

1. At the end of his life, David calls the kingdom's officials together. He exhorts Solomon publicly and then gives him the plans to build the Temple. Solomon now begins the details of collecting resources and workers.
2. The construction project is a huge undertaking that requires lumberjacks, stonemasons, and laborers, who are under the authority of 3,300 chief deputies. King Solomon is the Chief Architect and Project Manager.
3. "The stones were cut offsite, then carefully transported to the construction site to be assembled. The silence was to emphasize the importance of the work and show reverence and respect to the process and to the One who would be dwelling in the temple when it was finished." – Jacob Iverson, E2E Book 8, Lesson 84
4. Solomon's crowning achievement is the completion of the Temple. It is magnificent and considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. God designed it as a physical representation of the Glory of YHWH on earth. Without God's presence, it would be just another building.
5. The Ark of the Covenant is brought into the inner sanctuary in the Temple referred to as the "Most Holy Place." The Ark is placed under cherubim that were made to resemble God's Throne Room in Heaven.
6. After the priests leave the Holy Place, the presence of the Lord fills the Temple in a cloud in a physical manifestation of the Glory of God.
7. In John 2, when Jesus says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," the leaders think He is referring to the physical structure of the Temple. Jesus is actually speaking prophetically about His upcoming death and resurrection, the ultimate Temple reconstruction.

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Taste and See
There is One Gospel
Only A Holy God
Crown Him (Majesty)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

When Jesus stated that He would rebuild the temple in three days, those listening misunderstood that He was talking of His body and not the temple building.

- What are some misunderstandings people make today because they are focused on the earthly or physical instead of spiritual truth?

Read I Chronicles 28:2-3, 6, 19-20.

- How confident was David that the LORD wanted Solomon to build the temple?
- What was his counsel to Solomon?
- Have you ever felt divinely instructed to accomplish a specific task that included directing or encouraging someone else?
- What was it and how did it turn out?

The sermon reminded us that without the presence of God, the beautiful temple might be compared to a body without a soul, a candlestick without a candle or a house without an inhabitant.

- How can we apply this visual to the indwelling Holy Spirit and Word of God in our life (John 1:1, 14)?
- How would you instruct someone desiring a greater filling and awareness of God's presence?

Solomon shows himself to be keenly aware and grateful for the LORD's blessing upon his father, David, and himself (I Kings 5:4,5). He makes sure all know that the temple was built for the glory of God (I King 8:19,20).

- What is one way you can increase your gratitude and reverence to the Lord?

After Solomon's prayer of dedication of the temple, 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 describes a miraculous fire from heaven. What is the significance of each event described:

- fire from heaven
- burnt offerings consumed
- temple filled with glory
- priests not able to enter
- face-down worship of the people
- praise to the LORD