

## I Kings - Lesson 05

I Kings Chapter 5

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Memory verses for this week: *Zec 9:15 The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar.*

**Introduction:** Last week we studied about the great wisdom that King Solomon was able to show during his reign as king. The queen of Sheba came and returned stating that his wisdom and power far exceeded what she had been told. Solomon's understanding of God far exceeded the thinking of the average person of that day. This week we will see the preparations made for building of the temple. Among the heathen pagan nations, many believed in local tribal gods, who were to be worshiped. Solomon had the biblical view of the unique one and only God. He did not believe that he could build a house that could contain God.

*2 Chronicles 2:5-6 And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods. But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?*

*2 Chronicles 6:18 But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!*

### I. LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP OF HIRAM

*1Ki 5:1 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.*

The king of Tyre, King Hiram and David had been friends. We know David had a desire to build the temple, but because of the blood on his hands God would not allow it. Earlier, David had gathered materials for the building of the Temple

*1Ch 22:1 Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.*

*1Ch 22:2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.*

*1Ch 22:3 And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails for the doors of the gates, and for the joinings; and brass in abundance without weight;*

*1Ch 22:4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.*

*1Ch 22:5 And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.*

No doubt this showed the love that David had for God. Though he couldn't build the house, at least he could prepare the materials needed. This furnishes a worthy example for us today. We may not be able to do a thing for God, but we should be willing to work with all our might to help someone else. By preparing the way, another may be able to do a great work for God. And this certainly was the case for David's son Solomon. We have record that King Hiram had helped in gathering supplies to build the temple there in verse 4 of I Chronicles 22.

*1Ch 22:4 Also cedar trees in abundance: for the Zidonians and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.*

The love King Hiram had for David motivated him to serve his son Solomon. He first sent servants to Solomon it say here in verse 1. In similar likeness, we as Christians will do likewise. If we love the FATHER we will serve the SON. Love is the greatest motivating force in the world. If we love God it will motivate us to obey Him and do His work.

*John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

*John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

## **II. SOLOMON'S PURPOSE AND MESSAGE**

*1Ki 5:2 And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying,*

*1Ki 5:3 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.*

Solomon reflects on the past with King Hiram by sending a message. He reflects on how David could not build the Temple.

*1Ch 22:6 Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the LORD God of Israel.*

*1Ch 22:7 And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God:*

*1Ch 22:8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.*

*1Ch 28:3 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.*

David had been a man of war which in God's eyes disqualified him from building this holy temple. We had better walk with God in such a manner that we do not disqualify ourselves from doing some work for the Lord. Many of God's men have disqualified themselves from the ministry by sin.

This is tragic in the light of the great need of workers. The repentant sin forsaking Christian can always find something they are qualified to do in the Lord's work. However to be a pastor there are specific requirements, and sometimes we can be disqualified from that role. Solomon then moves on to take a look at the present here beginning in verse 4.

Matthew Henry said this in his commentary about those sent to King Hiram from Solomon.

Solomon's embassy of business to Hiram, sent, it is likely, by messengers of his own. In wealth, honour, and power, Hiram was very much inferior to Solomon, yet Solomon had occasion to be beholden to him and begged his favour. Let us never look with disdain on those below us, because we know not how soon we may need them. Solomon, in his letter to Hiram, acquaints him, With his design to build a temple to the honour of God. Some think that temples among the heathen took their first rise and copy from the tabernacle which Moses erected in the wilderness, and that there were none before that; however there were many houses built in honour of the false gods before this was built in honour of the God of Israel, so little is external splendour a mark of the true church. Solomon tells Hiram, who was himself no stranger to the affair, That David's wars were an obstruction to him, that he could not build this temple, though he designed it, [1Ki 5:3](#).

They took up much of his time, and thoughts, and cares, were a constant expense to him and a constant employment of his subjects; so that he could not do it so well as it must be done, and therefore, it not being essential to religion, he must leave it to be done by his successor. See what need we have to pray that God will *give peace in our time*, because, in time or war, the building of the gospel temple commonly goes on slowly.

*1Ki 5:4 But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.*

*1Ki 5:5 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.*

Solomon tells of the promise that God would give peace which was fulfilled.

*1 Chronicles 22:9 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.*

We have "peace with God" through our salvation

*Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We can have the “peace of God” by walking with God in obedience.

*Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Solomon goes on to explain the purpose he had to obey the Lord there in verse 5. It was the Lord who said to David that his son would build an house unto my name.

*1Ki 5:6 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.*

In verse 6, Solomon makes a plea for help to King Hiram. He asks that they hew him cedar trees in Lebanon and his servants might work with Hiram's servants to accomplish the task. The skill of the Sidonians was well known about their ability to hew timber.

Adam Clarke said this about the skills of the Sidonians in hewing of the timber.

**Any that can skill to hew timber** - An obsolete and barbarous expression for any that know how to cut timber. They had neither sawyers, carpenters, joiners, nor builders among them, equal to the Sidonians. Sidon was a part of the territories of Hiram, and its inhabitants appear to have been the most expert workmen. It requires more skill to fell and prepare timber than is generally supposed.

1. Trees should be felled in autumn, or in the winter, and in the wane of the moon; for in this season the trees recover their vigor and solidity, which was dispersed among their leaves, and exhausted by their fruit, in spring and summer; they will then be free from a certain moisture, very apt to engender worms and rot them, which in autumn and winter is consumed and dried up.
2. Trees should not be cut down at once; they should be cut carefully round towards the pith, that the sap may drop down and distil away, and thus left till thoroughly dry, and then cut down entirely.

### III. HIRAM'S MESSAGE AND AGREEMENT WITH SOLOMON

*1Ki 5:7 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.*

King Hiram rejoiced when he heard the words of Solomon and he thanked God for giving King David such a wise son. Note that he calls God “the LORD,” which is His name as “Jehovah” which means “the existing One.” Apparently his long

association with David led to this knowledge of the true and living God.

*1Ki 5:8 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.*

*1Ki 5:9 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.*

*1Ki 5:10 So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire.*

So King Hiram and King Solomon create a trade agreement between them. Hiram would furnish labor and building materials. The cedar, scarlet and hyssop dipped in the blood were used for cleansing as is mentioned in Leviticus chapter 14.

*Lev 14:49 And he shall take to cleanse the house two birds, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:*

*Lev 14:50 And he shall kill the one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water:*

*Lev 14:51 And he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet, and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird, and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times:*

*Lev 14:52 And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, and with the running water, and with the living bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the scarlet:*

*Lev 14:53 But he shall let go the living bird out of the city into the open fields, and make an atonement for the house: and it shall be clean.*

Cedar has a unique aroma and is one of the longest lasting woods. The country of Lebanon had an abundance of cedar trees in those days. The men of Lebanon were famous for their skill with wood and stone.

*1Ki 5:11 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.*

*1Ki 5:12 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.*

In their agreement, Solomon would furnish food. According to verses 11 and 12, he would give 20,000 measures of wheat and 20 measure of pure oil to his household from year to year. Altogether, this came out to be approximately 125,000 bushels of wheat and approximately 1,200 gallons of pure olive oil. By working together, God furnished the kingdoms peace and wisdom. King Hiram and King Solomon made a league or treaty between them.

#### **IV. THE WORKMEN FOR THE JOB**

*1Ki 5:13 And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.*

*1Ki 5:14 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.*

King Solomon raised a levy through the nation and this brought out 30,000 Israelites to do the work. They were sent out by 10,000 per month and worked in Lebanon one month and came home two months. They were conscripted for the work. Those who do the Lord's work may expect to sacrifice.

*1Ki 5:15 And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains;*

*1Ki 5:16 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.*

*1Ki 5:17 And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house.*

*1Ki 5:18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.*

Verses 15-18 point out the large number of workers that were involved.

*2Ch 2:17 And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred.*

*2Ch 2:18 And he set threescore and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work.*

There were found 150,000 strangers in the land and they were put to work.

70,000 were used as burden wearers and 80,000 were skilled workers. Of course with this great number of works, there were officers put in charge.

King Solomon placed 3,300 over the strangers. There were a total of 550 Chiefs (1 Kings 9:23) of whom 250 were Israelites.

*1Ki 9:23 These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.*

## **V. PRACTICAL LESSONS**

In this chapter, we find some prophetic types. The riches of the gentiles were promised unto Israel.

*Isa 60:6 The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD.*

*Isa 54:3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.*

God is using all races today in His work.

We are to chose the choicest material. We should obtain the very best in whatever work we do for God. The best material should be used and the best talent should be sought out for the work of God.

We as Christians are now working on a building for God. We, the saints, are the choice talent.

*1Co 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:*

*1Co 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*

*1Co 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

\* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Sept. 2013.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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