



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

1 Kings 5-9
2 Chron. 2-8
Ps. 134, 136, 146-150

Week 24

Daily Reading Plan:

__ 1 Kings 5-6
__ 2 Chron. 2-3
__ 1 Kings 7
__ 2 Chron. 4
__ 1 Kings 8
__ 2 Chron. 5
__ 2 Chron. 6-7
__ Ps. 136
__ Ps. 134, 146-150
__ 1 Kings 9
__ 2 Chron. 8
__ REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

Prov. 25-31
Eccl. 1-12
1 Kings 10-14
2 Chron. 9-12

MEMORY VERSE:

**the LORD delights in
those who FEAR
him,
who put their hope in
his unfailing love.
Psalm 147:11**

EXTRAVAGANT WORSHIP

As I read about the elaborate and extravagant construction and furnishing of the temple built during Solomon's reign, I was reminded of some of the beautiful cathedrals that man has built through the ages. Even as I have admired their artistic design, I have wondered if the expense that they represent was a bit excessive.

In India I visited the Taj Mahal. Outside its gates were the constant reminders of the country's poverty. Inside was the rich Emperor Shah Jahan's tribute to his wife that is so stunningly beautiful that it takes your



breath away. The perfect white marble and serene surroundings stood in stark contrast to the sick children begging just yards away. I felt guilty enjoying such beauty in the midst of so much misery. Shah Jahan's wife, no matter what her lovely qualities may have been, was a mere mortal woman. But what if she had been more? What if she was the living Savior of the world? Then would the extravagance have been worth it?

It is the construction of Solomon's temple that inspired those who designed the great Gothic cathedrals and the basilicas of the Renaissance (Schippe and Stetson 101).

How do you feel about expensive construction of beautiful places of worship? _____

What does Mark 14:3-9 teach us about worship? _____

In what ways **should** we be extravagant in our worship? _____

In what ways should we **not** be extravagant? _____

**"The temple I am going to build will be great,
because our God is greater than all other gods.
2 Chron. 2:5**

HOW HIGH?

Because some manuscripts list the height of the temple as 120 cubits in 2 Chron. 3:4 instead of 20, there is some controversy about the actual height of Solomon's temple. If the 120 cubits is correct, that would make the structure around 20 stories tall!

BUILDING

**“Three things are to be looked to in a building:
That it stand on the right spot;
That it be securely founded;
That it be successfully executed.” -Goethe**

ARTIFACTS

An ivory pomegranate (shown about its actual size) may be the only artifact from Solomon's temple, though it is still in dispute.

We do know from 2 Chron. 4:13 that 400 pomegranates were made to decorate the tops of the pillars.



GOD'S DWELLING PLACE 2 Chron. 7

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 Chron. 7:1

Can you imagine what that must have been like for the people witnessing it? I watched and listened to a volcano erupting and could hardly tear myself away from its wonder. If you have ever watched a lightning storm, or the angry waves of a stormy sea you know that sense of fearful awe. I can't imagine what it must have been like to have fire actually come down from heaven and burn up the offerings. What exactly was it like for God's Glory to fill the temple in such a way that the priests could not even enter? Can you imagine the kind of respect and awe that the people must have had for the temple after that? How important would that make the temple in their daily lives?

Where is God's temple located now (1 Cor.3:16,17)? _____

God understands exactly what He is comparing us to. I don't feel God's Presence as keenly when waiting in a line full of people at the grocery store as I do next to a mountain stream at the foot of a majestic peak, but I should. It's the people who are created in His image as eternal beings. It is the people that He desires to dwell in. He really does mean that His glory fills His holy temple whether it be the extravagantly beautiful building that Solomon built, or our own humble, but divinely created selves. How hard is it to see yourself as God's dwelling place? _____

How hard is it to see others as the dwelling place of a holy and perfect God? _____

What difference would it make if we did? _____

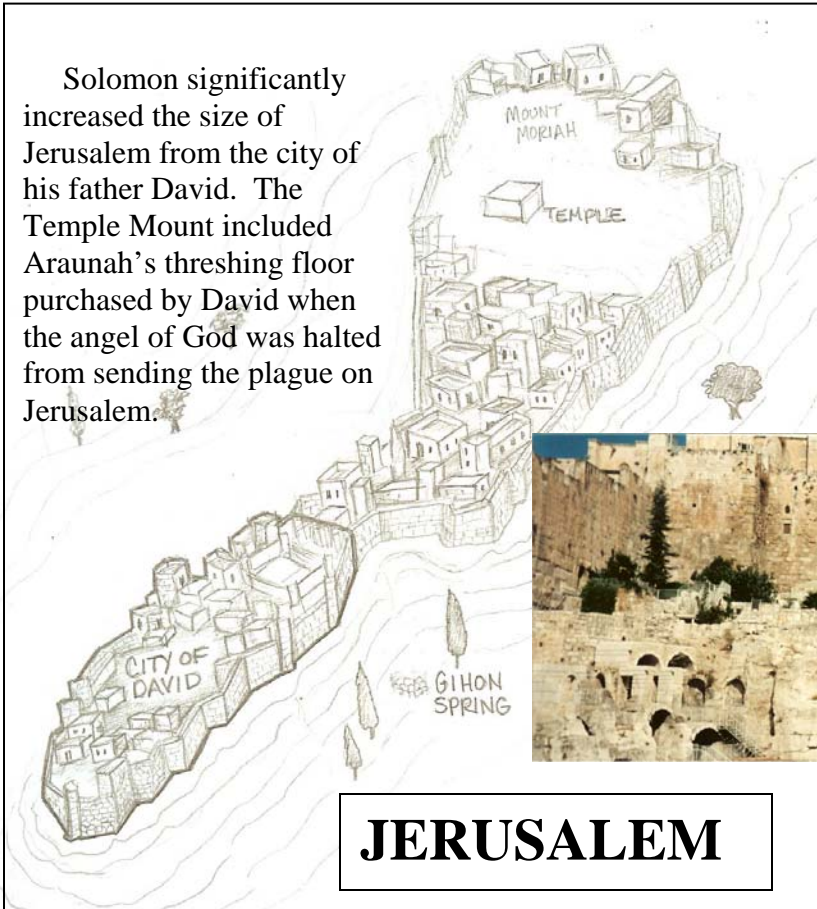
If the Israelites went to the temple to make their sacrifices and offerings to God, then shouldn't we take Jesus, the once and for all sacrifice, into all our relationships with the people set apart as His holy temple? Uzzah died because the ark, or Presence of God was not treated with great enough respect. If the Presence of God is in not only ourselves, but the people around us, how important is it that we treat them with the utmost honor and respect? _____

Do you? _____



If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20

Solomon significantly increased the size of Jerusalem from the city of his father David. The Temple Mount included Araunah's threshing floor purchased by David when the angel of God was halted from sending the plague on Jerusalem.



Dixie Schoepf on the original steps to Solomon's temple.



City of David to the South of the Temple Mount

JERUSALEM

“WHEN THEY SIN...”

"When they sin against you--for there is no one who does not sin--and you become angry with them and give them over to the enemy, who takes them captive to a land far away or near; and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong and acted wickedly'; and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity where they were taken, and pray toward the land you gave their fathers, toward the city you have chosen and toward the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their pleas, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people, who have sinned against you."

2 Chron. 6:36-39

Our sinfulness is not in question. Solomon said that there is no one who does not sin. What steps does he outline for what comes next?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

How did Solomon know that Israel would mess up and end up in captivity? _____

What might captivity be for us? _____

What are the choices of attitude that we can have while we are there? _____

What can we place our hope in, even when we have messed up and all seems lost? _____

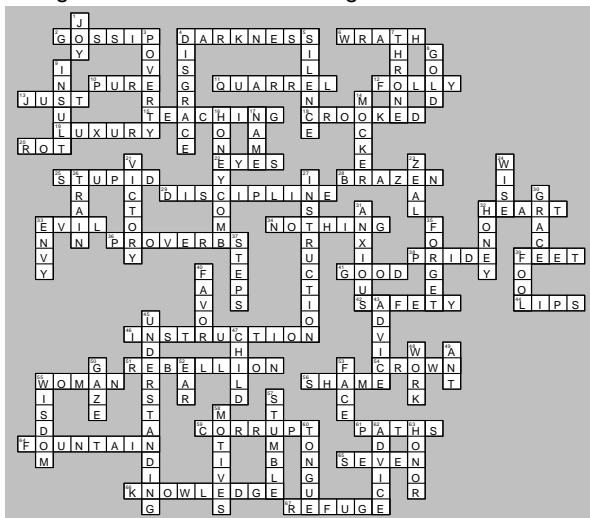
PUZZLE CLUES

Across

2. made of yarn and fine linen 2 Chron. 3:14
4. sustained by the Lord 147:6
5. came from heaven to consume the sacrifices 2 Chron. 7:1
8. filled the temple 1 Kings 8:11
9. tribe Hiram's mother was from 1 Kings 7:14
11. given to Solomon 1 Kings 5:12
12. given to God Ps. 136:1
13. people were led through this Ps. 136:16
16. God kept His 1 Kings 8:24
17. Solomon wanted the temple to be _____ 2 Chron. 2:9
18. 450 talents of gold came from here 2 Chron. 8:18
19. contained only two stone tablets 1 Kings 8:9
23. stones used to adorn the temple 2 Chron. 3:6
25. His is above the earth and heavens Ps. 148:13
26. made between Solomon and Hiram 1 Kings 5:12
28. used to trim palace stones 1 Kings 7:9
29. the Lord's kept the priests out 2 Chron. 7:2
33. twenty towns in this area given to king of Tyre 1 Kings 9:11
34. used to transport cedar and pine logs 1 Kings 5:9
35. in charge of the forced labor 1 Kings 5:14
36. took thirteen years to build 1 Kings 7:1
38. Israelites were not made _____ 2 Chron. 8:9
40. length of the Lord's reign Ps. 146:10
42. gift from Pharaoh 1 Kings 9:16

Down

1. month that the temple was begun 1 Kings 6:1
2. praise God with their clash Ps. 150:5
3. the Lord sustains them Ps. 146:9
6. two made of bronze named Jakin and Boaz 1 Kings 7:21
7. none to be seen on the inside of the temple 1 Kings 6:18
8. _____ of Lebanon requested for temple 1 Kings 5:6
10. five on the south and five on the north 2 Chron. 4:7
13. "The Lord _____ in those who fear him..."
14. held two thousand baths 1 Kings 7:25-26
15. where hands are lifted up Ps. 134:2
18. kind of wood the cherubim were made of 1 Kings 6:23
20. what Solomon was doing at the altar 1 Kings 8:54
21. given to every creature Ps. 136:25
22. overlaid with gold 1 Kings 6:28
23. not worthy of trust Ps. 146:3
24. God determines their number Ps. 147:4
26. number of bulls supporting the Sea 2 Chron. 4:4
27. seaport near Jerusalem 2 Chron. 2:16
29. covered the inside of the temple 1 Kings 6:21
30. no tools were _____ at the temple site 1 Kings 6:7
31. David could not build it 1 Kings 5:3
32. what Solomon asked God to do 1 Kings 8:30
37. king of Tyre 1 Kings 5:1
38. side the entrance was on 1 Kings 6:8
39. number of years to complete the temple 1 Kings 6:38
41. number of bronze basins 1 Kings 7:38



WEEK 23 ANSWERS

For comments or questions
contact me at
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or, for more studies, visit
www.downvictoryrd.com



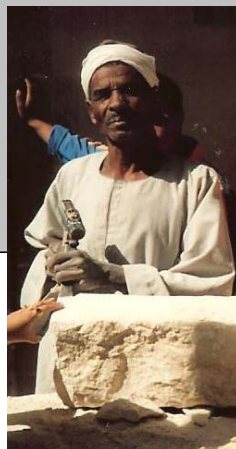
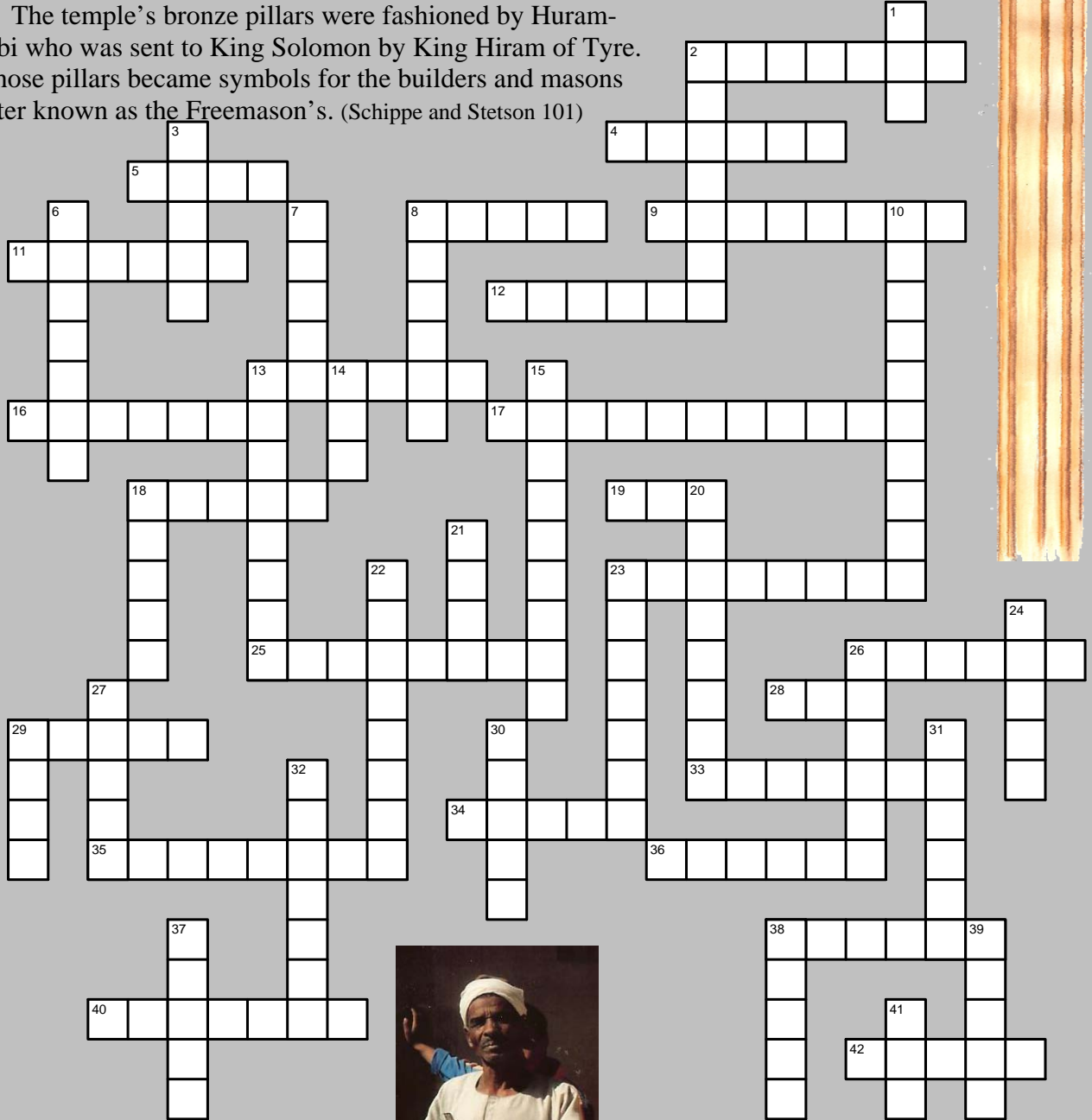


PUZZLE PAGE

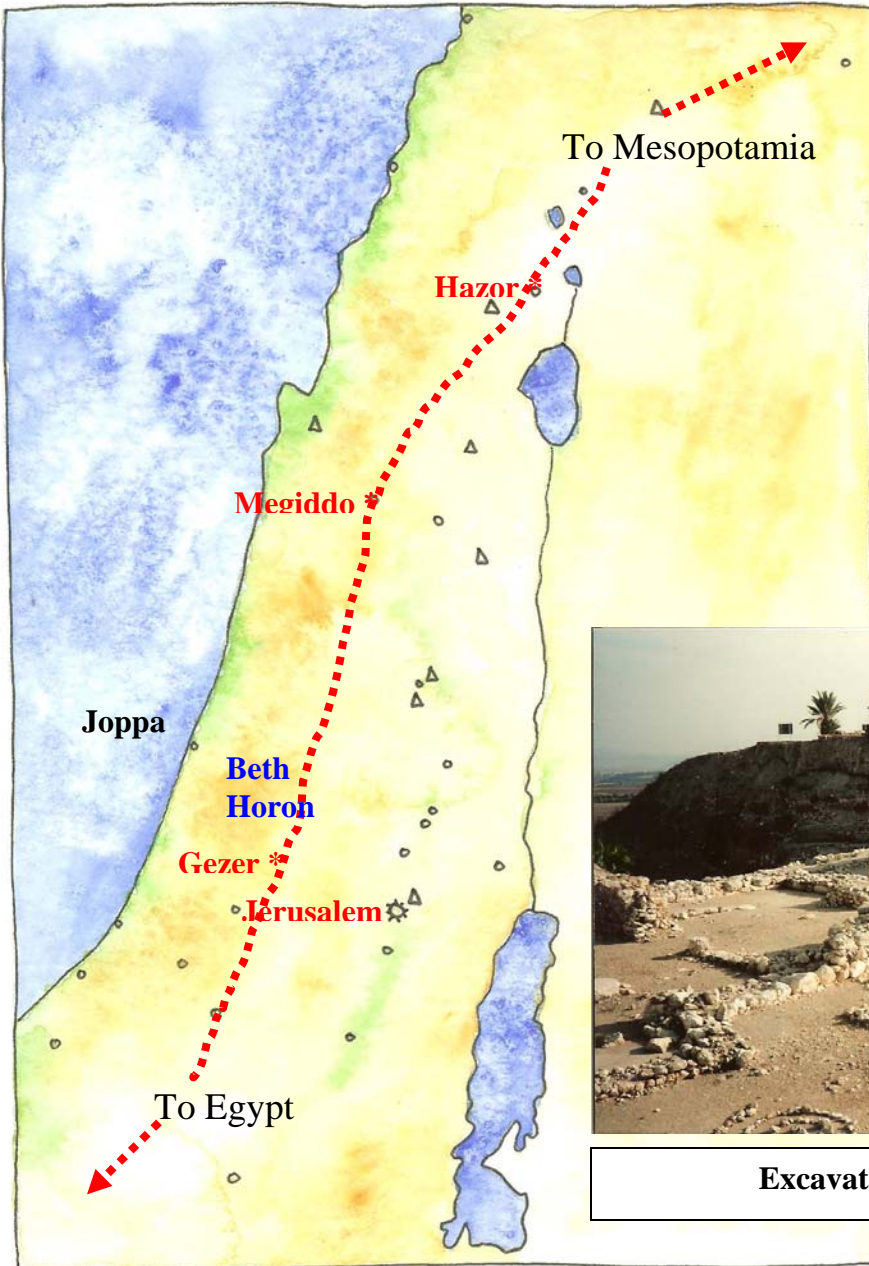
WEEK 24

HIRAM, PATRON OF THE MASONS

The temple's bronze pillars were fashioned by Hiram-Abi who was sent to King Solomon by King Hiram of Tyre. Those pillars became symbols for the builders and masons later known as the Freemason's. (Schippe and Stetson 101)



In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built. 1 Kings 6:7



TRADE ROUTE

1 Kings 9:15

The trade route between Mesopotamia (Assyria, Babylon and Persia) and Egypt went through Israel giving them significant importance among the world powers. Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer were important cities along this path of trade. Solomon was wise in beefing up these cities.



Excavated ruins of Megiddo

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

EXTRAVAGANT WORSHIP p.1 and **HIRAM** p.5
 Schippe, Cullen, and Chuck Stetson. The Bible and Its Influence. Front Royal, VA: BLP Publishing, 2006.

ARTIFACTS p.2
NIV Archaeological Study Bible. Grand Rapids:Zondervan, 2005.

JERUSALEM (city diagram) p.3
 Reproducible Maps, Charts Time Lines & Illustrations. Ventura, CA: Regal, 1989.

TRADE ROUTE p.6
Faith Lessons on the Prophets and Kings of Israel. Hosted by Ray Vander Laan. DVD. Focus on the Family, 1995.

SHEERAH'S LEGACY

Remember Upper and Lower Beth Horon, two of the three cities credited to the woman Sheerah in 1 Chron. 7:24? In 2 Chron. 8:5 they are named as cities that were fortified during Solomon's national improvement plan. Why do you think Solomon felt these were important cities?
