

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5:1—9:9



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Ms

main street

March 13, 2011

John 1:3

Through him all things were made;
without him nothing was made that
has been made.



story lesson

BIBLE STORY

If you will remember, it was to be Solomon's task to build a Temple for the Name of the Lord of Israel. His father before him, David, had already made some connections and gamished some resources for the future Temple. And because the Lord had given Solomon rest from all his enemies, it was granted that the building of the Temple should commence.

Solomon connected with Hiram king of Tyre and asked for his resources that he had promised David and gave him the heads up of what he planned to do. Hiram was totally excited (biblical referent - "greatly pleased" 1 Kings 5:7). So Hiram sent Solomon cedar and pine logs, and Solomon returned the favor with wheat and pressed olive oil. Solomon conscripted laborers from all over Israel—30,000 men.

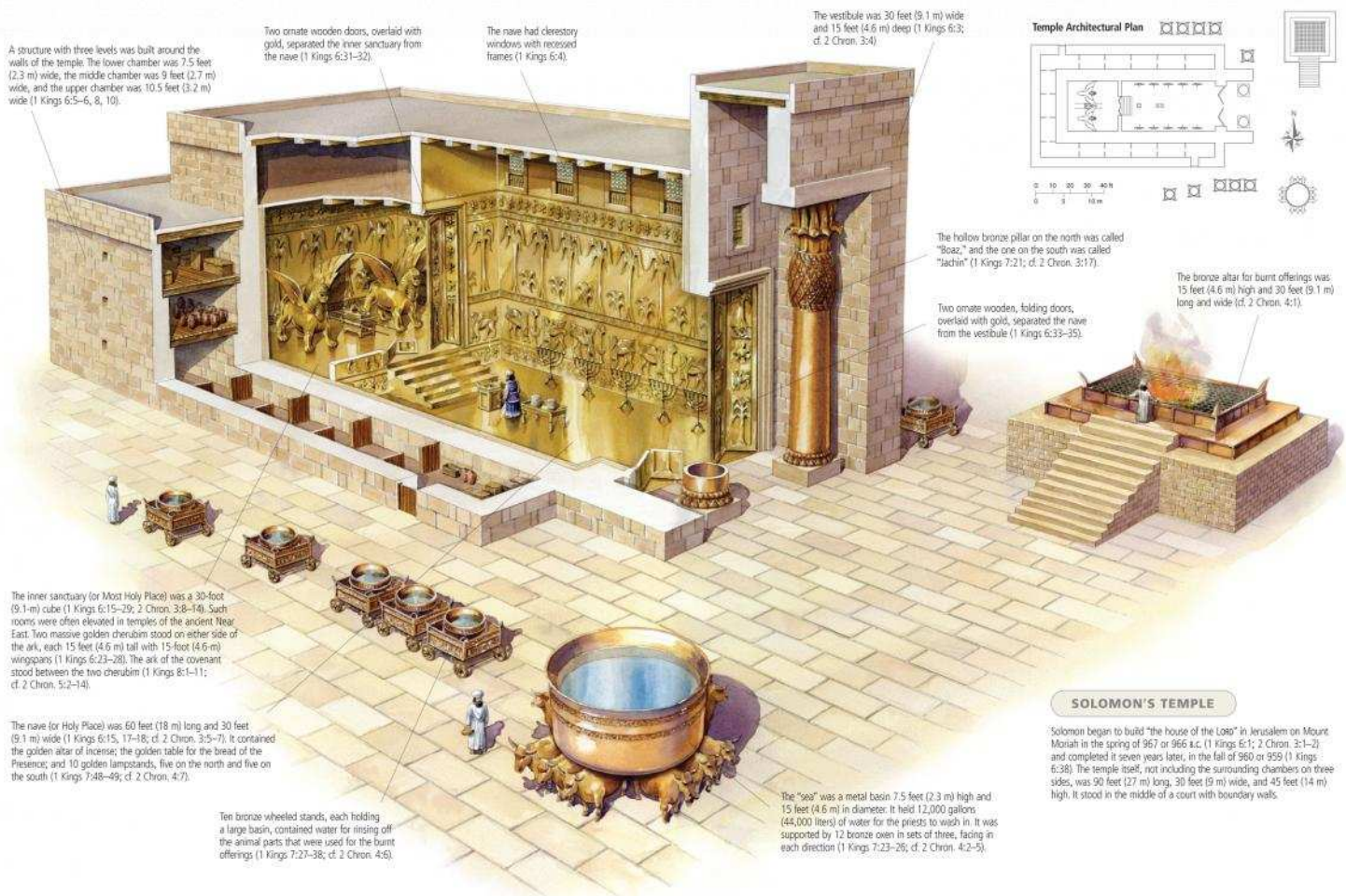
The location of the Temple was to be where the plague had been stopped on the porch of Araunah the Jebusite, which King David had purchased.

The Temple was constructed in seven years. It was magnificent! Cedar beams, pine ceiling, and everything was overlaid with gold! Carvings of cherubims, palm trees, and open flowers! The Temple was furnished with:



"...two pillars, two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars, the two sets of network decorating the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network..., ten movable stands of bronze, ten bronze basins, the Sea and the twelve bulls under it; the pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls" (1 Kings 7:41-45).

"...the golden altar; the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence; the lampstands of pure gold..., the gold floral work and lamps and tongs; the pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers; and the gold sockets for the doors of the innemost room, the Most Holy Place, and also for the doors of the main hall of the temple" (1 Kings 7:48-50).



Then Solomon brought the Ark of the Lord's covenant into the Temple with much pomp and circumstance. "When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord" (1 Kings 8:10). The glory of the Lord filled the Temple. The actual manifested, visual presence of the Lord filled and dwelt in the newly built Temple. Solomon praised the Lord, God of Israel, then dedicated the Temple and the people whom it represented—Israel.

The Lord appeared to Solomon a second time after the Temple was built and dedicated. He acknowledged that He had heard the prayer and saw the hearts of the people. The Lord reminded Solomon that if the people choose to obey, then the Lord will watch

over them and protect them. However, if they should choose not to obey, then He will cut off the people from the land and reject the Temple.



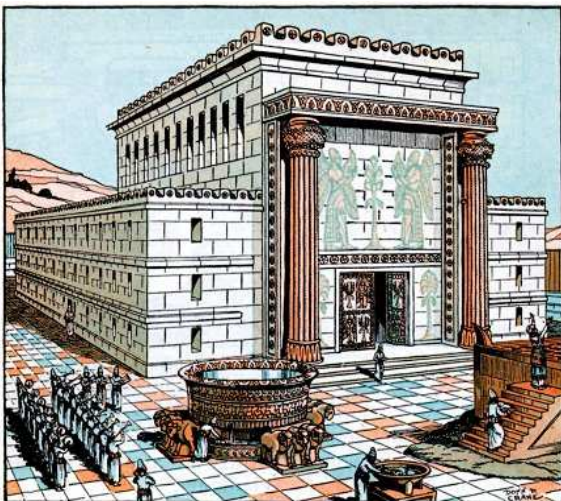
The Temple is the temporary culmination of a major theme which has been running since the inception of the nation of Israel during the time of Moses and the construction of the Tabernacle. Yahweh, the God of Israel, is actually dwelling amongst his covenanted people. He lives among them, at the center of their lives. For the Israelites to have a permanent Temple in which to house the glory of the Lord was huge. It solidified that they were no longer a wandering people,

but permanently part of the plan of God for the world. Later on, when the nation turned away from the Lord, the Temple was destroyed, also as a visual reminder that they had forsaken the Lord.

Temple theology is not fully culminated until Jesus comes on the scene. He challenges the actions and traditions regarding the Temple, because it had become rote exercises devoid of life and the right spirit. In essence, Jesus was saying that there was two competing ideologies: God and the Temple. One had to go. As a result of Jesus' death and resurrection, and further as a visual token that the Temple system had been ultimately fulfilled, the Temple was destroyed by the Romans during a Jewish insurrection, never to be built again.



The Temple was an amazing masterpiece. Its location was strategic in its importance. Later, when the Temple was destroyed when Judah was exiled, its location was preserved. In the post-exilic period, the Temple was reconstructed, but absent of its former glory. Furthermore, prior to the arrival of Jesus, Herod re-built the Temple.



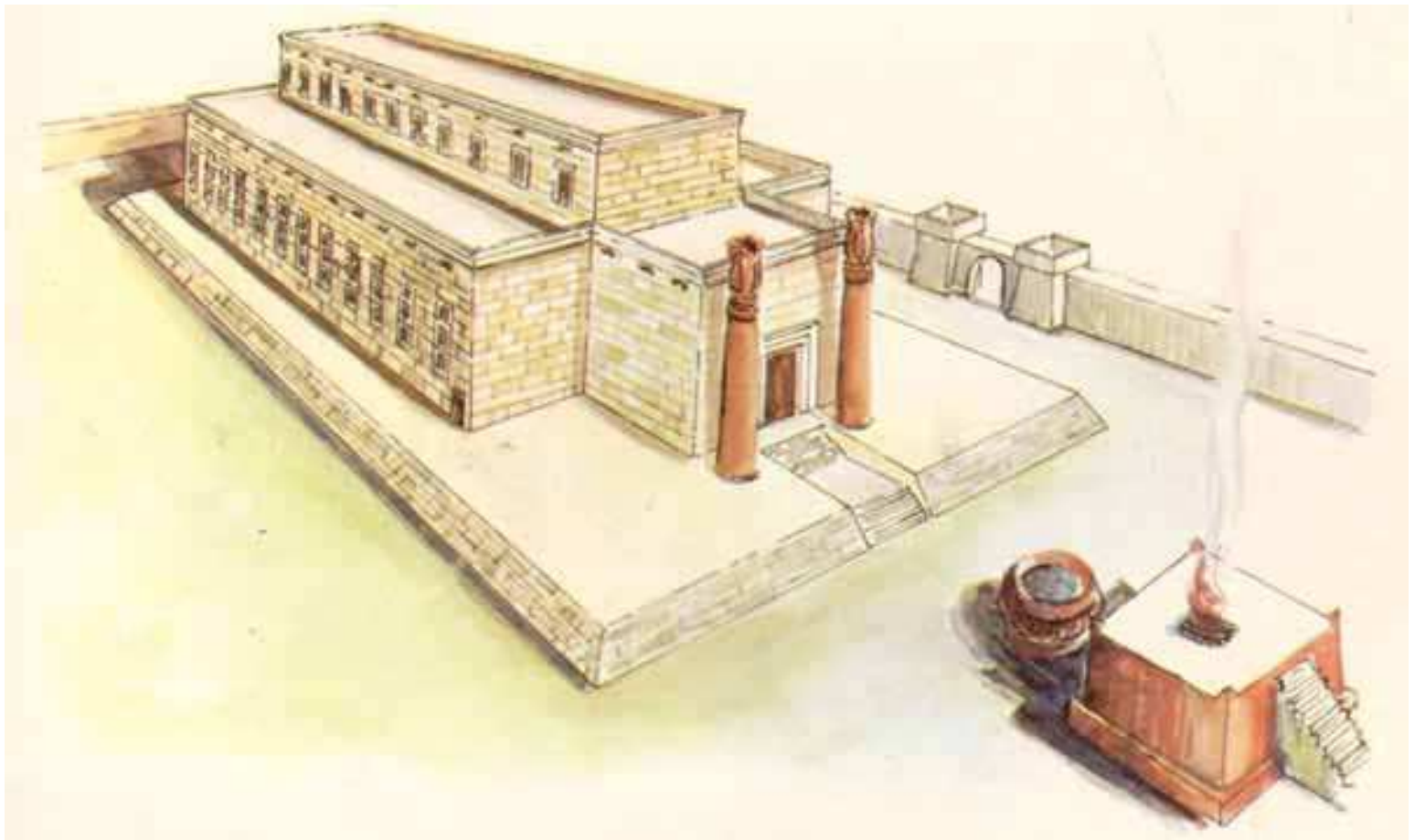
During the Jewish uprising in 70AD, Rome came in and destroyed the Temple – not one stone was left standing on top of another. The location of the Temple was preserved again, until the conquest of the Muslims during the rise of Islam. The history associated with the Islamic people are closely tied to that of Jewish history. The two histories diverge after the time of Abraham—the Jews following Isaac (the Promised child) and Islam following Ishmael (Abraham's first-born son). The rise of Islam by the proclamation of Mohammed their Prophet as written in the Koran, also established their monument upon the location of the Jewish Temple. Hence the dispute to

this day regarding the “Dome On The Rock,” and the rightful place of the Jewish temple.

Attached to the building of the Temple was a directive from the Lord that had occurred throughout the written history of the Jewish people:

“The word of the Lord came to Solomon: ‘As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel’” (1 Kings 6:11-13).

This is a renewal and a reminder of the covenant that Israel’s representative was compelled to apply and proclaim. From the beginning of the Hebrew people (Abraham) this covenant had been applied and worked under.





life application

MAKING IT REAL

Visual Reminders

As always, we as a human race often forget; and that is our greatest weakness. Being able to remember is a tedious discipline that requires work and intentionality. We must mark, write down, build memory stones, attach meaning to circumstances upon reflection, etc., to be able to remember. Now the point is not just to remember, but to act out upon that remembrance... to live life based on what we have learned and gleaned from the past (on how God has shaped us). The Temple provided people with constant visual reminders of what God was doing through his people in the world.

Temple is in our Hearts

Since Jesus came, the Temple is now in our hearts. The place where God dwells, makes his home, is in the hearts of people who believe and follow him. That means that we are images of God's glory in the world. As we live, people get to see God in who we are and how we live. That is a huge responsibility!



questions

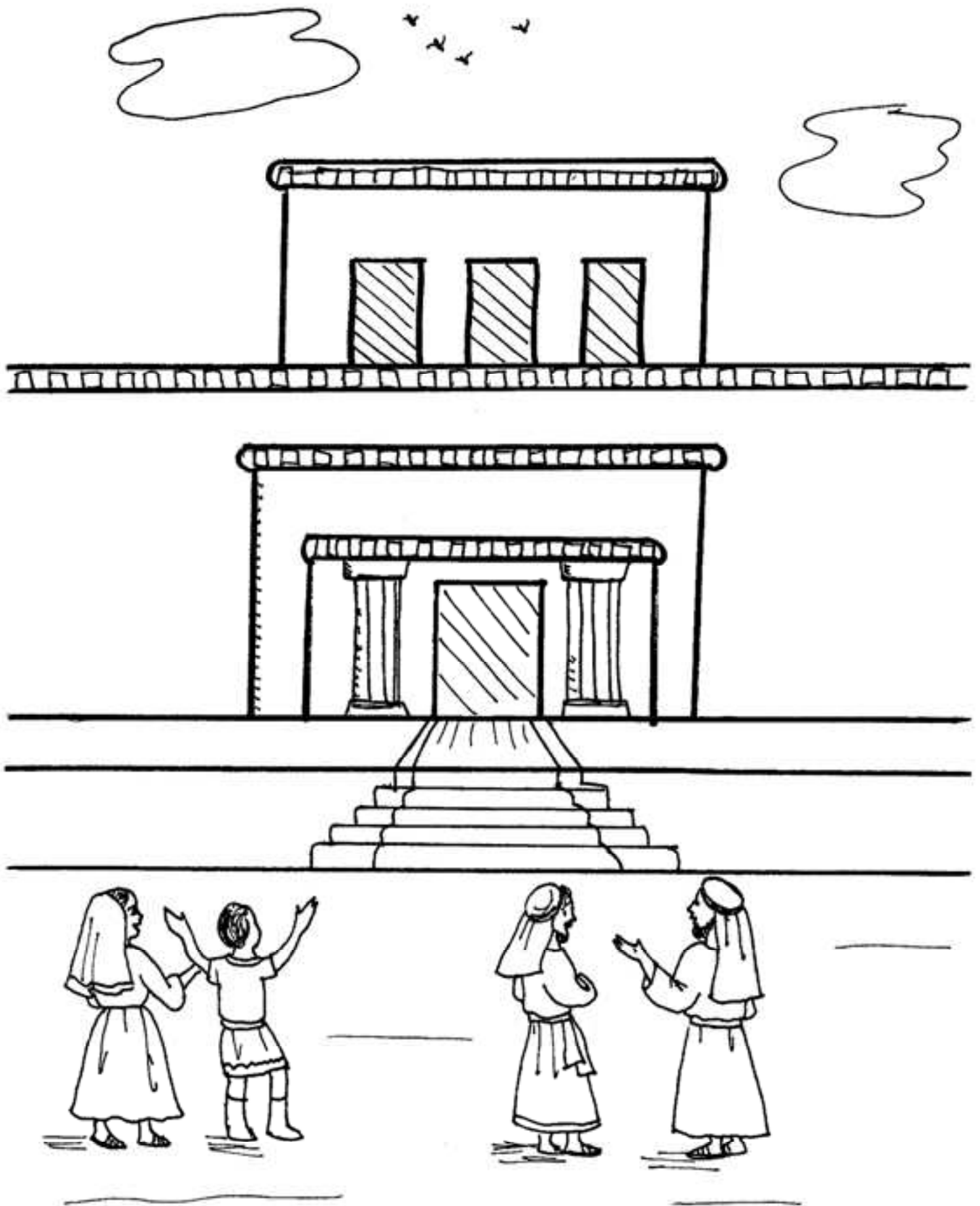
REMEMBERING

- 1. What did Solomon build for the Lord?** The Temple
- 2. Who promised Solomon's father that his "house" would endure forever?**
The Lord God
- 3. Where was the Temple going to be built?** On the threshing floor or Araunah the Jebusite (where the plague stopped)
- 4. What were some of the things in the Temple that needed to be built?** Golden Altar, Golden Table, Lampstand, Most Holy Place, Incense,
- 5. What filled the Temple after it was completed?** The Glory of the Lord
- 6. Where is the Temple of God now?** In our hearts



coloring sheet

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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