude to being the victim of what is criminally wrong.
5. You are mature enough to delay gratification and shift your focus from your rights to your responsibilities.
6. You love the unlovable, give hope to the hopeless, friendship to the friendless, and encouragement to the discouraged.
7. You know that success (a win) doesn't make you, and failure (a loss) doesn't break you.
8. You can look back in forgiveness, forward in hope, down in compassion, and up with gratitude.
9. You are secure in who (and whose) you are so you are at peace with God and in fellowship with man.
10. You clearly understand that yesterday ended last night, that today is a brand-new day—and it's yours.
11. You know that "he who would be the greatest among you must become the servant of all."
12. You are pleasant to the grouchy, courteous to the rude, and generous to the needy because you know that the long-term benefits of giving and forgiving far outweigh the short-term benefits of receiving.
13. You recognize, confess, develop, and use your God-given physical, mental, and spiritual abilities to the glory of God and for the benefit of mankind.
14. You stand in front of the Creator of the universe, and He says to you, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

p. 9

(Over the Top by Zig Ziglar)

I, _____, am an honest, intelligent, responsible, organized, goal-setting, committed individual whose priorities are firmly in place. I am a focused, disciplined, enthusiastic, positive-thinking, decisive extra-miler who is a competent, energized, self-starting team player determined to develop and use all of these leadership qualities in my personal, family, and business life. These are the qualities of the winner I was born to be.

p. 27

(First Things First by Stephen R. Covey, A. Roger Merrill, & Rebecca R. Merrill)

Bottom-line, the power to create quality life is not in any planner. It's not in any technique or tool. And it's not limited to our ability to plan a day. None of us is omniscient. We don't know what opportunities, challenges, surprises, sorrows, or unexpected joys the next moment in our lives will bring.

In power to create quality of life is within us—in our ability to develop and use our own inner compass so that we can act with integrity in the moment of choice—whether that moment is spent planning the week, handling a crisis, responding to our conscience, building a relationship, working with an irate client, or taking a walk. To be effective, a tool must be aligned with that reality and enhance the development and use of that inner compass.

pp. 73-74

Speaking of Colin Powell, in Sacred Honor: A Biography of Colin Powell, David Roth says:

Duncan identifies three qualities in Powell that others have echoed throughout his career. He works extremely well with people, he is a fast learner, and he has enormous energy and stamina.

pp. 108-9

(Storms of Perfection: In Their Own Words by Andy Andrews)

If I've learned anything from all this, it indubitably is that true success is really never there just for the asking. It requires serious dedication and considerable effort. Plus tenacity. Lots of tenacity, coupled with a desire to succeed more than anything else. And at the same time a willingness to help others, because that too is a vital part of the process.

Bob Stearns
(Editor/Writer of
Field & Stream Magazine)

p. 96

(The Leader In You by Dale Carnegie & Assoc., Inc.)

It is almost impossible to underestimate the power of enthusiasm. "Every great and commanding movement is the triumph of enthusiasm," Ralph Waldo Emerson once said. "Nothing great was ever achieved without it."

p. 217

But Carnegie did something even more important. He left behind a timeless set of human-relations principles that are just as relevant today as they ever were. And as things turned out, they are uniquely suited to the current high-stress, fast-moving, uncertain world.

Look at things from the other person's perspective.

Offer genuine appreciation and praise.

Harness the mighty power of enthusiasm.

Respect the dignity of others.

Don't be overly critical.

Give people a good reputation to live up to.

Keep a sense of fun and balance in your life.

p. 226

Let us listen to Solomon now in some of his writings to prepare us for this wonderful passage that gets us excited about this wonderful project of building the temple.

Psalm 72:1

Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.

Psalm 72:18, 19

Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.
Praise be to his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen and Amen.

(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)

Proverb 16

Mortals make elaborate plans,
but God has the last word.

p. 54

Put God in charge of your work,
then what you've planned will take place.

p. 54

Let us turn our attention now to the TWO PASSAGES that come under consideration in this study.

We will look first at the KINGS passage and then follow that up by considering the CHRONICLES passage that documents the same events.

Both passages have messages going back and forth between Solomon and Hiram, the king of Tyre.

Delitzsch observes:

Immediately after the consolidation of his kingdom, Solomon commenced the preparations for the building of a temple, first of all by entering into negotiations with king Hiram of Tyre, to procure from him not only the building materials requisite, viz. cedars, cypresses and hewn stones, but also a skilled workman for the artistic work of the temple (vers. 1-12); and, secondly, by causing the number of workmen required for this great work to be raised out of his own kingdom, and sending them to Lebanon to prepare the materials for the building in connection with the Tyrian builders (vers. 13-18).
p. 57

Gaebeline observes:

Solomon now begins the great work, which may be called his life work, the building of the house of the Lord.
p. 257

McNeely points out:

To the north lay the friendly country of Tyre. Its king, Hiram, had been an old friend to David. Seemingly this amicable relationship between the two countries continued uninterrupted when Solomon ascended the throne. The land of the kingdom of Tyre is today marked by the beauty and magnificence of two mountain ranges. On their slopes, in Solomon's day, rose the forests of cedars with which he wished to build much of the Temple of Jehovah. Hiram was contracted to supply lumber and servants. The agreement included transportation. The logs were to be bound into rafts and then floated down to Israel.

p. 42

DeVries summarizes it this way:

Solomon was crowned king (chap. 1) and took firm measures to remove potential rivals to his rule (chap. 2). His rule was legitimized through divine revelation and put to practical effect in his judgment on behalf of the abused harlot (chap. 3). His organization of his administration gave posterity a firm basis for its developing concept of his unparalleled wisdom (chap. 4). With all these things accomplished, he was ready to propose the single greatest undertaking of his reign, the building of the great temple in Jerusalem. And as he proposed it, he began to put his plan into action, gathering timber and stone for its construction (chap. 5).

p. 83

Lockyear points out:

Dr. Wm. Graham Scroggie speaks of Solomon as "a strange character that may be regarded in a threefold way, personally, officially and typically —

Viewed personally, he was characterized by wisdom and wickedness: greatly gifted intellectually, he was very weak ethically. His mind and his morals were not on the same level. Viewed officially, his great work was twofold, the material development of the kingdom, and the erection of the Temple. . . . Viewed typically, it is not difficult to see an anticipation of Christ's Millennial Kingdom, when, after the extirpation of all His foes, there will be peace.

p. 111

Lockyear says further:

While Saul and David were simple Arab warriors riding over the desert with their armies, Solomon was the mighty eastern despotic ruler with his settled capital and thousands of slaves building his palaces, thousands of women in his harem, merchants sweeping the seas and scouring the deserts to bring back gold to swell his revenue.

Solomon's glorious and wide kingdom affords a type of the Messiah's coming Kingdom, the magnificence of which will far outstrip Solomon's.
p. 112

J. Vernon McGee summarizes it by saying:

In chapter 5 Solomon works out a business deal with King Hiram of Tyre for cedar and workmen. Also out of Israel he raises a levy of thirty thousand workmen.
p. 258

v. 1 When Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms with David.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Tyre was an important port city on the Mediterranean Sea north of Israel. It was one of the chief cities of Phoenicia, one of Israel's friendly neighboring kingdoms. **Hiram** had been an ally and friend of King **David** and had supplied materials and laborers to build David's palace.
p. 498

2 Samuel 5:11

Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David.

Solomon displays his wisdom immediately in recognizing that he needs more than just his own people and the provisions made by David in order to accomplish this great task.

(First Things First by Stephen R. Covey, A. Roger Merrill, & Rebecca R. Merrill)

Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being.

—Gandhi

p. 197

(Locking Arms: God's Design for Masculine Friendships by Stu Weber)

A friend is one who knows you as you are, understands where you've been, accepts who you've become, and still invites you to grow.

p. 151

(Locking Arms: God's Design for Masculine Friendships by Stu Weber)

MILEPOSTS ON THE FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY

Milepost #1—Acceptance:

We choose to accept each other as we are, no conditions. *"You will be my friend. I will keep your confidence. You can trust me."*

Milepost #2—Affirmation:

We commit to building each other up through genuine expression of interest and regular encouragement. *"I will focus on meeting your needs, not mine."*

Milepost #3—Accountability:

We will regularly check in with one another in key areas of our personal and spiritual growth. Our goal is to become godly men. *"Because I care about you, I will warn you when I see danger ahead of you."*

Milepost #4—Authority:

We recognize and if necessary remind one another of God's ultimate authority in our lives. To fully grasp that authority, we must delve ever deeper into His Word. *"I will submit to the leadership of Christ in everything."*

Every friendship should enjoy traveling toward those four "A's." Every friendship should see itself as an "A-team." Specifically, a "Four-A" team. Big-league friendships are all in the AAAA category.
pp. 130-1

(31 Days of Praise: Enjoying God Anew by Ruth Myers)

Praise can free you from wasting your energies by speculating on just exactly how each circumstance in your life could be part of God's plan. Through praising and thanking God, you put your stamp of approval on His unseen purposes. You do this not because you can figure out the specific whys or hows, but because you trust His love and wisdom. You endorse Paul's words in Romans 11:33-34 (Phillips):

Frankly, I stand amazed at the unfathomable complexity of God's wisdom and God's knowledge. How could man ever understand His reasons for action, or explain His methods of working?

p. 140

(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)

Proverb 18

Friends come and friends go,
but a true friend sticks by you like family.

p. 63

Hiram king of Tyre is demonstrating that he is a TRUE FRIEND and that he wants the FRIENDSHIP that he had with David TO CONTINUE into the a next generation with Solomon.

v. 2 Solomon sent back this message to Hiram:

It will now be our privilege to study the message that Solomon sends to Hiram.

This message begins at verse 3 and goes down to the end of verse 6.

(Credibility by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner)

A Chinese proverb is useful in this regard: "Tell me, I may listen. Teach me, I may remember. Involve me, I will do it."

p. 146

v. 3 “You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple for the Name of the Lord his God until the Lord put his enemies under his feet.

Here Solomon begins by RECOUNTING the fact that:

HIS FATHER WAS A MAN OF WAR and because he was

HE WAS NOT ALLOWED to be the one who would build the temple.

This does not mean that just because David was not going to be the one who built the temple, he could not be excited and involved in making preparations for this future program while he was still alive. And he certainly did just that!

(Credibility by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner)

When leaders act in ways that uplift our spirits and restore our belief in the future, they strengthen their own personal credibility. Constituents look for leaders who demonstrate an enthusiastic and genuine belief in the capacity of others, who strengthen people's will, who supply the means to achieve, and who express optimism for the future. Constituents want leaders who remain passionate despite obstacles and setbacks. In today's uncertain times, leaders with a positive, confident, can-do approach to life and business are desperately needed.

Leaders must keep hope alive. They must strengthen our belief that life's struggle will produce a more promising tomorrow. Such faith results from an intimate and supportive relationship, one based on mutual participation in the process of renewal.

p. 218

v. 4 But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster.

The CONTRAST between the TWO ADMINISTRATIONS is obvious.

In verse 3 during DAVID'S ADMINISTRATION there were:

“wars waged against . . . David from all sides.”

Presently (verse 4) under SOLOMON'S ADMINISTRATION:

“THE LORD . . . HAS GIVEN ME REST ON EVERY SIDE AND THERE IS NO ADVERSARY OR DISASTER.”

The word “BUT” forms the CONTRAST to the previous and it also helps us understand that this is God's perfect timing for the temple to be built.

(The Finishing Touch: Becoming God's Masterpiece: A Daily Devotional by Charles R. Swindoll)

A relaxed, easy-going Christian is far more attractive and effective than the rigid, uptight brother who squeaks when he walks and whines when he talks.
p. 595

v. 5 I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God, as the Lord told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.'

Proverbs 3:5, 6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 4:18

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

(A Dangerous Grace by Charles Colson with Nancy R. Pearcey)

I am reminded of Mother Teresa's simple truth: God calls us to faithfulness, not success. He will work His will through our efforts.
p. 53

(Prayer: A Holy Occupation by Oswald Chambers)

Am I depending on myself to do
what only God can do? Am I
depending on God to do what He
expects me to do?

p. 47

(Getting the Right Things Right by Charlie Hedges)

Several years ago, a friend of mine was waiting to get his hair cut when he overheard one guy giving advice to another. "This ain't no dress rehearsal," he said. "You won't get to do this thing a second time." The line has stuck with me because it is so true. You only get one life, and you would like to give this one your best shot. And your best shot would certainly include a passionate pursuit of a life of impact.

p. 42

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

Give me a man who says this one thing I do, and not these fifty things I dabble in.

—Dwight L. Moody

p. 168

(Churchill on Courage: Wisdom for Perseverance by Frederick Talbott)

To perceive a path and to point it out is one thing, but to blaze the trail and labour to construct the path is a harder task

Winston Churchill

House of Commons, May 12, 1949

(quote 133)

(Time-Out Leadership by Donald Luce)

"A leader has two important characteristics: first, he is going somewhere; second, he is able to persuade other people to go with him."

ROBESPIERRE

p. 40

(Rainbows: The Book of Hope edited by George W. Humphreys)

"I, too, will turn my face to the wind, and cast my handful of seed on high."

Gaelic Saying

p. 100

(Windows of the Soul: Experiencing God in New Ways by Ken Gire)

A Prayer for Joy

Help me, O God,

To listen to what it is that makes my heart glad
and to follow where it leads.

May, joy, not guilt,

Your voice, not the voices of others,

Your will, not my willfulness,

be the guides that lead me to my vocation.

Help me to unearth the passions of my heart
that lay buried in my youth.

And help me to go over that ground again and again
until I can hold in my hands,

hold and treasure,

Your calling on my life . . .

p. 73

THE DREAMS WE DREAM, THE CHOICES WE MAKE

“What we do today is the product of all the choices we have made.” Making choices is seldom simple or clear-cut, and we all have wound up making average choices. Phil. 1:10 says we should chose excellence over mediocrity. It may be risky. “We may have to go alone. We may have to yield comfort, cash or convenience.” Results include purity, productivity, and purpose. See also Phil. 1:9, 10.

“The dreams we dream, the choices we make” by Joseph M. Stowell. Moody, Oct 1989. Page 4.

Teacher: Where was Solomon’s temple?
Student: On the side of his head.

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

v. 6 “So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians.”

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Sidon is another Venetian city that was north of Tyre.
p. 498

DeVries points out:

“The Sidonians”: evidently the most renowned among the Phoenicians in timber work; Sidon lies a third of the way north of Tyre toward Beirut, and may have been in commercial, if not political, dependency on Tyre at this time.
p. 82

Delitzsch says:

This refers to the knowledge of the most suitable trees, of the right time for felling, and of the proper treatment of the wood. The expression *Sidonians* stands for Phœnicians generally, since Sidon was formerly more powerful than Tyre, and that portion of Lebanon which produced the cedars belonged to the district of Sidon. The inhabitants of Sidon were celebrated from time immemorial as skilful builders, and well versed in mechanical arts . . .
pp. 59-60

Lange in his commentary says:

They knew how to hew and prepare wood for building, for they were skilled in ship-building beyond all other nations, and built their own houses also of wood.
p. 54

This CONCLUDES THE MESSAGE from Solomon to Hiram.

v. 7 When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was greatly pleased and said, "Praise be to the Lord today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation."

Here in verse 7 we get HIRAM'S RESPONSE to the message that he has received from Solomon.

The text tells us "HE WAS GREATLY PLEASED."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Solomon's suggestion met with an enthusiastic response. **Hiram** had regard for Yahweh, perhaps as a result of his contacts with **David**. Hiram perceived Solomon's wisdom at once.
p. 498

Delitzsch comments on the statement that Hiram made in verse 7 "Praise be to the Lord today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation":

The praise of Jehovah on the part of Hiram does not presuppose a full recognition of Jehovah as the only true God, but simply that Hiram regarded the God of Israel as being as real a God as his own deities. Hiram expresses a fuller acknowledgment of Jehovah in 2 Chron. ii. 11, where he calls Jehovah the Creator of heaven and earth; which may be explained, however, from Hiram's entering into the religious notions of the Israelites, and does not necessarily involve his own personal belief in the true deity of Jehovah.
p. 60

Patrick & Lowth point out:

[This statement of Hiram] demonstrates a more than ordinary friendship which he had for king David and the people of Israel. If he was not become a proselyte to the Jews' religion (which one would have expected should have been recorded if he had), yet he had a great veneration for the God of Israel, who was properly called the Lord; and, it is likely, he worshipped him together with his own God.
p. 306

Hiram's outburst of emotion is a SURPRISE:

"PRAISE BE TO THE LORD TODAY."

The REASON for this EXCLAMATION is:

"FOR HE HAS GIVEN DAVID A WISE SON TO RULE OVER THIS GREAT NATION."

v. 8 So Hiram sent word to Solomon: "I have received the message you sent me and will do all you want in providing the cedar and pine logs.

Now in verses 8 and 9 we are going to get HIRAM'S DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE to the request of Solomon.

You could SUMMARIZE verse 8 by simply saying:

"I HAVE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE YOU SENT" and I'll "DO ALL YOU WANT."

v. 9 My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the sea, and I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you specify. There I will separate them and you can take them away. And you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household."

In the CONCLUSION OF HIRAM'S RESPONSE you have an OUTLINE of what he understands that Solomon would like for him to do:

1. "MY MEN WILL HAUL THEM DOWN FROM LEBANON TO THE SEA,"
2. "I WILL FLOAT THEM IN RAFTS BY SEA TO THE PLACE YOU SPECIFY," and
3. "I WILL SEPARATE THEM AND YOU CAN TAKE THEM AWAY."

He CONCLUDES his message with what he desires of Solomon in this situation as payment for this labor:

"YOU ARE TO GRANT MY WISH BY PROVIDING FOOD FOR MY ROYAL HOUSEHOLD."

v. 10 In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and pine logs he wanted,

Hiram following the course that he had outlined in verse 9.

He "KEPT SOLOMON SUPPLIED WITH ALL THE CEDAR AND PINE LOGS HE WANTED."

v. 11 and Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, in addition to twenty thousand baths of pressed olive oil. Solomon continued to do this for Hiram year after year.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

. . . **20,000 cors** . . . [equals] 125,000 bushels . . . **of wheat** and **20,000 baths** . . . [equals] 115,000 gallons) **of . . . olive oil**. Barley and wine were also included [in this export.]
p. 498

v. 12 The Lord gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

Let us remind ourselves of this WONDERFUL GIFT that was given to Solomon by the Lord at the beginning of his reign:

“THE LORD GAVE SOLOMON WISDOM.”

1 Kings 4:29

God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

Let us remind ourselves again that God is in the business of giving. When He gives, He gives exceeding abundant above all that we could ask or think.

Joshua 23:14

Now I am about to go the way of all the earth, you know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises, the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled, not one has failed.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Faithful is he who calls you and he also will bring it to pass.

1 Kings 3:12

I will do what you have asked, I will give you a wise and discerning heart so that will never have been anyone like you nor will there ever be.

1 Kings 3:28

When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

Parker says:

Thus the Jew seeks assistance from the Gentile in building the house of the Lord. How wonderful are the co-operations which are continually taking place in life! so subtly do they interblend, and make up that which is lacking in each other, that it is simply impossible to effect an exhaustive analysis. Nor would it be desirable that such an analysis should be completed. We cannot live upon analysis. We should fix our minds upon the great fact that no man liveth unto himself, that no man is complete in himself, that every man needs the help of every other man, and thus we shall see how mysteriously is built the great temple of life, and is realised before the eyes of the universe the great purpose of God. Co-operation is only another word for the distributions which God has made of talent and opportunity. It might be supposed that co-operation was simply a human act; whereas in its outworking, it shows the marvellous distribution which God has made of capacity, resource, opportunity; how he has related one man to another, and one event to another; when we study co-operation in this light we see that it is but the under or visible side of divine providence, the bringing together of parts apparently sundered, yet which need only to approach one another to show that they were meant to act in harmony. pp. 290-91

Patrick & Lowth say:

His wisdom appeared more and more in all his transactions.
p. 306

You can always tell luck from ability by its duration.

<Unknown>

It is not a question of how much a man knows, but of the use he makes of what he knows; not a question of what he has acquired, and how he has been trained, but of what he is and what he can do.

Josiah G. Holland

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

A wise man seeks much counsel. A fool listens to all of it.

Larry Burkea

(From Parson's Bible Illustrator)

May not the inadequacy of much of our spiritual experience be traced back to our habit of skipping through the corridors of the Kingdom like children through the market place, chattering about everything, but pausing to learn the true value of nothing?

—*The Divine Conquest*

(From Parson's Bible Illustrator)

v. 13 King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel—thirty thousand men.

DeVries says:

“And the king levied a *corvée*”: the word means “burden” but it also designates the labor force that is raised to carry a burden, i.e., perform a particular work-project; as in various societies, Solomon made it the obligation of Israel’s freemen to work for given periods on projects for the public good.
p. 82

McNeely says:

In addition to the Lebanese laborers, Solomon drafted thirty thousand from Israel. These worked in Lebanon in three shifts, allowing one month at work and two at home. Seventy thousand more were charged with the delivery of materials. Another eighty thousand were masons hewing stones. Thus, in addition to the Lebanese work force, Israel supplied almost two hundred thousand workers to this project. The Temple was no “cost-efficiency,” budget-cutting project!
p. 42

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

The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them when they do.

—Theodore Roosevelt

p. 6

(Churchill on Courage: Wisdom for Perseverance by Frederick Talbott)

To maintain a robust and lively progress, all adventurous and enterprising spirits should have their chance to try, and, if they fail, to try again.

Winston Churchill
Leeds, February 4, 1950

(quote 136)

(Turn Toward the Wind by Dale Hanson Bourke)

We live busy lives, full of pieces that seem to threaten to fly in all directions at any moment. We have carpools and deadlines and lawns to mow. As Corrie ten Boom said, "If the devil can't make us bad, he will make us busy."⁴ When we're busy, we don't just ignore God; we make control our god. We schedule and organize and get more and more efficient.

p. 68

v. 14 He sent them off to Lebanon in shifts of ten thousand a month, so that they spent one month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.

Solomon had worked out a ROTATION SYSTEM whereby the Israelis could go to serve in “LEBANON IN SHIFTS OF TEN THOUSAND” for a month at a time. They would then be off “TWO MONTHS” and then would repeat the process as long as necessary.

Patrick & Lowth observed:

That they might not be tired with their labor; nor neglect their own families while they were employed abroad.

p. 307

v. 15 Solomon had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hills,

This ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND is in addition to the thirty thousand who are spending their time in Lebanon.

v. 16 as well as thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workmen.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary sights the fact that:

The Chronicles passage lists **3,600** and we have **3,300** here.
p. 499

1 Kings 9:23

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

If you take the thirty-three hundred here plus the five hundred and fifty in chapter 9:23 you come out with:

THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY.

When you do the same thing with the thirty-six hundred in 2 Chronicles 2:18 and what we read in 2 Chronicles 8:10:

They were also King Solomon's chief officials, two-hundred and fifty officials supervising the men.

You add those two hundred and fifty to the thirty-six hundred in 2 Chronicles 2:18 and you come up with THIRTY-EIGHT FIFTY.

v. 17 At the king's command they removed from the quarry large blocks of quality stone to provide a foundation of dressed stone for the temple.

I think it would good for us to FOCUS on the words:

“QUALITY” and

“FOUNDATION” in verse 17.

How critical in the building process to have:

“QUALITY STONE” and

a solid “FOUNDATION.”

1 Corinthians 3:10-16

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Ephesians 2:20-22

having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:4-8

And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed." This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone," and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall."

One of the indications of the END TIME will be the rebuilding of the temple by the nation Israel.

They have already prepared a cornerstone for that temple and raised quite a furor among the Arab states because of a desire to put that stone in place.

One of the most exciting things that ought to motivate us in these final days of the earthly drama is the fact that the KING IS COMING!

When He comes He is going to RULE AND REIGN OVER AN ETERNAL KINGDOM.

A friend of mine was pretty upset over the outcome of the elections and he brought me the verse:

Psalm 109:8

May his days be few;
may another take his place of leadership.

Really, it does not matter all that much who is in the position of leadership when Jesus Christ splits the skies and He comes to replace all the leaders of the nations with a UNIVERSAL AND ETERNAL KINGDOM.

O, Lord, hasten the day that glorious day of fruition when our Savior will be King of kings and Lord of lords!

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven!"
(Matt. 6:10 NASB).

v. 18 The craftsmen of Solomon and Hiram and the men of Gebal cut and prepared the timber and stone for the building of the temple.

These are exciting days in the reign of King Solomon. For now work has begun and preparations are being made to build this gorgeous structure that will take the place of the temporary tabernacle which was meant and designed for their journey through the wilderness.

What I would like to do now in this study is to take a little time with the Chronicles account of these same events.

We are going to be turning to 2 Chronicles 2:1-18 to fill in some of the details missing in the King's passage.

2 Chronicles 2:1-18

v. 1 Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself.

J. Vernon McGee says:

The blueprints are laid out, and Solomon begins the organization to build. Notice that building the temple is the part of Solomon's reign that God emphasizes.

p. 410

Selman observes:

With gifts of wisdom and wealth provided (ch. 1), Solomon is enabled to build the *temple* and the *royal palace*.

p. 298

(Getting the Right Things Right by Charlie Hedges)

Don't laugh, but *Joe vs. the Volcano* with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan is one of my all-time favorite movies. I know it's weird, it's silly, it's slow, but it's also very provocative. It shows a slice of life that many of us are too familiar with, the slice of life that is boring, repetitious, and mundane. As well, the movie offers hope.

In one of its great scenes Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks are discussing the life-threatening dangers of an adventure Hanks is about to undertake. He has agreed to sail a long distance to a small island inhabited by villagers who expect him to jump into a volcano—an act of appeasement to the volcano to prevent it from erupting. In this conversation Hanks appears ready to back out. But before he has a chance to quit, Ryan says to him, "You know, my daddy says, 'Almost the whole world is asleep. Only a handful of people are awake, and they live in a state of constant amazement.'"

Those words struck me like a spear. Awake people living in a state of constant amazement. Of course! We need more awake people! Awake people who are passionate about living and experiencing life on this planet of wonder—a planet created by an act of wonder.

p. 52

A time comes when you need to stop waiting for the man you want to become and start being the man you want to be.

Bruce Springsteen
from an interview on *60 Minutes*

p. 82

v. 2 He conscripted seventy thousand men as carriers and eighty thousand as stonecutters in the hills and thirty-six hundred as foremen over them.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Solomon first drafted aliens to provide the labor. . . . **70,000 . . . carriers and 80,000** stone masons, and **3,600 . . . foremen.**
p. 620

This passage will have a **SIMILAR FORMAT** to the King's passage in that there will be:

A LETTER FROM SOLOMON and

A RESPONSE BY HIRAM.

The **DIFFERENCE** between the two passages is that letters of both men are a little bit more detailed and will help us fill in the blanks on some of the things we need to know about what is going on this project.

v. 3 Solomon sent this message to Hiram king of Tyre: “Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in.

J. Vernon McGee observes:

Hiram loved David, and David loved Hiram. On this basis Solomon appeals to him. I think Hiram has problems with Solomon, as we shall see. He had been very generous with David, but he finds Solomon a little difficult to deal with.

p. 410

By working faithfully eight hours a day you may eventually get to be a boss and work twelve hours a day.

—Robert Frost

Resourcefulness is the ability to call upon creativity when needed.

<Unknown>

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

v. 4 Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on Sabbaths and New Moons and at the appointed feasts of the Lord our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel.

Here in this passage, Solomon gives many of the SPECIFICS with regard to the function of the temple that is not included in the previous passage.

Solomon sounds so “on track” in this request and the purpose behind this project of the building the temple.

LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

“If we are to bring stability to our shattered world, with its broken children, its unstable families, its devastated minorities, its addictive victims, and its search for meaning, we must go back to the fork in the road where we went astray. We took a wrong turn back there [in the late sixties], departing from the biblical standard and substituting our own puny ideas for the for the wisdom of the ages. And heaven knows, we’ve paid a dear price for that miscalculation.”

—James Dobson
(in a letter to *Focus on the Family*
supporters in May, 1993)

(From InfoSearch 3.51)

(Stories for the Heart by Alice Gray)

All It Takes Is a Little Motivation

Zig Ziglar

I love the story the late Dr. Ken McFarland delighted in telling.

It seems a gentleman worked on the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift, and he always walked home after work. One night the moon was shining so bright he decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery, which would save him roughly a half-mile walk. There were no incidents involved, so he repeated the process on a regular basis, always following the same path. One night as he was walking his route through the cemetery, he did not realize that during the day a grave had been dug in the very center of his path. He stepped right into the grave and immediately started desperately trying to get out. His best efforts failed him, and after a few minutes, he decided to relax and wait until morning when someone would help him out.

He sat down in the corner and was half asleep when a drunk stumbled into the grave. His arrival roused the shift worker since the drunk was desperately trying to climb out, clawing frantically at the sides. Our hero reached out his hand, touched the drunk on the leg, and said, "Friend, you can't get out of here..."—but he did! Now that's motivation!

p. 109

v. 5 “The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods.

WHAT A WONDERFUL TRIBUTE THIS IS TO THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD!

v. 6 But who is able to build a temple for him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him?

TWO QUESTIONS in this verse that are worthy of our reflection:

1. “WHO IS ABLE TO BUILD A TEMPLE FOR HIM?”
2. “WHO THEN AM I TO BUILD A TEMPLE FOR HIM?”

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Nonetheless the temple was to be as appropriate as human creativity could make it.

p. 621

v. 7 “Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson and blue yarn, and experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled craftsmen, whom my father David provided.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Since the Phoenicians were famous the world over for their architectural and building skills, Solomon solicited Hiram . . .
p. 621

v. 8 “Send me also cedar, pine and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your men are skilled in cutting timber there. My men will work with yours

This TAKES US BACK to the phrase in the King’s passage where Solomon concludes his request with the words:

“YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE NO ONE SO SKILLED IN FELLING
TIMBER AS THE SIDONIANS.”

v. 9 to provide me with plenty of lumber, because the temple I build must be large and magnificent.

Because of who God is, this building has got to REFLECT HIS GREATNESS and so I am going to need “PLENTY OF LUMBER” to build this large, magnificent structure.

What a wonderful anticipation is ours when in that heavenly city we have what is recorded in:

Revelation 21:22, 23

And I saw no temple in it for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. And the city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it for the glory of God has illumined it and its lamp is the lamb.

v. 10 I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand cors of ground wheat, twenty thousand cors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine and twenty thousand baths of olive oil."

Solomon points out what he is planning on doing for Hiram and his servants in return for their kindness in providing these services.

According to The Bible Knowledge Commentary the invoice would read:

. . . 125,000 bushels) **of ground wheat, 20,000 [bushels] of barley, . . . 115,000 gallons of wine, and . . . [115,000 gallons] of olive oil.**
p. 621

We now turn in our study from the FORMAL REQUEST by Solomon to the RESPONSE of Hiram beginning in verse 11 and carrying us down to verse 16.

v. 11 Hiram king of Tyre replied by letter to Solomon: “Because the Lord loves his people, he has made you their king.”

This reminds us of the words recorded in the King’s passage chapter 5:7:

“When Hiram heard Solomon’s message, he was greatly pleased and said, ‘Praise be to the Lord today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation.’”

Now the FOCUS is on:

THE LOVE OF THE LORD FOR HIS PEOPLE.

The REASON for that is:

HE HAS MADE SOLOMON THEIR KING.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Hiram’s acknowledgment of **the LORD** . . . was just a formal courtesy and tells nothing of his own personal faith.
p. 621

v. 12 And Hiram added: “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the Lord and a palace for himself.

In an interview with the great inventor of the Telegraph, Samuel F. B. Morse, George Hervey inquired, “Professor Morse, when you were making your experiments at the university, did you ever come to a standstill, not knowing what to do next?”

“Oh, yes, more than once.”

“Then what did you do?”

“I’ve never discussed this with anyone, so the public knows nothing about it. But now that you ask me, I’ll tell you frankly — I prayed for more light.”

“And did God give you the wisdom and knowledge you needed?”

“Yes, He did,” said Morse. “That’s why I never felt I deserved the honors that came to me from America and Europe because of the invention associated with my name. I had made a valuable application of the use of electrical power, but it was all through God’s help. It wasn’t because I was superior to other scientists. When the Lord wanted to bestow this gift on mankind, He had to use someone. I’m just grateful He chose to reveal it to me.”

In view of these facts, it’s not surprising that the inventor’s first message over the telegraph was: “What hath God wrought!”

(From Parson’s Bible Illustrator)

Hiram understands that there are TWO PROJECTS involved:

1. THE BUILDING OF "A TEMPLE FOR THE LORD," and
2. "A PALACE FOR HIM" (Solomon).

v. 13 "I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill,

v. 14 whose mother was from Dan and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple and blue and crimson yarn and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him. He will work with your craftsmen and with those of my lord, David your father.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary points out:

The man [of great skill] . . . is a half-Israelite, **whose mother was from the tribe of Dan** [and the father was from Tyre, a Sidonian.]
p. 621

His resume is incredible!

"HE IS TRAINED TO WORK IN GOLD AND SILVER, BRONZE AND IRON, STONE AND WOOD, AND WITH PURPLE AND BLUE AND CRIMSON YARN AND FINE LINEN. HE IS EXPERIENCED IN ALL KINDS OF ENGRAVING AND CAN EXECUTE ANY DESIGN GIVEN TO HIM."

Hiram recognizes the fact that King David has made provision for a lot of the craftsmen who are going to be doing this work and so he says that this gentlemen:

“HURAM-ABI . . . WILL WORK WITH YOUR CRAFTSMEN AND WITH THOSE OF MY LORD, DAVID YOUR FATHER.”

v. 15 “Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised,

Hiram, in a very nice way is simply saying, “I am keeping up my end of the deal, now it is your responsibility to do your part in making this provision you have promised.”

v. 16 and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them in rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem.”

Here HIRAM CONCLUDES HIS MESSAGE to Solomon with the plan for getting the timber to Jerusalem:

“WE WILL CUT ALL THE LOGS FROM LEBANON THAT YOU NEED AND WILL FLOAT THEM IN RAFTS BY SEA DOWN TO JOPPA. YOU CAN THEN TAKE THEM UP TO JERUSALEM.”

We will make rafts out of the logs that we cut and we will put them in the Mediterranean sea and carry them south to Joppa where you can have your men take them overland from there to Jerusalem.

That is about EIGHTY MILES BY WATER and FORTY MILES BY LAND in order to get the timber on location for this significant building project.

v. 17 Solomon took a census of all the aliens who were in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600.

v. 18 He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working.

Delitzsch has this to say about these FINAL TWO VERSES:

The numbering gave a total of 153,000 men, of whom 70,000 were made bearers of burdens, 80,000, *i.e.* probably hewers of stone and wood, *i.e.* on Lebanon, and 3600 foremen or overseers over the workmen, to cause the people to work, that is, to hold them to their task. With this cf. 1 Kings v. 29 f., where the number of the overseers is stated at 3300. This difference is explained by the fact that in the Chronicle the total number of overseers, of higher and lower rank, is given, while in the book of Kings only the number of overseers of the lower rank is given without the higher overseers. Solomon had in all 550 higher overseers of the builders (Israelite and Canaanite), —cf. 1 Kings ix. 23; and of these, 250 were Israelites, who alone are mentioned in 2 Chron. viii. 10, while the remaining 300 were Canaanites. The total number of overseers is the same in both accounts—3850; who are divided in the Chronicle into 3600 Canaanitish and 250 Israelitish, in the book of Kings into 3300 lower and 550 higher overseers (see on 1 Kings v. 30).
pp. 312-3

CONCLUSION:

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

LESSON #1: Solomon is now engaging in the work that God intended for him to accomplish.

LESSON #2: Solomon is reaching out to Hiram because he recognizes the fact that he cannot accomplish this task by himself.

LESSON #3: There are wonderful times in our lives when the Lord gives us rest on every side and there is no adversary or disaster.

LESSON #4: The positive response on the part of Hiram to Solomon's request for timber is an indication that God is at work in this situation.

LESSON #5: The Lord gave Solomon wisdom just as he had promised him.

LESSON #6: The Lord is always faithful to fulfill His promises to us.

LESSON #7: The Lord is the greatest giver of all.

LESSON #8: The foundation is the crucial part of the building process.

LESSON #9: Are you laying a foundation for your life upon the Rock or upon the sand?

LESSON #10: Isn't it a wonderful thought to know that in the future kingdom we will not need a temple because the Savior will be there with us?

Baxter observes:

The first *duty* and the only true *safety* of the *throne* lies in its relation toward the *temple*. Our national leaders of today might well ponder that fact. When God is honoured, government is good and the nation prospers. But when God is *dishonoured*, the cleverest statesmanship cannot avert eventual disaster. The call to our nation today, as clearly as in the Edict of Cyrus quoted at the end of 2 Chronicles, is to “*go up*” and REBUILD THE TEMPLE.
p. 189

(The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make by Hans Finzel)

As construction began on a magnificent cathedral, an angel came and promised a large reward to the person who made the most important contribution to the finished sanctuary. As the building went up, people speculated about who would win the prize. The architect? The contractor? The woodcutter? The artisans skilled in gold, iron, brass, and glass? Perhaps the carpenter assigned to the detailed grillwork near the altar? Because each workman did his best, the complete church was a masterpiece. But when the moment came to announce the winner of the reward, everyone was surprised. It was given to an old, poorly dressed peasant woman. What had she done? Every day she had faithfully carried hay to the ox that pulled the marble for the stonecutter.
p. 35

"A few years ago I met an old professor at the University of Notre Dame. Looking back on his long life of teaching, he said with a funny twinkle in his eyes: 'I have always been complaining that my work was constantly interrupted, until I slowly discovered that my interruptions were my work.'

"This is the great conversion in life: to recognize and believe that the many unexpected events are not just disturbing interruptions of our projects, but the way in which God molds our hearts and prepares us for his return. . . ."

—Henri J. Nouwen, *Out of Solitude*, 1974

p. 41

(Broken in the Right Place by Alan E. Nelson)

Eugene Peterson wrote, "The moment I begin exercising my will, I've put a fox in charge of the hen house. My will is my glory."
p. 253

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

C.S. Lewis put it this way in *The Great Divorce*: "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says in the end, 'Thy will be done.'"
p. 146

(2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul, A: 101 More Stories to Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hansen)

What Happened?

A young man played, or I should say practiced, football at an Ivy League university. “Jerry” wasn’t skilled enough to play more than occasionally in the regular season games, but in four years this dedicated, loyal young man never missed a practice.

The coach, deeply impressed with Jerry’s loyalty and dedication to the team, also marveled at his evident devotion to his father. Several times the coach had seen Jerry and his visiting father laughing and talking as they walked arm-in-arm around the campus. But the coach had never met the father or talked with Jerry about him.

During Jerry’s senior year and a few nights before the most important game of the season—a traditional rivalry that matched Army-Navy, Georgia-Georgia Tech or Michigan-Ohio State in intensity—the coach heard a knock on his door. Opening it, he saw the young man, his face full of sadness.

“Coach, my father just died,” Jerry murmured. “Is it all right if I miss practice for a few days and go home?”

The coach said he was very sorry to hear the news and, of course, it was all right for him to go home. As Jerry murmured a “thank you” and turned to leave, the coach added, “Please don’t feel you have to return in time for next Saturday’s game. You certainly are excused from that, too.” The youth nodded and left.

But on Friday night, just hours before the big game, Jerry again stood in the coach’s doorway. “Coach, I’m back,” he said, “and I have a request. May I please start the game tomorrow?”

The coach tried to dissuade the youth from his plea in light of the importance of the game to the team. But finally he consented.

That night the coach tossed and turned. Why had he said yes to the youth? The opposing team was favored to win by three touchdowns. He needed his best players in for the entire game. Suppose the opening kickoff came to Jerry and he fumbled. Suppose he started the game and they lost by five or six touchdowns.

Obviously he could not let the youth play. It was out of the question. But he had promised.

So, as the bands played and the crowd roared, Jerry stood at the goal line awaiting the opening kickoff. *The ball probably won’t go to him anyway*, the coach thought to himself. Then the coach would run one series of plays, making sure the other halfback and the fullback carried the ball, and take the youth out of the game. That way he wouldn’t have to worry about a crucial fumble, and he would have kept his promise.

“Oh no!” the coach groaned as the opening kickoff floated end over end right into Jerry’s arms. But instead of fumbling, as the coach expected, Jerry

hugged the ball tightly, dodged three onrushing defenders and raced to midfield before he was finally tackled.

The coach had never seen Jerry run with such agility and power, and perhaps sensing something, he had the quarterback call Jerry's signal. The quarterback handed off, and Jerry responding by breaking tackles for a 20-yard gain. A few plays later he carried the ball over the goal line.

The favored opponents were stunned. Who was this kid? He wasn't even in their scouting reports, for until then he had played a total of three minutes all year.

The coach left Jerry in, and he played the entire first half on both offense and defense. Tackling, intercepting and knocking down passes, blocking, running—he did it all.

At halftime the underdogs led by two touchdowns. During the second half Jerry continued to inspire the team. When the final gun sounded, his team had won.

In the locker-room bedlam reserved only for teams that have fought the impossible fight and triumphed, the coach sought out Jerry and found him sitting quietly, head in hands, in a far corner.

"Son, what happened out there?" the coach asked as he put his arm around him. "You can't play as well as you did. You're just not that fast, not that strong nor that skilled. What happened?"

Jerry looked up at the coach and said softly, "You see, Coach, my father was blind. This is the first game he ever saw me play."

Author Unknown

Submitted by Chuck Dodge

pp. 294-296

(Heaven Help Us! Truths About Eternity That Will Help You Live Today by
Steven J. Lawson)

Let us never forget this lesson. God is the Potter, we are the clay. He molds and fashions us as He wills. He turns the wheel of providence and shapes our destinies as it pleases Him best. He makes us and breaks us, forms us and conforms us, as He determines. All our times are in His hand.
p. 55

(Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions by Kenneth W. Osbeck)

Truly our visionary attitude throughout life is often the difference between success and mediocrity. One is reminded of the classic story of the two shoe salesmen who were sent to a primitive island to determine business potential. The first salesman wired back, "Coming home immediately. No one here wears shoes." The second man responded, "Send a boatload of shoes immediately. The possibilities for selling shoes here are unlimited."

For the Christian, vision is a true awareness of Christ in all of His fullness and enabling power. This ancient 8th century hymn text from Ireland is still meaningful for us today with its expression of a yearning for the presence and leading of God in our lives. The earnest prayer is enhanced by such quaint but tender phrases as "Lord of my heart," "Thy presence my light," "bright heav'n's Sun," and "heart of my heart." The text states that when we allow God to have first place in our lives, He becomes our treasure; we care no more for the pursuit of riches or "man's empty praise."

The entire Irish poem was first translated into English in 1905 by Mary Byrne, a research worker and writer for the Board of Intermediate Education in Dublin, Ireland. Several years later Eleanor Hull, a writer of English history and literature, put the prose into verse form and included it in her book of poems, The Poem Book of the Gael. The melody for this hymn is a traditional Irish tune.

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart—Nought be all else to me save that Thou art: Thou my best thought, by day or by night—waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word—I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord; Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son—Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise—Thou mine inheritance, now and always; Thou and Thou only, first in my heart—High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

For Today: Matthew 13:44-52; Ephesians 2:13-22; Phillipians 3:12

Ask God to give you a vision of some task that you can do for Him that will require your complete reliance upon His enabling power to accomplish it well. Carry this hymn with you.