



1 Kings 7

Related Topics: Building the House of the Lord; Haggai; Priorities; Values; Divided Heart; Seek first the Kingdom of God; Foundations; Established and Strengthened by God; Pillars of the Church; God's Use of What We Give

CHAPTER SEVEN

1Solomon was building his own house thirteen years,

1 Kings 6:38 tells us that Solomon spent 7 years building the temple, but here we learn that he spent 13 years building his house.

There are two takes on this contrast.

FIRST:

The speed in which Solomon completed the House for the Name of the Lord was due to His zeal for the Lord. At this time, Solomon is at the height of his personal relationship with the Lord, so that when he came to the building of the Temple, he had an urgency to complete the house of the Lord. But when it came to his own house, Solomon had little urgency to complete it. Thus it took him almost twice as long.

Other practical considerations help keep Solomon in this light. The much longer period required to build Solomon's royal palace can be accounted for by virtue of the scope and dimension of that project in comparison with the overall size of the Temple.

Also, the seven years for the actual construction of the Temple fail to take into account the years consumed in the preparations and provisions for the work made, both by David and Solomon, for a long time beforehand.

SECOND:

The temple was glorious, but it seems that Solomon wanted a house that was more glorious than the temple. Verses 7:1b -12 describes what a magnificent house Solomon had.

and he finished his entire house. 2He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon. Its length was a hundred cubits and its breadth fifty cubits and its height thirty cubits, and it was built on four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams on the pillars. 3And it was covered with cedar above the chambers that were on the forty-five pillars, fifteen in each row.

The forty-five pillars set in the House of the Forest of Lebanon also gave the impression of being in a majestic forest.

4There were window frames in three rows, and window opposite window in three tiers. 5All the doorways and windows had square frames, and window was opposite window in three tiers. 6And he made the Hall of Pillars; its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth thirty cubits. There was a porch in front with pillars, and a canopy in front of them. 7And he made the Hall of the Throne where he was to pronounce judgment, even the Hall of Judgment. It was finished with cedar from floor to rafters. 8His own house where he was to dwell, in the other court back of the hall, was of like workmanship. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter whom he had taken in marriage. 9All these were made of costly stones, cut according to measure, sawed with saws, back and front, even from the foundation to the coping, and from the outside to the great court. 10The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones, stones of eight and ten cubits. 11And above were costly stones, cut according to measurement, and cedar. 12The great court had three courses of cut stone all around, and a course of cedar beams; so had the inner court of the house of the Lord and the vestibule of the house.

KEY OBSERVATION:

At the end of the detailed, magnificent description of Solomon's palace, the writer also mentions that some of the great architectural features of the palace were also used in the house of the LORD. We are left with the idea that as great as the temple was, Solomon's palace was better – and it said something about his values.

QUOTE: G. Campbell Morgan

"It does show the place which his own personal comfort and luxurious tastes had come to occupy in the life of Solomon . . . It is often by such simple, and unexpected tests, that the deepest facts of a human life are revealed."

Which of these is true regarding Solomon? We don't know. And I have to say that I am so glad that God knows and it isn't for me to decide! But the fact that there exists the possibility of conflicting motives ought to speak volumes to us.

Crucial Application: Reality is that we daily face the challenge of having a divided heart.

Psalms 86 is titled "A Prayer of David." In it he prays (v.11) *"Unite my heart to fear Your Name."* The "man after God's own heart" understood that the world, the flesh and the devil were constantly vying for the affection of his heart. Jesus said in Luke 12:34 *34For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

You will always spend and be spent for that which you truly value!

If you have ever travelled in Europe you no doubt came across some magnificent cathedrals. An example is St. Peter's Basilica. We cannot even begin to comprehend the construction of that building without powerful, modern machinery, without powerful computers doing the calculations for the countless complexities of design and structure. And then there was the genius and labor involved in the art and sculptures (the painstaking care in the sense of proportion in the sculptures so that the highest sculpture looked the same size as the lowest one.)

While everyone else was going on and on about the aberrant doctrine within the Catholic church and the way they extorted money from men and women to build it. I could only think of how this was for many poor men and women, who could never dream of living in such spectacular places, a labor of love.

When their most magnificent buildings were churches, it said something about their values.

Our most magnificent buildings in the modern world are usually given over to business, shopping, or entertainment. This says something about our values. Please do not misunderstand me, this is not about buildings. It is about values.

Later on, the Prophet Haggai comes on the scene. Solomon's Temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians and they are now back from captivity in Babylon. Under the leadership of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai and Zechariah they undertook to rebuild the city and the temple. Most of the Jews didn't even leave Babylon to participate in the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple. They had done well for themselves in Babylon and didn't want to leave.

Many of those who did return to Jerusalem had become so concerned with the building of their own homes that they ignored the rebuilding of the Temple.

Haggai 1:3-10 3Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the proph-et, 4"Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? 5Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. 6You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. 7"Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. 8Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the Lord. 9You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house.

In the New Testament, the "House of the Lord" is not a physical structure. It is the Church / church, the Body of Christ around the world and the local church. In our cultural, context part of that work involves a building. It involves the leading of the redeemed in the worship of the redeemer. It involves sowing the Word of God as much and as often and in as many ways as possible.

We are to be diligent to take care of the Lord's house first and foremost

Mat 6:31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

How about you and me? Have we allowed the Holy Spirit to search us out and then be able to say, "Lord, I am seeking first your Kingdom."

If you are putting your house before God's, then you will find your life being frustrated and your house will be mess.

9All these were made of costly stones, cut according to measure, sawed with saws, back and front, even from the foundation to the coping, and from the outside to the great court. 10The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones, stones of eight and ten cubits.

Again take note, these stones were huge and costly even though they were unseen. They were necessary and important to provide the base and stability for what would be built on top of it. In the Kingdom of God, it is the unseen things that are crucial to the rest of what takes place in our lives. It is the time when nobody else sees you, your time alone with God. Your time away from the eyes of the rest of the Body of Christ. These things are costly. They are huge in their significance.

11And above were costly stones, cut according to measurement, and cedar. 12The great court had three courses of cut stone all around, and a course of cedar beams; so had the inner court of the house of the Lord and the vestibule of the house.

In the New Testament we are told that Jesus is the foundation for His Church.

1 Cor. 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

And we are also told that we are like living stones.

1 Peter 2:4-6 4As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

Here's the picture, you and I are costly stones! Worthless and wretched in and of our selves, but precious and valuable because of the price paid for us!

God is the master builder. He has made no mistake in the choice of the stones He has quarried from the miry clay. He knows exactly what He intends to build of us individually and corporately. We can be absolutely certain that the living stones He has quarried and shaped will be brought to the building site and built into it. No one will ever be able to say of God that He began to build but wasn't able to finish. Our God knows how to fashion every stone for its place and purpose. Our God will bring every one of those stones to the place for which he repaired it and for the purpose He's prepared it.

REST IN THIS -

Phil. 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Rev. 3:12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God.

13And King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. 14He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze. And he was full of wisdom, understanding, and skill for making any work in bronze. He came to King Solomon and did all his work.

15He cast two pillars of bronze. Eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured its circumference. It was hollow, and its thickness was four fingers. The second pillar was the same...

This is not the King Hiram we read about. This Hiram is a skilled craftsman that is greatly involved in the building that Solomon undertook. Here we see him constructing 2 pillars of brass that were each 27 ft. high

21He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the temple. He set up the pillar on the south and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the north and called its name Boaz. 22And on the tops of

the pillars was lily-work. Thus the work of the pillars was finished.

JACHIN = He shall establish

BOAZ = In Him is strength

Awesome, these pillars set them in the right frame of mind to worship the LORD. When the crowds gathered at the morning and evening sacrifice to worship the LORD, the Levites led the people standing in front of the temple with these two great, bronze pillars behind them. It was always before them: He Shall Establish and In Him Is Strength.

HERE'S THE PICTURE:

1. One could say that the house of God itself was Jachin and Boaz. That temple was established by God, and built by the strength of God. Every time they looked at that temple, they knew that God liked to establish and strengthen things. So too, the Church (uppercase C) is established by Jesus (I will build MY church). Jesus is the foundation and cornerstone of the Church. So too, the church (lowercase c) is established and strengthened.
2. It is in the house of God, in the place of personal and corporate worship that the people were established in their relationship with God. So too, it is in the local church in the context of personal and corporate worship, where people are established and given strength from the LORD. From there they go out established and with foundations into to the whole community as to live lives of worship and to live as witnesses for the Lord. From lives established and strengthened they can say to their mission field, "Come here and get established. Come here and receive the strength of God."
3. The Scriptures tell us that we are the temple of God. God has provided His Church with pillars. *Gal. 2:9 NLTJames, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church,*

Such people are the elements that add tremendous strength and stability to the fellowships of believers around the world

23Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

This was a great round basin (NLT) that was 7.5 ft. high x 15 ft. across x 45 ft. in circumference. It was used by the priests to wash their hands before they went to minister the things of the Lord.

The round basin that was in the Tabernacle was much smaller. All of the things of the Tabernacle were much simpler than that of the Temple. By way of reminder, that round basin was made up of women's mirrors that were brought out of Egypt. At one time they had used those mirrors to comb their hair and look at their appearances. But they gave them to make the laver in the Tabernacle so that when the priests looked into that brass wash basin the priests could see where they needed to be cleaned up.

25It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward. 26Its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held two thousand baths.

2,000 baths is generally calculated to be about 11,500 gallons. (Patterson and Austel)

The water was evidently changed continually. Who changed this massive amount of water? Remember the

Gibeonites? They were the people who deceived Joshua and the Israelites into making a peace treaty with them after the Israelites had come into the Promised Land.

Josh 9:21 And the leaders said to them, "Let them live." So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

Josh 9:23 Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God."

27He also made the ten stands of bronze. Each stand was four cubits long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high...

4 cubits = approx. 6 sq.ft.

3 cubits = approx. 4.5 sq.ft

30Moreover, each stand had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and at the four corners were supports for a basin. The supports were cast with wreaths at the side of each.... 38And he made ten basins of bronze. Each basin held forty baths, each basin measured four cubits, and there was a basin for each of the ten stands. 39And he set the stands, five on the south side of the house, and five on the north side of the house. And he set the sea at the southeast corner of the house.

Not only was there this huge brass sea that contained almost 12,000 gallons of water, there were portable tanks containing about 250 gallons of water

Don't miss this, water was present in prolific quantities within the House of the Lord. Here's the picture, water is a type or picture of the Word of God. Especially in it's cleansing work.

Psalms 119:9 KJV Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Eph. 5:25-27 25Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

The Word should be present in a prolific way in the Church / church.

40Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished all the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of the Lord:

Hiram finished all of the work on the Temple.

From here through VERSE 51 describes the various tools of the Temple

51Thus all the work that King Solomon did on the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and the vessels, and stored them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord.

1 Chronicles tells us of the materials gathered by David for the construction of the Temple.

1 Chr 29:2-5 2So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. 3Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God: 43,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house, 5and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?"

The Holy Spirit gives to us this detailed list of what David provided for the building of the House of the Lord. Yet when the Holy Spirit gives to us the detailed account of the building of the Temple and the construction of the furnishing there is no mention of anything made of iron!

David gathered a great deal of iron that was never used.

Here's the picture, many times we will go to a great effort to do something as unto the Lord or by way of great sacrifice give something for the ministry, but for some reason or another it will not be utilized.

We must remember that the things that we do for the Lord or give to the Lord are used at his discretion! Used by the Lord, in the Lord's timing, and by his will.

I might do many things or make available many things to the Lord. God may or may not utilize them. But that is his thing. He is the Lord and I am the servant. You might say, "I've trained and prepared this area of my life, but why isn't the Lord using it?" That is up to Jesus! It is up to you and me to do the best that we can and make it available to Him. What He chooses to do with it is his responsibility

That is an important principle! If you fail to get your heart around that you will meet with tremendous frustration and potentially cause problems.

- "But I wrote this song"
- "How come Danny never lets me share it?"
- "I play_ _ _ _"
- "How come I'm not in the Monday night band?"
- *"But I'm called to teach, how come Richard never let's me teach?"

Frustrated in your own worship while Danny's leading, you can't get to the throne because your thinking of how he hasn't given you the shot to play or share. Frustrated in your ability to hear and receive from the Word, if some one other than you gets the call to teach. Rather than hearing and receiving, you're critiquing and concluding that that guy's not so hot as a teacher and you could do better. This causes problems because it is rare that our frustrations don't get expressed to others. It is rare that our frustrations don't get noticed by others. And then you drag others into your frustration

NOTE: When you write that song or study the Word, the Lord sees that effort and will reward you for that effort. But it is up to the Lord to use you and your efforts however He sees fit.

