

# **STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON**

## **STUDY NUMBER NINE – 1 KINGS 5:1-18, 2 Chronicles 2:1-18**

**We are in an exciting time of King Solomon. Solomon was married in study number 7 then last week we saw the prosperity this kingdom began to develop. We talked about the perils of prosperity in relationship to Solomon of some of the contributing factors to the terrible demise of this young man filled with such potential.**

**But put all of that out of your mind we are at a point in Solomon's life when everything is wonderful: he is married, he is the CEO of the biggest kingdom that has been known to man and he has all of the wealth he would ever want. So right now everything is going great with this man but there is something that we need to recognize and, that is, each of us as we are born into this world are born for a purpose and that purpose is fulfilled when the passion is on fire and we do what God wants us to do with our lives. I want to talk about that today because we are there.**

**What we are going to do is set the stage for the whole purpose in Solomon coming into the world in the first place and, that is, to build the temple.**

**Next week we are going to build the temple and the following week we are going to build his house.**

**What I want to do today is to set the stage for this and to show you that a leader has to go through certain processes before that leader is ever trusted with fulfilling the purpose and passion he has for his life. Maybe you are sitting here today and you have never fulfilled that – maybe you are sitting here today and you are feeling kind of sad inside because life has passed you by. Maybe this study is just for you. Maybe you don't know what your passion and purpose is. Maybe you don't have much of a passion. Maybe you don't have a real understanding what God's purpose is for why you are here.**

**I guess how this all got to me was Monday morning I was having my devotions in Las Colinas about 4:30 in the morning. I have made it a practice to read through the Bible as much as I can in one year. I was in two chapters that I have never read side by side before Exo.17 and Exo.18. I don't know if you ever read these two chapters side by side but in Exo.17 Moses has just brought the children of Israel across the Red Sea and they are heading toward Mt. Sinai, as you know there is a confrontation with God on Mt. Sinai of the giving of the law in Exo.20. In Chap. 17 they have their first military conflict with the Amalekites. It is a very strange battle because down in the field of battle Joshua is fighting the Amalekites and Moses is up on**

top of the mountain holding up his staff; and, as long as he has got that staff up there and he is praying to God they are winning down on the field but, when he gets tired and the staff starts to come down, the battle turns and they start losing down on the field of battle. Now listen to this verse:

**Exodus 17:12**

When Moses hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him, and he set on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up one on one side, one on the other – so that his hands remained steady till sunset.

What I am saying to you is that Moses really wanted to be a happy martyr. He didn't ask for any help. He continued to hold his arms up and the other three guys recognized the crisis and did something of intervention to literally help Moses because he is a "one man show". First of all they roll up a rock, they set the guy down and then one guy props up one arm and one guy props up the other arm and they have a victory on the field of battle.

You're saying you are being too tough on Moses – no I'm not. Because when you read Chap. 18 right alongside of it you see the same thing coming only it is coming from his father-in-law this time and it is a little bit tougher. Anything that comes from your father-in-law is a little bit tougher!

Jethro shows up on the scene, now listen to what he says...the very first thing..."Why are you the

**only judge? Why do you let these people crowd around you from morning to evening?” Moses... “they bring their complaints to me and I make decisions on the basis of God’s law. How can you question this great spiritual ministry that I am in?” Jethro... “that isn’t the best way to do it. You and the people who come to you will soon be worn out. The job is too much for one person – you can’t do it alone, God will help you if you follow my advice.”**

**What I am telling you is he did and you will see this when you read the rest of the story. He appoints at least 70 others that come alongside and help fulfill the job so he learns his lesson.**

**What I am saying is every leader goes through the process of finding out that the task is bigger than he is and if he is going to survive he is going to have to have help. When you and I begin to learn that and recognize that we are in this thing together and God has designed each of us with gifts, abilities, and talents to contribute to one another, we will reach out and recognize that we need one another. This is a big step.**

**So what I would like to do for just a minute today is to reflect on a process that has got to go on in Solomon’s life before he will ever accomplish this horrendous task of building the temple that is before him.**

**Another verse:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> John 9:**

**I wrote to the church but Diotrephes who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us.**

**God is not in the business of blessing these “one man shows”. These situations are where we ostracize ourselves from everybody else and are not willing to reach out and have the help that is available to us.**

***Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.***

***Listen to Theodore Roosevelt...***

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

**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)**

***Dale Carnegie wrote a book “How to Win Friends and Influence People”.***

**While he left behind a foundation that has helped corporations in America deal with the number one problem they have, and that is relationships, and recognize that they are a team to accomplish a given set of goals and objectives. They say there is a process that has to go on in the life of each executive in order for that executive to become part of the team if they are going to win and be successful.**

**Do you want to hear the steps?.....**

**Look at things from other people's perspective.**

- 1) Offer genuine appreciation and praise.**
- 2) Harness the mighty power of enthusiasm.**
- 3) Respect the dignity of others.**
- 4) Don't be overly critical**
- 5) Give people a good reputation to live up to.**
- 6) Keep a sense of fun and balance in your life.**

**Now lets listen to my favorite corporate executive Zig Ziegler. His new book is “Over the Top.” He lists 12 things that will give you, as an indication, that you have the real disease and you are on track and you are doing what you need to do. Listen to this guy.....**

**1) You have made many friends with your past, and you are focused on the present, and you are optimistic about the future.**

**2) You have the love of friends and the respect of enemies.**

**3) You are filled with faith, hope, and love and you live without anger, greed, guilt, envy and thoughts of revenge.**

**4) You are mature enough to delay gratification and shift your focus from your rights to your responsibilities.**

**5) You love the unlovable, give hope to the hopeless, friendship to the friendless and encouragement to the discouraged.**

**6) You know that success doesn't make you and failure doesn't break you.**

**7) You can look back in forgiveness, forward in hope, down in compassion, and up with gratitude.**

**8) You clearly understand that yesterday ended last night, today is a brand new day, and it is yours.**

**9) You know that "He who would be the greatest among you must be the servant of all."**

**10) You are pleasant to the grouch, 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.**

**11) 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.**

**12) You stand in front of the Creator of the universe, and He says to you well done thou good and faithful servant.**

**p.9**

**All I am saying to you today is you're getting ready to see something that is far bigger than you ever thought. I've been surprised working on this passage to see the magnitude of interpersonal relationships that have to form before the 7 year project can be fulfilled which is the purpose and the passion of Solomon's life. We are at the pinnacle but, before we get there, there is some heavy-duty stuff that has to go on in Solomon's personal life and in this organization of this mass of people, to accomplish the project.**

**Listen to Solomon – just four statements before we dig into the text.**

**Psa. 72:1**

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

**Psa. 72:18**

**Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,” who alone  
does marvelous deeds.**

**Psa. 72:19**

**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)***

**Proverbs 1:6**

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

**p.54**

**Now what we are doing tonight is we are going  
to the historical books first. Then, we are going to go to  
the religious aspect. Kings always gives you the  
historical record. Chronicles puts the religious spin on  
it. There are some things in the Chronicles’ passage  
that come out, but you will hear what Solomon says as  
we wrap up the study. But our main focus to get the  
record of what is happening is in the Kings passage.**

**Let me make it easy for you...all we are going to  
have is a couple of letters that go back and forth  
between two kings. You are going to meet Hiram, the  
King of Tyre. The letter is going to go to him from**

Solomon, and a letter from Solomon back to him. They are going to have two letters, go back and forth and both passages are alike and everything kind of centers around it but, it is what is going on in those letters that helps you understand the magnitude of the task and what has to be done if Solomon is going to accomplish his passion and purpose.

Are you ready?

**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.**

Tyre, and Sidon are secularist towns south of Beirut, way up north of Israel. Hiram has been a king through the Davidic reign and he is still king. With the transition in Israel he wants to make sure that Solomon understands the history of his relationship with his Dad if he wasn't acquainted with it. Now do you want to know just a little capsule of the depth of the friendship between Hiram and David? I would like to have a few friends like this.

Listen to this....2 Sam 5 story: David has just had his military commander conquer the city of Jerusalem which now becomes the capital for David's kingdom. So they are in the new city, the city of Jerusalem and what does Hiram do? 2 Sam 5:11

## **2 Sam 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.**

**Nice little gift coming out of the north. Now you say oh man that is no big deal, they just came down. You want to know what they did. They had to float logs from Sidon, 80 miles in rafts in the water, take them out and carry them another 40 miles over land, uphill to Jerusalem in order to accomplish this. Just a little side note of what friendship will do for a friend. But that was the kind of relationship that Hiram and David had. You know the more you read things like this after David is gone you realize what an incredible person he must have been. What committed friends must have been his, and what a friend he must have been to them in turn to have an outpouring like this from somebody.**

***Locking Arms: God's Design for Masculine Friendships* by Stu Weber says:**

**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**

**Men ought to have friendship on these four levels: Acceptance, Affirmation, Accountability, and Authority. Allowing friends to come into your life to be**

an authority, one to whom you can be accountable, one who will affirm you and one who will accept you.  
p.130-1

Do you have those kinds of relationships? They are the foundation stones for being entrusted with the magnitude of the task that God has for you just like he does for Solomon. Proverbs 18 says friends come and go but a true friend sticks by you like family.

### **v. 2 Solomon sent back this message to Hiram:**

Now we are ready for the message, here goes the first letter. V.3 through v.6 is Solomon's letter up North to Hiram the king of Tyre. When you get to v.7 that is Hiram responding back to what is going to happen, so lets go look at it.

**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."**

David was a man of war. David was a man who sacrificed. David was the man who shed blood. David was the man who established the kingdom—we talked about that last week. Because he was that man, he was not able to fulfill the one spiritual passion he had and that was to be the one who orchestrated the building of the temple. God just basically said no through Nathan

the prophet because you are a man of blood you are not going to do this. But your son is going to do it. “*But now*”, look at v.4. Anytime a verse starts with the word “but” you get immediate contrast with what went on in the previous verse.

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

No adversary, no disaster, peace on every side.

Look at the contrast. Here's David in v.3. He is waging war, he is fighting on all sides, but now Solomon, “the Lord has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster.”

Could it be today that the Lord brought you here to this study just to tell you “BUT NOW!” You have been living this way for this long. “BUT NOW” I am ready to use you. “BUT NOW” lets get after fulfilling the passion and purpose that God has for your life. You have been doing all the secondary background work. “BUT NOW” it is time to make your mark for God because time is running out on the clock. “BUT NOW” He has given me rest on every side.

*(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**

**Lets look at the contrast between the two. Taking a weather report on the horizon of the kingdom and on the condition of his personal life, he now tells you his purpose and passion in v. 5.**

**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.”**

**That is God saying it. I intend therefore to fulfill that purpose, that is my passion to build this temple. I want to stop at Amen.**

**Remember who wrote the Book of Proverbs, Solomon. Now listen, see if these verses don't mean just a tad bit more to you now when you have heard this insight from him in the letter.**

### **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.**

***Mother Teresa's said...* God calls us to faithfulness, not success. He will work His will through our efforts.**

***Oswald Chambers said* we get hung up:**

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

***Prayer: A Holy Occupation* by Oswald Chambers  
p. 47**

**It behooves us to listen to *Dwight L. Moody*....**

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

***Inspiring Quotations* compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.  
p. 168**

**I mean you just can't splatter a bunch of shot around and go to heaven, and think that you are going to be held credible at the Judgment Seat of Christ. God has some purpose and passion for you to fulfill. Now light your fire and get after it.**

*(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 labor 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

The commitment of this kind of a leader is I will turn my face to the wind, and cast my hand full of seed on high. I will do what I need to do.

Now since I intend to do this, v.6, says as he ends his letter:

v.6 “So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. (Lebanon was like the Pacific Northwest, loaded with the timber you need to get the lumber to build the building.) 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.”**

These guys were loggers. They were shipbuilders and homebuilders and they knew how to get timber ready for building programs, so he concludes his message with a compliment. You guys have the ability to do what I need to have done in order to fulfill my passion and purpose. See what he has done, he has illustrated perfectly what I have told you. He is humble enough. He recognizes that task is bigger than he is and that he needs the resources of Hiram the king of Tyre. So, he asks for his help and support to accomplish this task that is bigger than he is.

Now listen to the response. When you get a response from a pagan king like this and it is real positive, and exciting that is a good indication you are on track.

**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.**

Now some people that hear someone say “praise be to the Lord”, they think my goodness Hiram is a Christian. Evidently David led him to the Lord somewhere back in there. That’s going too far with one statement. Just because someone gives an outburst of

praise to the Lord, because David did that a jillion times in the Psalms, and I am sure Hiram heard him several times say something like that. But, you can say something with your mouth and it really doesn't mean anything with your life. There was a whole structure of gods and goddesses of the Phoenicians. He is the king of Tyre, but he is greatly pleased and he is excited. There is outburst of praise here by saying he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation. So here comes the letter back now.

**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."**

I received your message and I am going to do everything you said in the letter. Oh man what a great friend! My men will haul them down from Lebanon to the sea. I will float them in rafts by sea to the places. I will separate them and you can take them away and you are to grant my wish by providing food for my royal household.

Have you ever been in the northwest where you have watched the loggers roll the logs down the river and put them on rafts, then watch the tugs pull them down the river? It is quite a sight. Hundreds and hundreds of huge logs are put into these big rafts and then they are pulled by the tugs or taken by the current down the river to the sawmills to be prepared as lumber for the

building of homes. This is the picture. We are going to cut the logs you need, roll them down the Mediterranean, put them in rafts, well tug them down 80 miles to Joppa. You can take them from there, which is going to take another 40 miles. Then take the timber on up and use it. But for that I am going to ask you for some food supplements. We need some help up here in food supplies and that is the way you are going to pay us. In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and pine logs that he wanted. In return, v.11 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.

When we get to the Chronicles' passage you are going to see two other items on the invoice; there is wheat, barley, wine and olive oil. Now, just let me tell you how much that is: 125,000 bushels of wheat; 125,000 bushels of barley; 115,000 gallons of olive oil and 115,000 gallons of wine. That basically is the four items on the invoice that is payment for this project of getting the timber that is necessary. You say WOW! These guys got it together.

Hiram is making this provision, Solomon has this need, Hiram has this need, and they worked this thing together because they need each other. It is going to benefit both parties. That is good stuff. The Lord gave

**Solomon wisdom....don't you love that. You had that praise last week. God is a giver of gifts, isn't He?**

**The Lord gave Solomon wisdom just as He promised him. Don't you just love that, the fact that God makes a promise, and He keeps it.**

**When I did the series of the Life of Joshua a number of years ago, I was really hung up. Josh 23:14 (Joshua was getting ready to die.)**

### **Josh 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.”**

**That is exactly the way Solomon is feeling. He has been willing to say this is bigger than I am. I need all the help I can get. I know there is a faithful God who calls you, and He will bring it to pass 1 Thes. 5:24.**

### **1 Thess. 5:24**

**“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”**

**v.13 King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israell-thirty thousand men.**

Basically, he set up a draft - thirty thousand men. He told the guys it is your responsibility as citizens of this country to sign up to help with the temple project. So thirty thousand guys sign up for the project. Not unwillingly, I mean they did not do it by volunteering with excitement. They had to be asked to do it by Solomon. Now look how he handles it, isn't it beautiful, v.14.

**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.**

You think these corporations are like that today, these pilots fly one day and are off 2 and then they fly again; the flight attendants are on one trip and then they are off three days—that's nothing new. Look Solomon already had it figured out, send ten thousand guys to work while the other twenty thousand are back home with their families. Then they get their month on and their two months off with their rotation system that he has developed for his laborers here. Now are you ready for the big one!!! Look at the next verse.

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

These are aliens by the way who live in Israel, they are not full blooded Israel citizens. There are 150,000 of them and they are going to be involved in this project as well.

Now when you get to v.16 the critics just clap their hands with glee and say nah, nah, nah the Bible has errors in it.

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

The only problem with that ladies and gentlemen is that when we get to the Chronicles passage it is going to say thirty-six hundred instead of thirty-three hundred, so we have obviously an ascribable error in the text and the Bible is no good and we're going to throw the whole thing out because somebody had a wrong number. Well you don't have any right to an opinion until all the facts are in so let me give you the facts, o.k.

There are two passages in both Kings and Chronicles that tell you the number of foreman and executives that run the show. Here it says thirty-three hundred but in 1 Kings 9:23:

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.**

**So what's the total thirty-three five-fifty comes out to three thousand eight hundred fifty total executives that are in this big project. Now the Chronicles passage says (and you are going to see it in a minute) it says thirty-six hundred but 2 Chron. 2:18 says:**

**2 Chron. 2:18**

**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.**

**There are also King Solomon's chief officials two hundred fifty officers and officials who were supervising them, so that is thirty-six hundred and two hundred fifty, three thousand eight hundred and fifty...BINGO bottom line, both of them three thousand eight hundred and fifty; total work force one hundred sixty-three thousand eight hundred fifty people and Solomon is the CEO of the whole 9 yards. That's what it is going to take to build the temple.**

**You see a lot has to go on in this guy's life in order for him to open up and realize the project is a lot bigger than he is by himself. If you are going to fulfill your purpose and passion you have to get the real**

disease my friend. You have to lock together with brothers and sisters and expand this thing to a point where you have the help to get this job done so that the fruit will be born through you.

**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 want you to just land on the word “QUALITY” for a second. Because in the next two weeks every time we start talking about stones that have to do with foundation or stones that have to do with a building. It is proceeded with an adjective like “HIGHLY”, “FINELY CUT”, “TOP QUALITY”, it's the best.

Paul told the Corinthians no man lays a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Christ Jesus.

**Eph. 2:20**

Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

What did Jesus say when he added the Sermon on the Mount **Matt 7:24**

**Matt 7:24**

**Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.**

### **Matt 7:26-27**

**But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew, and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.**

**To quote Tony Evans "...when it's raining it is too late to pour concrete." Lives fall apart and when you sow to the whirlwind you are going to reap it. Such is the case.**

**You have to have a firm foundation. You know the beautiful thing about it all is right now the Jews are trying to build this temple once again. They already have their cornerstone, and have tried to delay it, but the Arabs nearly created a huge riot in the city of Jerusalem when they tried to pull this thing off. There's a temple that is going to be built all right, and there is going to be an earthly kingdom. I am looking forward to that day when I am with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and HE is going to rule and reign forever. There is not going to be any temple there because we got the KING HIMSELF on the scene. He alone is the one we will give WORSHIP and PRAISE.**

**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**

Now see some of the same things. The only reason I am doing this is I want you to watch what Solomon says because this helps you understand the purpose and the passion and the beauty of this guy's walk with GOD right now! Don't think about his future, just about right now. This guy is open and wired. He is motivated and receptive to help. He has organized the whole thing. GOD has given him the gift of wisdom. Now, look at the Chronicles passage.

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

(That's the next two studies).

**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.**

(Plus the 250 made thirty-eight fifty).

**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.**

Now here comes the amplification of it, the religious aspects. Look at this....

**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.**

That is the whole law encompassed in the whole sacrificial system. He has the big picture. We are not building some big building as a monument to God. We are building an instrument for worship. The guy is on track in what he is saying. He is motivated and says it exactly right.

Solomon is there – look what he says in v.5.

**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 God. He has two questions to show you his humility: 1) Who is able to build a temple for HIM since the heavens, the highest of the heavens can't contain him. 2) Who then am I to build a temple for HIM except as a place to burn sacrifices before HIM because I am a sinner.

**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 alnum 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 built must be large and magnificent.  
(There is your invoice all four of those items).

**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.**

What a tribute to young Solomon.

**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.**

You want to see an incredible resume. This guy was born to a lady from the Tribe of Dan way up in the north and is a resident of Tyre. So it is a mixed marriage. Let's look at what it says about him. **v. 14**

**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 yard, 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.”**

Now here comes the end.....

**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.**

Listen to *Henry J. Nouwen, Out of Solitude, 1974...*

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.”

p. 41

I am a servant. I am available. I am sensitive to what God is doing in my life. I am ready, and available to do what he wants.

***Eugene H. Peterson* said...the moment that I begin exercising my will, I have put a fox in charge of the hen house. because my will is my glory.**

***C.S. Lewis* says...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 *your will will be done.***

**I want to conclude today with *Steven J. Lawson's* statements that I think everyone of us have got to face in view of what we just talked about. 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. He shapes our destinies as pleases Him best. He makes us and He breaks us. He forms us and He conforms us as He determines all our times are in His Hands.****

**Can you say that today?**

**Have thine own way Lord,  
have Thine own say,  
thou art the potter,  
I am the clay,  
mold me and make me  
After your will,  
while I am waiting,  
Yield and still.**

**Don't lose me for just a minute. We went through two passages, we have been talking about some principles of leadership – what did you get out of that? I got the following 10 lessons:**

**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: It is a wonderful thought to know that in the future kingdom we will not need a temple because the Savior will be there with us.**

## **STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF SOLOMON**

### **STUDY NUMBER NINE – 1 KINGS 5:1-18, 2 Chronicles 2:1-18**

#### **NOTES**

**5:1** 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.

**5:2** Solomon sent back this message to Hiram:

**5:3** "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.

**5:4** But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster.

**5:5** 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.'

**5:6** "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."

**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."

**5:8** 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.

**5:9** 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."

**5:10** In this way Hiram kept Solomon supplied with all the cedar and pine logs he wanted

**5:11** 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.

**5:12** 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.

**5:13** King Solomon conscripted laborers from all Israel—thirty thousand men.

**5:14** 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.

**5:15** Solomon had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hills,

**5:16** as well as thirty-three hundred foremen who supervised the project and directed the workmen.

**5:17** 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.

**5:18** The craftsmen of Solomon and Hiram and the men of Gebal cut and prepared the timber and stone for the building of the temple.

**2:1** Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself.

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

**2:3** 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.

**2:4** 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.

**2:5** "The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods.

**2:6** 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?

**2:7** "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.

**2:8** "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

**2:9** to provide me with plenty of lumber, because the temple I build must be large and magnificent.

**2:10** 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."

**2:11** Hiram king of Tyre replied by letter to Solomon:

"Because the Lord loves his people, he has made you their king."

**2:12** 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.

**2:13** "I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill,

**2:14** 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.

**2:15** "Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised,

**2:16** 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."

**2:17** 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.

**2:18** 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.

## **QUESTIONS:**

**1. Read 1 Kings 5:1-18 and 2 Chronicles 2:18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.**

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**2. How did Hiram, King of Tyre, respond to the anointing of Solomon as king?**

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**3. What project is Solomon now getting ready to undertake, according to verse 5?**

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**4. How does Hiram respond to Solomon's message, according to verse 7?**

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**5. What two building projects did Solomon have in mind, according to 2 Chronicles 2:1?**

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**6. How does Solomon describe the temple, according to 2 Chronicles 2:5?**

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**7. What is Hiram's response to the request in 2 Chronicles 2:11?**

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**8. How does Hiram want to be repaid for all of his supplies, according to 2 Chronicles 2:15?**

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

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**10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

**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.**

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