

WINDOWS OF NARROW LIGHTS

1 KINGS 5:1 – 6:38

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~ King David desired to build a house for God more than anything else. He brought the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem and gathered all the building materials from Hiram king of Tyre with every intention of constructing the temple. However, the Word of the Lord came to Nathan the prophet in David's day, saying Solomon would be the one to build the temple. Well, that time has come in this report from our Spiritual Safari.

Our last few reports have seen Solomon take the throne, establish his kingdom, destroy any potential opposition to his rule, and execute the plan to build a house for the Ark of the Lord. I hope you have decided to make an educated, sincere and systematic study of the Word of God with us a part of your life today. This seemingly dry section of Scripture reads like the plans and specifications of any commercial construction project. It's incredibly boring and monotonous; but it is imperative to understanding the whole Word of God properly, correctly and completely! Unfortunately, most people totally bi-pass this part of the Bible and never really get a hold of the wonderful spiritual truths found in it....

V

1 And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David.

2 And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying,

3 Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.

4 But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.

1 KINGS 5:1 – 6:38

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~ Only God can bring peace and rest, friends; whether it is world peace or individual peace in the human heart we all desire and need so badly. Remember, when the world rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, He sent out a personal, private - and very individual invitation saying, *“come unto Me all you that are burdened and heavy laden and I will give you rest.”* That means burdened with sin and laden with iniquity, according to Isaiah. Here, God has given Solomon rest and peace on every side; in his palace and in the nation he has been chosen to rule.

Mankind has been building things since the beginning of recorded history. When Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, the first thing he did was build a city. The face of the earth bears great scars and huge mounds hiding ruins of tremendous ancient civilizations. It is important to note that whatever Hiram did for Solomon, he did only out of respect for David. This entire endeavor stems from David’s ambition, which God would not permit to build a temple – mainly because of what happened with Uriah and Bathsheba.

If there had been an age of “cavemen,” he was certainly barbarian and uncivilized – because he was not classified as a builder. The Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks and Romans are all counted as civilized *ONLY* by their structures. Modern mankind’s only claim to “civilization” is because we have built high rise hotels, apartments, office buildings and grocery stores. Technology neither falls under the classification of civilization nor does it factor into its determination equation. It always begins with physical, tangible shelter. Anything that happens after that is merely a biproduct of being civilized. And, candidly, all we have accomplished in the way of “advancements” is that we can currently build a more comfortable cave to dwell and work in – like an intelligent gopher. The rest of the time, most of us crawl along on a freeway like a highly civilized worm; however, in a much more comfortable invention – but I digress, sort of.

Well, as long as man can push buttons and flip switches we will erroneously classify ourselves civilized. As we know, the very first buildings of any impressive design were the temples; and all pagan peoples have had

temples! There have been the temples of the kings along the Nile River; Asher of Nineveh and Mardach-Baladin of Babylon and the ziggurats in the Tiger-Euphrates valley. There is Baal of the Phoenicians and Athena of the Greeks; Jupiter of the Romans and the Aztec's of Mexico. Those are all a direct manifestation of rebellion against the True and Living God. Some were very crude, and some are elaborate expressions of beauty; the Parthenon is an example of both.

That can all be traced back directly to the Tower of Babel – the defining monument of man's abject rejection of the True and Living God. Pagan temples have always been impressive, rich, elaborate, enormous and ornate; but they blend the highest intellectual expression with the lowest possible spiritual depravation – which creates what we have in modern churches. When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God but became vain in their imaginations changing the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made likened unto corruptible man such as birds, four-footed beasts and creeping things that creep. And God gave them up. Romans chapter one. The pagan man always wants to build a house for his gods to live in.

The temple in Jerusalem was not considered by Solomon as a house for God to dwell in. When we get over to second Chronicles where he dedicates the temple, he makes it abundantly clear God was not confined in the temple building. Solomon said the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain God. Those insisting Israel built a house that God dwelt in have simply missed the point. It was an approach for man to God and access for God to meet with man on terms of sacrifice, so man could understand and comprehend a holy and righteous God. We consider the conception, construction and the character of the temple in this section, and it is quite important.

1 Chronicles 28:2 Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building: 3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood ~

1 Chronicles 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. 10 Take heed now; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it. 11 Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat ~

1 Chronicles 28:19 All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern ~

The pattern and blueprint for the temple was originally given to King David – not to Solomon; and David received it in the written Mosaic Law. That is very important to understand, also. David was the one who gathered all the gold, silver and all other building materials required to construct the temple. David did everything *BUT* assemble the structure, as we can see. So, the conception is the design of David, and Solomon is merely executing the will of God that was first in his father’s heart to build....

5 And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.

6 Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.

7 And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people.

8 And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir.

9 My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household.

10 So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire.

11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year.

12 And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

13 And King Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.

14 And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses: a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home: and Adoniram was over the levy.

15 And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains;

16 Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work.

17 And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

VI

~ This chapter records the commencement of construction of the temple. Obviously, it was a tremendous enterprise. As we move along in the life of Solomon, we discover his building ambitions were just a bit too big; and the people were overtaxed as a result. The main evidence of decadence in modern man is seen in the number, size and décor of public buildings. Society is overtaxed to build them. The buildings today might be made of steel, but the men who occupy them are as weak as putty. Even the United States Navy admitted to having ships of steel with paper dolls sailing them. That's a direct quote. They had the same problem in Solomon's day: exquisite buildings made and used by weak men – including Solomon himself....

1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

2 And the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

3 And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

4 And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.

~ Notice the temple was twice as large as the tabernacle tent was – and three times taller. This building was smaller than most people realize, to be sure. In fact, it wasn't much larger than an oversized jewelry box. It has been compared to a diamond and a straw stack – the diamond is much

more valuable but much smaller. Furthermore, the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle had no light except the Shekinah Glory; Solomon installed narrow windows for light in the temple. They didn't let a lot of light in, but they did allow a little – meaning Solomon didn't depend on Divine Light alone – they were depending on natural, worldly outside light as a supplement.

Also, in Solomon's temple, the Cherubim's were made of olive trees – and they were impressive – but they weren't solid gold as they had been in the tabernacle. This reveals the deterioration in the ceremony, ritual and precedence of a proper, correct and complete observance of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law; which is why the temple will later be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. The temple of Zerubbabel will subsequently replace Solomon's temple until it is, likewise, destroyed and replaced by the temple of Herod in the days of Christ. This also speaks of the spiritual deterioration of the people, and Jehovah's condescension to it in grace. Even Herod's temple points to Christ, and Jesus says, *"destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."* The disciples thought Jesus was talking about the temple, but He was talking about the temple of His body. Naturally, the temple is equated with the body of Christ. I think this is all extremely remarkable, personally.

The construction of the temple consisted of a cedar roof lined with gold. It had a cypress floor carved throughout with cherubims, flowers and palm trees. It was surrounded by another three-story building where the priests lived during their tenure of service. Out front there was a portico that was half as long as a modern-day football field. Instead of one Brazen Altar, they have two very large altars. They had ten lamp stands and ten tables of showbread. What this indicates is a multiplication of the function for each article of furniture. The thirty thousand Israelites used for the labor pool were drafted into service along with one hundred fifty thousand Canaanites and five hundred fifty supervisors. We'll look closely at the meaning of the pillars in the next chapter; and they have an impressive spiritual message.

We have a very definite eschatological message in Solomon's temple. In all of its splendor, the temple is still far inferior to the tent-structure of the tabernacle. First of all, it's overly complicated. The simplicity of the original

tabernacle has been lost. In the New Testament, the temple is rejected, and the tabernacle is ALWAYS used as the type! See, we're living in a day when an emphasis in the church is placed on methods – and NOT on the Word of God. The church is overly-complicated with gimmicks and rules that were never given by God – just like this temple thing we're considering. Because of this, people aren't getting saved in our churches today....

5 And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:

6 The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

7 And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

8 The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber and out of the middle into the third.

9 So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.

10 And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

11 And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,

12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:

13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

14 So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

15 And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling: and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir.

16 And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place.

17 And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long.

18 And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen.

19 And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

20 And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar.

21 So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold.

22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

23 And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high.

24 And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits.

25 And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size.

26 The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub.

27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.

28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold.

29 And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without.

30 And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

31 And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall.

32 The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees.

33 So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall.

34 And the two doors were of fir tree: the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding.

35 And he carved thereon cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work.

36 And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid , in the month Zif:

38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this report going into detail about the temple; and I hope you took the time to read it all carefully. Go back and read it again now – if you really love Christ. The main idea is the inferiority of moving away from that which is simple and making it unrecognizably complicated. They moved away from that which had power and replaced it with that which does *NOTHING* for God. I hope you read this report very, very – *VERY* – carefully. Friends, when the church loses sight of the Word of God, they always replace it with complicated rules, rituals and methods – and other things. We need to get back to the Bible – it is what is important.

The labor Solomon used was cheap labor; although no slave labor was used in the temple. Most labor in the day in which we are studying – such as the pyramids – was slave labor. The number of people involved and the long period of construction for the pyramids tell us they were definitely government projects. Well, we’re coming back to this in the Book of Chronicles; but remember, it was David’s idea to build this temple to house the Ark of the Lord and as a place for Israel to approach God. However, it was not designed as a dwelling place for the Lord – as we emphasized in this report.

Let’s make sure we stick very close to the teaching of the Word of God because the Book of Kings will become intricately detailed and seriously complicated as we go forward. I have seen books on the tabernacle and temple that make a comparison. To me, they are impossible to read. Let’s

keep this simple, friends; what is set before us on safari is the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ – *NOTHING* else. Our expedition is *ONLY* to find Christ on every page of Scripture – and that isn't easy in this book, believe me....