



SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE



1 Kings 6 - 8

Solomon had been king for four years when he began to build the temple for the Lord. He planned to build a big, beautiful building made of the finest materials for God to dwell permanently with His people.

God said to Solomon, "If you obey my commandments, I will fulfill my promise to you that I made to your father David. I will dwell with my people and not abandon them."

The ark of the Lord's covenant would be in the innermost part of the temple. Solomon overlaid everything in this part of the temple with pure gold, including the altar. He also made two huge statues of cherubim (a type of angel) that were overlaid with gold. It was a beautiful space for the ark of the Lord's covenant.

Solomon hired a man named Hiram to create objects out of pure bronze for the temple. Hiram made pillars, a large basin, water carts, and more out of bronze. Everything he made was beautifully decorated with pomegranates, lilies, lions, oxen, and angels.

Solomon gathered all of Israel to bring the ark of the Lord's covenant into the temple, to the most holy place beneath the wings of the cherubim. **When the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. Solomon said, "I have built an exalted temple for You, God, a place for You to live forever."**

King Solomon turned around and blessed all of Israel, saying, "The Lord has fulfilled what He promised. I sit on the throne of Israel, and I have built the temple for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel."

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord, and spread out his hands toward heaven, and **prayed to God:**

"Lord God of Israel, there is no God like You. You have kept what You promised to my father David. **"But will God live on earth? Even the highest heaven cannot contain You, much less this temple I have built. Please hear the prayers of Your people when they pray toward this place.** May You hear in Your dwelling place in heaven and answer. **"When Your people sin against You— for there is no one who does not sin— when they return to You with all their heart and all their soul, may You forgive Your people who sinned against You and may You grant them compassion."**