



**Reading:** 1 Kings chapter 6, and chapter 7 verses 41-51

**Key Thought:** 1 Corinthians 6 verses 19-20: **Do you not know that your bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit ... therefore honour God with your bodies. He is worthy of our best.**

**Context:** Solomon built the Temple approximately 1,000 years before Christ, and 500 years after Moses had made the Tabernacle. It took 7 years to build. 2 Chronicles 3 verse 1 tells us that it was built on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. Significantly, this was Abraham's sacrificial mount where God provided the ram as a substitute for Isaac; and it is not far from the place where Jesus became the final sacrifice for all who turn to him in repentance. The building of the Temple was to be from the very best of materials and craftsmanship, and it was to be built in silence, in reverence to the Lord (1 Kings 6v7). You can read all about it in these chapters.

**Content:** So, chapter 6 (verses 19-36) describes the details of the building with particular stress on the Inner Sanctuary – the Most Holy Place. Everything here was covered with the highest quality gold (from Parvaim), including the floor. Gold is a very heavy metal – much heavier than iron. There would literally have been tons of gold! Gold symbolised the holiness of God and his presence in the Temple. Why all the splendour, all the gold, all the perfection? Was it just for show, or was there a greater reason? In some small part it represented God's worth. But it also symbolised something yet to come – Christ's church.

In 1 Corinthians 6 verse 19, the apostle Paul writes these words: **Do you not know that your bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?**

Christians are being built-up by God into a holy temple, for Christ said, "I will build my church". We were bought at an enormous cost – far, far greater than the worth of all the gold in the Temple; we were bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. And we now have the privilege of being the place where God the Holy Spirit chooses to dwell.

### Challenges:

If we consider the impact of the fact that our bodies are God's Temple, it brings many challenges.

Solomon's Temple was:

- A witness to the whole world, as it stood on Mount Moriah in all its glory. As 'Temples of the Holy Spirit', this is our purpose too – to reveal God's glory to the world, and to help others to find God and salvation. Jesus said we shouldn't hide our light, but that we should let it shine for all to see. Witness was a fundamental function of the Temple. Is it ours?
- A House of Prayer (see Isaiah 56 verse 7). And the result of this is found in the following verse (Isaiah 56 verse 8) – "I will gather still others to them, besides those already gathered". Prayer was a fundamental function of the temple. Is it ours? As we pray for others, the Holy Spirit will touch their lives.
- The Temple was a place of purity and perfection. Do we keep our selves pure – our thoughts, our reactions, our deeds, our morals, our pastimes, what we hear and look at? Honestly – we are far from perfect. But, as the Holy Spirit dwells within us, so he can help us to be worthy of His presence in our lives.
- An expression of Solomon's devotion to God. What can we build, what can we bring to the Lord's work? How can we honour God in practical ways that will bring glory to His Name?

### Communicate:

Feel free to let us know if you have any questions or comments about this study. Perhaps you have a testimony or word of encouragement that might help others. Or maybe you would like prayer as you begin a new thing for God in your life. We will gladly get back to you.