

Sunday Evening Message Series

1st and 2nd Kings

Message Three – 1 Kings 5

September 17, 2023

Title – *The Building of the Temple – Preparations Made*

Text – 1st Kings 5

Scripture Reading 1 Kings 5

Introduction

We are continuing our study of the life of King Solomon and have seen so far that Solomon is doing well. He is humble, has received wisdom from the Lord, and thus far, he is making very wise decisions.

Here in chapter five, Solomon is beginning the preparations for building of the Temple. His father had already made many of the preparations, but here we see Solomon contracting with Hiram, the King of Lebanon, for the purchase of the timber and stone that will be used as building materials.

I. The Timing was Right (vs. 1 – 5)

Timing is important. Twelve years ago, we started the process of building an addition on to our church building. We had it in our hearts, but we needed to go through the process of prayer, planning, and preparations.

David went to the prophet and asked permission and the prophet even acquiesced to the idea, but God later rebuked him and told him to go back to David and tell him that he would not be the one to build the Temple (2 Samuel 7:1 – 21).

1 Chronicles 28 – 29 talks about the preparations and offerings that David made for the Temple. Even though God would not let him be the one to build it, he still did what he could to make it happen.

v. 1 – We see that David had already established a good relationship with Hiram:

"11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house." (2 Samuel 5:11)

vs. 2 – 4 - David wanted to build the Temple but was forbidden by God because of the wars that he had been involved in (1 Chronicles 28:2 – 6).

Solomon knew nothing of war, however. He had peace on all sides when he took over the kingdom.

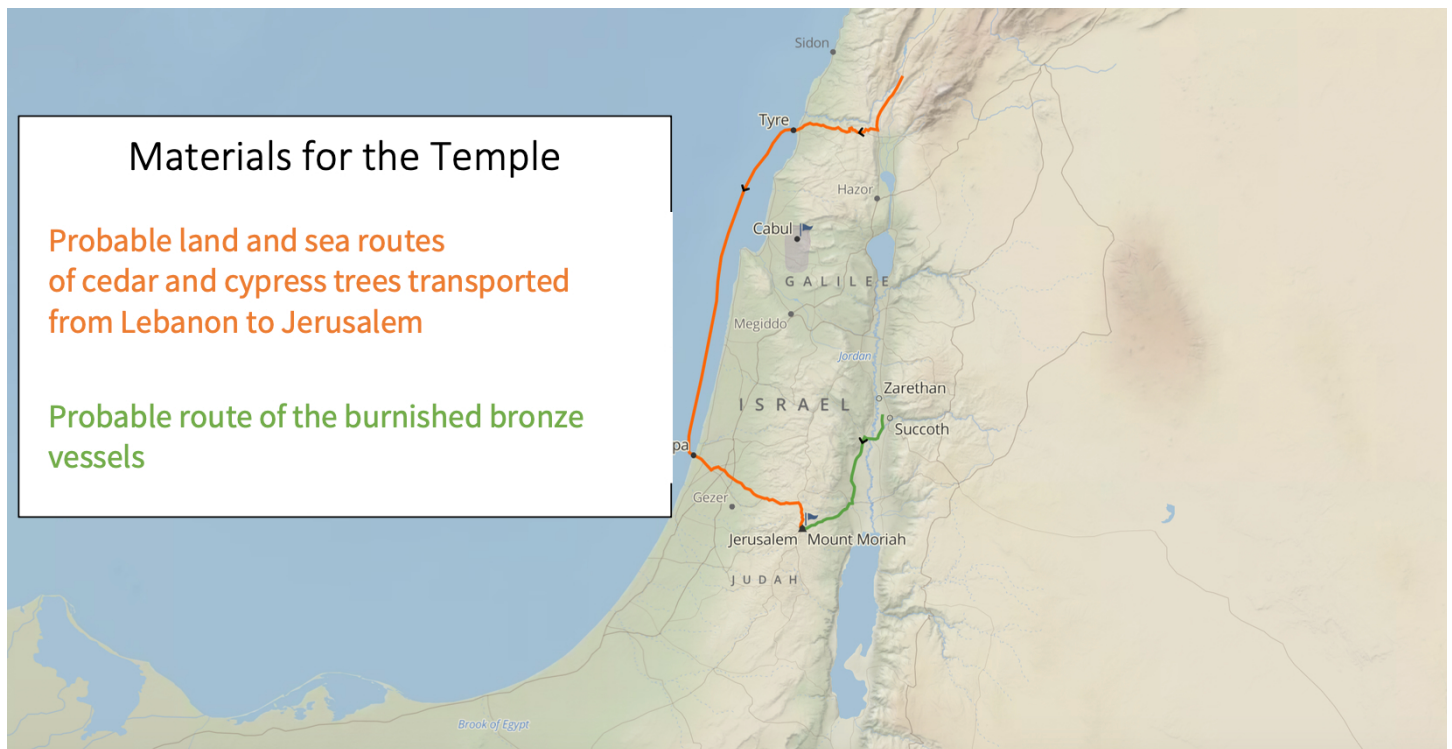
v. 5 - Notice that Solomon, like Daniel, purpose to fulfill God's will. Like Daniel, he lived his life on purpose.

II. The Contract was Signed (vs. 6 – 12)

Hiram had plenty of trees, but because it was mountainous and rocky area, he was unable to grow enough wheat for bread.

According to Ryrie: One measure = 6.25 bushels, or 58 gal.¹ This would make the yearly payment 120,000 bushels of wheat, and 120,000 gallons of oil.

v. 9 – See the Map - Notice how Hiram was going to deliver these trees (and stones). He was going to float them down the Mediterranean.



v. 12 – Notice another example of the application of God's wisdom in Solomon. He is at peace with his neighbors. He negotiates a deal that would benefit them both, which is very wise. It is unwise to make deals that exclusively benefit one side.

Illustrate – Before Bill Glazier from Shoprite moved on to a new position with another chain, he put our Saltwater Taffy on sale and in the ad. He didn't even ask us for a special price, but we gave it to him. It established a strong relationship with us that carried over to the next chain that worked for. Eventually, he became an owner of four stores in the

¹ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible: King James Version*, Expanded ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 539.

Philly area, and the relationship continued. We made money off him, and he made money off us.

Before we move on from this section, we should mention that the relationship with Hiram did not remain good (See 1 Kings 9:10 – 14). Apparently, Solomon was a little too extravagant with his own house, which took thirteen years to build, as opposed to the seven years it took to build the Temple. It seems he could not afford to continue paying Hiram in wheat and oil, so he gave him some cities, which belonged to the Lord, that were probably up near the borders of Israel and Tyre. Hiram called them “cabul” or worthless.

Wiersbe states: “Solomon exhibits in this incident some character traits that disturb us, including the extravagant cost of the “palace” that necessitated a loan, and then giving a friend poor collateral that wasn’t even his to give away. Humanly speaking, were it not for Hiram, the temple would not have been built, and this was no way for Solomon to treat a generous friend.”²

III. The Laborers were Hired (vs. 13 – 18)

A “levy” was a group of forced laborers. They were drafted to go to Tyre and help the Sidonians cut down the wood and transport them and the stones. These conscripted workers were apparently treated well, however. They worked one month and then had two months off.

The fact that they were forced, however, was perhaps the beginning of the problems that caused the civil war that would come later (See 1 Kings 12:1 – 17).

This is what Samuel warned them about in 1 Samuel 8:4 – 20.

When government gets bigger, the power that it exerts over the people gets bigger, and the amount of money it takes to support it gets bigger.

Conclusion

Solomon’s early reign was marked by wisdom, but as his kingdom grew, so did his ego, and his harsh treatment of both the people in his kingdom and his neighbors. Bad decisions have longstanding negative consequences. God’s wisdom is what made Solomon a great man in the early days but neglecting that wisdom and doing what he wanted instead of what God would want caused the beginning of his downfall.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Responsible*, “Be” Commentary Series (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 2002), 70.