

Personal Study

Week of July 21

For reasons beyond our scope of understanding, God chose Jerusalem for the place His name would be honored. David had a heart for the worship of God and passed that legacy on to his son, Solomon—a young man whom the Lord loved. God appeared to Solomon early in his reign and asked: “What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!” With a heart kindred to his father, King David, Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge in order “to govern this great people” (2 Chronicles 1:7-10). God was pleased and Solomon began strong.

In accordance with David’s wishes, “Solomon began to build the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to David, his father. The Temple was built on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the site that David had selected” (2 Chronicles 3:1). It took seven years to build the Temple and once it was complete, GOD’s glorious presence filled the place. No structure in all the earth could compare to its splendor and beauty.

Read 2 Chronicles 6:7-11 – from the Old Testament reading ONE YEAR BIBLE (July 21)

1. According to 1 Kings 6:1, 480 years after God rescued His people from slavery, the Temple was built. The descendants of Jacob had come a long way since their years of bondage in Egypt. Now a mighty, sovereign nation during Solomon’s reign, Israel is blessed with peace and prosperity. When God is honored, all attention points to Him. How are you honoring the Lord in your day-to-day living? Are you giving attention to the One worth paying attention to? Are you giving credit where credit is due?

In the space below, jot down three simple ways you can point attention back to God *this week* in your life?

God must be at the center of our thoughts and actions, because simple daily habits help us honor the Lord in practical ways – praying for others, studying Scripture, meeting regularly for worship, service and fellowship. Overtime the neglect of simple God-honoring habits can cause our hearts to drift. Although Solomon started strong, he allowed his many foreign wives to lead his heart away from the God who appeared to him at Gibeon. By the closure of his reign, Jerusalem was filled with idolatry and God removed national unity (see 1 Kings 11:1-13).

2. Perhaps you have allowed false influences to turn your heart away from the Lord. Solomon did not *have* to build the shrines and high places to appease his foreign wives. He could have said ‘NO’ and instead led his wives to know God! But he didn’t. In what areas do you need to say ‘NO’ to the false influences around you, and instead influence people you live and work with to *know* God?

Solomon should have never married the foreign women to begin with (see 1 Kings 11:2). It is definitely better to obey God’s instructions from the beginning than live a life of regrets. But if you have made mistakes (and most of us have) close by reading the following Scriptures –

Isaiah 6:1-7 Isaiah 56:6-8 I John 1:8-10, 2:1-6 Jude vv24-25

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