

1 KINGS 4-9

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

Solomon is now king of Israel, and is tasked with building a temple for the Lord. This would be a permanent (at least for a little while) place that the Lord's presence would **dwell**. To dwell means to live or remain in. David deeply desired to build a temple for the Lord, but God intended Solomon to build it instead. God gave Solomon more wisdom than anyone else, and he was known as the wisest man to ever live. God also gave Solomon very specific instructions to build the temple, and this was a big project!

Solomon makes a request to **Hiram**, seeking help with the Temple. Hiram was the king of Tyre and had always been a friend and ally with David, and was now partnering with Solomon in this project. What can we learn from this partnership? It is notable that a king who did not follow the God of Israel, was a large part of why the construction of the Temple was possible. Hiram did not know the God of Israel, but praised God because of the wisdom of Solomon. If you remember back to Genesis, the descendants of Abraham, or the Israelites, were God's chosen people. Those who were not a part of the nation of Israel were considered **Gentiles**. However, the Old Testament is filled with references of God's heart for all nations and all people, not just the Israelites. This temple would be a means for Gentiles to be introduced to the God of Israel. Solomon's partnership with Hiram was an example of how God uses all people, and desires all people of all nations to be in relationship with Him.

Something interesting to note: The temple of Solomon was built in silence. 1 Kings 6:7 says, "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." There was a sense of **reverence** for this place, because they knew this is where God's presence would dwell. Reverence means treating God like He is the most important and special of all. After the temple was built, Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord and in front of the entire congregation of Israel, and prayed this really big prayer. Solomon asks God to hear his prayer over twelve times! The glory of the Lord filled the temple, and the people had a party! They had a two-week celebration, just because the presence of the Lord was there. After the celebration, the Lord answered their prayer and consecrated the temple to Himself. God's presence would not be in a temple built by human hands for long, and now lives in believers of Jesus today!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon completes David's dream of making a temple for the God of Israel
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon's Reign • Building the Temple • Solomon's dedication of the temple
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Kings 5:5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the Lord my God, as the Lord told my father David, when he said, 'Your son whom I will put on the throne in your place will build the temple for my Name.' • 1 Kings 8:27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To live or remain in • Reverence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treating God like He is the most important and special of all • Gentiles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Those who were not a part of the nation of Israel were considered Gentiles

Reflection Questions

1.	Who was tasked with building the temple of the Lord?
2.	What foreign king partnered in building this temple?
3.	What does a foreign king helping with the temple show us about God's heart for all nations and all people?
4.	What did the Israelites do, just because the presence of the Lord was there?