
1 Kings 4 – 6

CHAPTER 4 — Solomon's Wisdom in Organizing His Kingdom

The previous chapter closed with the story of Solomon's great wisdom exercised in regards to the mothers contending over one baby. This chapter is still in context of illustrating the great wisdom that he had received from the Lord. The way he selected, trained, empowered, and supervised leaders is an example of the wisdom provided by God validated by verse 20: Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy. *1 Kings 4:20*



1 King Solomon was king over all Israel, 1 Kings 4:1-20

This means that the kingdom of Israel is still united.

2 and these were his high officials:

Solomon was a leader of leaders.

A good leader, a wise leader, sees needs and equips people to meet those needs and delegates responsibility and the authority to get the job done.

Azariah the son of Zadok was the priest; 3 Elihoreph and Ahijah the sons of Shisha were secretaries; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder; 4 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the army; Zadok and Abiathar were priests; 1 Kings 4:2-4

Solomon's had **officials** who served as "ministers" or "secretaries" over their specific areas of responsibility.

BIG IDEA HERE: *Solomon's leadership was organized.* He knew that God is a God of design and organization, and that things simply operate better and more efficiently when organized.

An organization or a business can be successful if it is managed and has efficient administration. In that realm organization and management rule! In that realm productivity is dependent upon ORG charts and 5 year plans. The Body of Christ and the local church are NOT ORGANIZATIONS — they are ORGANISMS. The saving of souls and the maturing of believers is the result of the LIFE of Jesus flowing **TO — IN — and THROUGH** men and women; having said that, living organisms NEED organization. Break life down to a single cell and you see that it is highly organized. We have a title that we bestow upon cellular life that is not organized — CANCER! We must never think that the great need of the church is to think and function more like Fortune 500 Companies. THE great NEED of the Church Universal and the church local is for the LIFE OF JESUS to be

manifested and expressed and experienced. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to ORGANIZE and ANOINT the laborers for the work of the Kingdom. It is the job of the Divinely appointed leaders of the local church to look to the Head of the Church and Chief Shepherd of the flock (Jesus) for WISDOM and VISION.

5Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan was priest and king's friend; 1 Kings 4:5

It's interesting that Nathan the prophet was the friend of the Shepherd king of Israel: David. Now Nathan's son, Zabud, is the friend of King Solomon.

What a great OFFICE to occupy! What a great TITLE for the Holy Spirit to have eternally attached to your name – the king's friend! More than pastor/teacher – THAT is the office that I want to occupy. If I could be known for anything, it would be this.... I was the KING'S friend.

Ahishar was in charge of the palace; and Adoniram the son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor. 7Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household. Each man had to make provision for one month in the year. 8These were their names: 1 Kings 4:1-20

Their names are listed in *1 Kings 4:8-19*.

KEY OBSERVATION: In VERSE 1-19 we see Church leadership pictured. We see ONE KING. There is ONLY ONE KING over the Church... Jesus Christ... He is the HEAD of the Church.

Under the King we see a small group of men called princes (Ruler or steward... overseers) they are set up to carry out the work of the king. These would parallel the overseers or pastors of the New Testament.

Under them were 12 officers who provided food for the table, the practical aspects of ministry. This speaks of deacons.

20Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy. 21 Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life. 22 Solomon's provision for one day was thirty cors (A cor was about 6 bushels or 220 liters) of fine flour and sixty cors of meal, 23ten fat oxen, and twenty pasture-fed cattle, a hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened fowl. 24For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphseh to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And he had peace on all sides around him. 25And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon. 26Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. 27And those officers supplied provisions for King Solomon, and for all who came to King Solomon's table, each one in his month. They let nothing be lacking. 28Barley also and straw for the horses and swift steeds they brought to the place where it was required, each according to his duty. 1 Kings 4:20-28

KEY OBSERVATION: We see PEACE and PROSPERITY.

KEY INSIGHT: Solomon was not a warrior or a general. This peace was achieved by King David and was enjoyed by King Solomon. This PEACE and PROSPERITY was based upon the war and the shedding of blood that preceded Solomon in the life of David.

HERE'S THE PICTURE:

We have PEACE concerning our past and our future.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.

1 Peter 1:4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

2 Peter 1:3 called us to his own glory and excellence,

We have PROSPERITY (of soul).....ABUNDANT LIFE!

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us..... with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...

The Christian enjoys this PEACE and PROSPERITY because Jesus Christ, who is the Son of David went to war on our behalf and shed His blood on our behalf. THAT is why we WORSHIP the Lord and LOVE the Lord so much.

25And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon. 26Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. 27And those officers supplied provisions for King Solomon, and for all who came to King Solomon's table, each one in his month. They let nothing be lacking. 28Barley also and straw for the horses and swift steeds they brought to the place where it was required, each according to his duty. 1 Kings 4:25-28

This is a beautiful PROPHETIC PEAK into the millennium.

Micah 4:4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

When Jesus comes back there will be GLOBAL reality to this prophecy not only INWARDLY and SPIRITUALLY, but LITERALLY in the PHYSICAL world as well.

29And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore,. 1 Kings 4:29

KEY INSIGHT: Many times as we grow wiser, knowledge tends to make us proud.

1 Cor 8:1 KJV ...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

Often times the MORE we know the COLDER we become.

KEY APPLICATION: When we gather to study the Word, we should pray: "Lord do NOT allow me to become cold, but Lord, give me LARGENESS OF HEART.

1 Cor 13:2 And though I have.... all knowledge..... and have not charity, I am nothing.

30so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations. 1 Kings 4:30-31

Ethan is the author of Psalm 89 and Heman the author of Psalm 88.

32He also spoke 3,000 proverbs,

(Try making up ONE proverb that is worth writing down.)

and his songs were 1,005.

Solomon was a PROLIFIC song writer, but Only 1 was a hit: Song of Solomon.

INTERESTING: Solomon composed many songs but few psalms. By contrast, his dad was known as the "sweet psalmist of Israel." *2 Samuel 23:1* The fact that Solomon was prolific in wisdom and music but pathetic in psalms is symptomatic of Solomon's inferior relationship to God compared to his father David.

33He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. 34And people of all nations came to hear the Wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom. 1 Kings 4:33-34

He was a BOTANIST, a ZOOLOGIST, an ORNTHOLOGIST (study of birds), an ENTYMOLOGIST, and an ICHTEOLOGIST

CHAPTER 5 – The Preparations for the Construction of the Temple *1 Kings 5*

1 Now Hiram king of Tyre 1 Kings 5:1-3

Russel Dilday, the author of, "Communicator's Commentary: I & II Kings" wrote, "Hiram is an abbreviation of Ahiram which means 'Brother of Ram,' or 'My brother is exalted,' or 'Brother of the lofty one.' . . . Archaeologists have discovered a royal sarcophagus in Byblos of Tyre dated about 1200 B.C. inscribed with the king's name, 'Ahiram.' Apparently it belonged to the man in this passage."

sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David.

We find the first mention of Hiram back in 2 Samuel 5:11: And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. *2 Samuel 5:11*

2And Solomon sent word to Hiram,

Again from Russell Dilday, "According to Josephus, copies of such a letter along with Hiram's reply were preserved in both Hebrew and Tyrian archives and were extant (still in existence; surviving) in his day (Antiquities, 8.2.8)."

3“You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. 1 Kings 5:3

This is HUGE: Tyre was historically pagan. We find numerous prophetic pronouncements of judgment upon Tyre in the Book of Ezekiel. Even more amazing is that in Ezekiel 28 in the context of speaking about the human ruler of Tyre in the day of Ezekiel. God pulls back the veil to show the spiritual powers behind the human throne. By way of Ezekiel God shows that behind the ruler of Tyre was a personage.

Ezekiel 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;

This personage pre-existed the city of Tyre.

Ezekiel. 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created...

This personage was not born – he was created.

All of this identifies the spiritual power at work behind the throne of Tyre and Sidon as none other than Satan himself. Bearing in mind the obvious pagan and demonic influences of Tyre, we are told that David spoke to Hiram about the God of Israel and the desire that he had to build a house for the One, True and living God! One might think Hiram could not understand or even be interested in such things. But David spoke to Hiram about those things freely as if Hiram were already an Israelite. What a great example for us.

KEY INSIGHT: This chapter deals with Solomon’s work in preparing to build the Temple. But we are told in *1 Chronicles 22:4* that David was so interested in this work that he had already gathered many of the material necessary for the construction of the Temple.

4But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side. There is neither adversary nor misfortune. 1 Kings 5:4-5

The word “adversary” here is literally Satan. The Latin Vulgate translates this, “nor a Satan.”

5And so I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to David my father, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name. 1 Kings 5:5

VERSE 5 KJV, I PURPOSE IN MY HEART

CRUCIAL INSIGHT: THAT is where everything begins in life... When you **PURPOSE IN YOUR HEART** to do something.

KEY QUESTION: What is YOUR purpose in life? Solomon definitely **KNEW** his purpose - I purpose to build a house and his whole life focused on that, a house for the name of the Lord my God. Solomon did not build a temple for a name – but for a living God.

Solomon also used this phrase because Solomon didn’t think the temple would be the house of God in the way pagans thought that the temples housed their pagan gods. To say – for the name of the **LORD**’ is not the same as ‘for the **LORD**.’ Solomon knew that the heaven of heavens could not contain Him, much less this house which he was about to build.”

6Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. 1 Kings 5:6

We read of the Cedars of Lebanon 10 times in the Old Testament. The cedar trees of Lebanon were legendary for their beauty and strength of their wood.

As Russell Dilday notes in his commentary, “The people of Tyre and Sidon were legendary as timber craftsmen. This is a fact substantiated on the famous Palermo Stone. Its inscription from 2200 B.C. tells us about timber-carrying ships that sailed from Byblos to Egypt. The skill of the Sidonians was expressed in their ability to pick the most suitable trees, know the right time to cut them, fell them with care, and then properly treat the logs.”

I mention this because it speaks of how Solomon wanted to build the temple out of the best of materials and with the most skillful craftsmen. THAT is what God deserves from His people - the FIRST and the BEST not the leftovers and the poorest quality.

And my servants will join your servants, and I will pay you for your servants such wages as you set, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.” 1 Kings 5:6

There are some people who say, “I will ONLY do business with Christians.... I will only go to a Christian mechanic or go to a Christian builder or do business with a Christian banker.” I ENCOURAGE the Body to support one another. BUT it is NOT wrong to buy a car from/ shop in a store owned by/ have a house built by an unbeliever.

NOTE: Solomon recognized that the Sidonians were the BEST craftsmen available and so he took advantage of their abilities, even though they were NOT believers. We are not to be ISOLATIONIST as believers. Jesus said – Let your light so shine before men that they might see YOUR good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

I think of Danny Donnelly mastering projects in L.A. owned by unbelievers. They have mastered projects for the greatest musical acts on the planet. They are the Sidonians of the recording industry. As a result projects that Danny produces for the likes of Sheri Youngward or Scott Cunningham – music made for Jesus – gets the best final touch. AND – Danny has so gotten under their skin that when they moved into a new building they were stoked that Danny’s project was the first project they were mastering in their new facility. They had him cut the ribbon to open it. I think of Aaron Redfield doing session work for and with unbelievers.

While in a session some well known TV and movie people were there. He made it known that he was a Christian and they were stunned. They laughed thinking he was joking with them. When he said he was serious they couldn’t believe that a guy of his abilities and personality could actually be a committed Christian. BY the end of the day they asked him to tag along with them so they could talk to him some more about his faith.

7As soon as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, “Blessed be the Lord this day, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people.” 1 Kings 5:7

We can’t say if Hiram was a saved man, but he certainly respected the God of Israel – NO DOUBT due to love that David had for the Lord. REMEMBER YESTERDAY in our study of John 1:36 – John the Baptizer was staring at Jesus. We noted that John pointed people to Jesus by virtue of staring at Jesus himself. Hiram saw David facing the Lord!

8And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, "I have heard the message that you have sent to me. I am ready to do all you desire in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. 9My servants shall bring it down to the sea from Lebanon, and I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you direct. And I will have them broken up there, and you shall receive it. And you shall meet my wishes by providing food for my household." 10So Hiram supplied Solomon with all the timber of cedar and cypress that he desired, 11while Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 cors of wheat as food for his household, and 20,000 cors of beaten oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. 12And the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. And there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty. 1 Kings 5:7-12

INTERSTING: The Tabernacle in the wilderness was built only by the descendants of Abraham. But Solomon was willing to build this great temple to God with "Gentile" wood and using "Gentile" labor. WHY? Because the LIVING TEMPLE of God would be made up of and built up by Jews and Gentiles!

Ephesians 2:12-14 12remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility.... and Ephesians 19-22 19So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

We are now FITTED together side by side to make up the Body of Christ.

13King Solomon drafted forced labor out of all Israel, and the draft numbered 30,000 men. 14And he sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in shifts. They would be a month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the draft. 15Solomon also had 70,000 burden-bearers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hill country, 16besides Solomon's 3,300 chief officers who were over the work, who had charge of the people who carried on the work. 1 Kings 5:13-16

KEY OBSERVATION: Here is the TEAM, and in it there is great application for Metro at this present time. Seventy-thousand burden-bearers – A burden bearer is a great picture of an intercessor. It is the one who bares burdens to the Lord in prayer. I pray that the Lord will raise up an ARMY of them in light of:

- The continuing development and growth of ministry here.
- The sending out of people into our local mission field by way of Community Groups
- The potential move and development of a new facility.

We NEED prayer warriors who bare the burdens to Christ in prayer... Who will say:

"Lord - I give You permission to wake me up at 3:00a.m., or to cause me to get away at lunch break and pray for the needs of our fellowship."

NOTE: Prayer is a ministry that ANYONE can undertake, yet it is the most neglected. We have a PRAYER CHAIN manned by men and women. We have the WOMEN'S MINISTRY'S prayer groups. WE HAVE the SATURDAY NIGHT AND MONDAY AFTERNOON prayer meetings.

Here we see 80,000 men cutting away... chipping away/ As the New Testament speaks of us as being LIVING STONES – This is a very appropriate picture of teaching and discipling. The end result of the teaching of the Word should be that lives are shaped by the Word AND men and women are equipped to be STONE CUTTERS

such as:

- Teaching in Children’s Church – shaping those little stones
- Leading in the Men’s and Women’s Ministry study groups.
- Leading in Community Groups.

17At the king’s command they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. 1 Kings 5:17

A FEW THOUGHTS HERE

1.) This speaks to the way we should work for God. The foundation stones would never been seen by man! Whatever we do FOR the Lord should be done with excellence –undertaken with the FIRST and BEST of our time, talent and money. But – we should also desire to excel, not only in what can be seen by man – but in the areas of our lives that are hidden.

Man is concerned with EXTERNALS – God is concerned with the heart – with unseen foundations. Remember the parable given by Jesus of the two houses? One man dug deep and built his house on bedrock and another man built his house on sand. The second man’s house may have been more beautiful on the exterior than the first man’s. But what mattered at the end of the day was the diligent labor of the first man in the unseen part of his house.

2.) This speaks to the way God works in us.

He works in the deep and hidden things when others are concerned with mere appearances. “We have been the subjects of a great deal of secret, unseen, underground work. The LORD has spent upon us a world of care. My brother, you would not like to unveil those great searchings of heart of which you have been the subject. You have been honored in public; and, if so, you have had many a whipping behind the door lest you should glory in your flesh . . . All those chastenings, humblings, and searchings of heart have been a private laying of foundations for higher things.” (by Charles Spurgeon)

3.) This speaks to the way God builds the church.

God does not want believers having lives that are a mile wide and an inch deep. He wants to do a work of deep, strong foundations. DEEPER is a word that God has brought to my ears on more than one occasion these past few weeks.

Charles Spurgeon wrote, “Twenty thousand people, all merely professing faith, but having no energetic life, may not have grace enough among them to make twenty solid believers. Poor, sickly believers turn the church into a hospital, rather than a camp.”

CHAPTER 6 – The Construction of the Temple 1 Kings 6

1In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, 1 Kings 6:1

TIME STAMP: The dating given in 1 Kings 6:1 also gives a dating for the Exodus. It is believed that the reign of Solomon began in 971 B.C. and ended at 913 B.C. (the temple was begun in 967 B.C.). This means that

the Exodus took place in 1447 B.C. This marking point shows just how long Israel lived in the Promised Land without a temple. The tabernacle served the nation well for more than 400 years. The temple was built prompted more at the direction and will of God than out of absolute necessity.

he began to build the house of the Lord.

KEY INSIGHT: The work was carefully organized and planned even before Solomon became king.

1 Chronicles 28:11-12 Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat; 12and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the Lord, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts;

1 Kings never tells us exactly where the temple was built, but the writer of 2 Chronicles tells us that it was built on Mount Moriah (*2 Chronicles 3:1*), the same place where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac and - where Jesus would be sacrificed.

Solomon had the PLANS and the MATERIALS. We saw Solomon PURPOSE IN HIS HEART to build the Temple (Chapter 5:5) but there came a point in time when he HAD to BEGIN to build it

NOTE: The roads to and from Bible conferences, to and from Bible studies, are FILLED with people who PURPOSED but NEVER BEGAN. They sit and purpose in their heart, but somewhere along the way it dissolves. There are MANY TREADMILLS that are bought, but NEVER used.

Alexander the Great was asked HOW he conquered the world by the age of 33. He answered - "By not delaying." He PURPOSED and he BEGAN.

KEY APPLICATION: You must PURPOSE and BEGIN that which God has spoken to you. What is it that God has spoken to YOU tonight? When you are sitting in a Bible study, it should be a CONTINUAL time of prayer - "Lord I don't understand that. OR - Lord, give me application for that." You need to begin to do it tonight.

2The house that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. 3The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house. 4And he made for the house windows with recessed frames. 5He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running around the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary. And he made side chambers all around. 6The lowest story was five cubits broad, the middle one was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad. For around the outside of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house. 1 Kings 6:2-6

Assuming that the ancient cubit was approximately 18 inches (perhaps one-half meter), this means that the temple proper was approximately 90 feet (30 meters) long, 30 feet (10 meters) wide and 45 feet (15 meters) high. This was not especially large as ancient temples go, but the glory of Israel's temple was not in its size. Allowing for the outside storage rooms, the vestibule, and the estimated thickness of the walls, the total size of the structure was perhaps 75 cubits long (110 feet, 37 meters) and 50 cubits wide (75 feet, 25 meters). The dimensions of the temple also tell us that it was built on the same basic design as the tabernacle - only twice as large. Solomon saw the temple to be a continuation of the tabernacle.

7When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built. 1 Kings 6:7

KEY OBSERVATION: The stones used to build the temple were all cut and prepared at another site. All of the cutting and carving was done in the quarries.

What a trip it must have been to see all of the pieces come together without noise because all of the cutting was done in the pits. THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT PICTURES OF THE Old Testament. This speaks to us of God's work in the Church preparing us and fitting us for heaven!

Adam Clarke said, "But why is this so particularly marked? Is it not because the temple was a type of the kingdom of God; and the souls of men are to be prepared here for that place of blessedness? There, there is no preaching, exhortations, repentance, tears, cries, nor prayers; the stones must be all squared and fitted here for their place in their New Jerusalem."

"Quarry" is used in the English Standard Version, but the King James Version uses the word, "pits." This world IS the PITS. This is the place where all of the chipping and carving and cutting are taking place so that when we get together in heaven there will be NO more grinding or rubbing.

8The entrance for the lowest story was on the south side of the house, and one went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle story to the third. 9So he built the house and finished it, and he made the ceiling of the house of beams and planks of cedar. 10He built the structure against the whole house, five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar. 1 Kings 6:8-10

We will see that the Temple was built in 7 years.

11Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon, 12"Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. 13And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel." 1 Kings 6:11-13

While Solomon is busy building the Lord calls Solomon back to the all-important reality.

12"Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them,...

NOTE WELL: "Solomon - I am not so much concerned with what you are building as I am with what YOU are becoming." God did NOT say – "Keep building... Speed up the project." God was concerned about Solomon more than the project.

The application for this is huge. Many times when people ask me, "How are you doing" I respond by telling them WHAT I am doing. THAT is NOT the main issue with God.

KEY APPLICATION: I do NOT care WHAT you are doing or HOW you got there. IF you did NOT get there by being more like Jesus, THEN you are wrong. NEVER mistake ACTIVITY and MINISTRY for what is happening INTERNALLY... for how are you and the Lord doing.

14So Solomon built the house and finished it.... 37In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid, in the month of Ziv. 1 Kings 6:14

We are NOT going to look at the Temple in depth. Though the Temple spiritually speaks of the Church, it is NOT as significant as the TABERNACLE because the Tabernacle is that which speaks of Jesus... NOT the

Temple. The Book of Hebrews speaks of the TABERNACLE as referring to Jesus – the TENT and NOT the Stone building.

CHAPTER 7 *1 Kings 7*

1Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished his entire house. 1 Kings 7:1

Solomon spent almost TWICE as long on his house as on the Lord's. There are two possible explanations:

- 1.) He was so busy working on the Temple that he took much longer on his own*
- 2.) He was more into his own house than the Lord's*

We'll see the answer as we continue our study.