

The Temple

The books of Chronicles pay special attention to the temple. Of all David's accomplishments, it is his preparations for the temple that is highlighted in First Chronicles. While Solomon's wisdom, fame, and wealth are touched on in Second Chronicles, it is his building of the temple that receives the most attention. The temple was to be the center of Jewish life. It was to be the dwelling place of God—a place where priests could offer sacrifices to God and a place where prayers could be offered up. Solomon's temple must have been a truly amazing building—perhaps one of the greatest buildings ever erected. And yet, even Solomon understood it was not enough to truly contain God. In his prayer of dedication, Solomon says, *"Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!"* (2 Chr. 6:18). As marvelous as the temple was, it wasn't God's ultimate plan to dwell with men through Solomon's temple. The temple pointed forward to something, rather someone, much greater—Jesus. Jesus said, *"Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple..."* (Mt. 12:6), and of course He was speaking of Himself. In John 2:19 He says, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* Clearly, He's referring to Himself. Remember, the temple was the dwelling place of God with men. But Jesus is greater than the temple, for He is *"God with us"* (Mt. 1:23), and *"...in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"* (Col. 2:9). Then finally, as John records the future of the redeemed in Revelation, he says of the New Jerusalem, *"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple"* (Rev. 21:22). The temple must have been magnificent, but we have something far greater—Jesus Christ!



“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Second Chronicles 1-12

Chronicles of God's People: Solomon and the Temple

Overview

As we've already noted, the books of Chronicles were originally one book. First Chronicles covered important genealogies tracing all the way back to Adam and an account of David's reign. Second Chronicles continues the story with a major section devoted to Solomon, then a final section which covers the reign of Judah's other kings. Chronicles is not just a repeat of the history covered in Samuel and Kings—it has a spiritual focus. For example, 1 Chronicles gave great detail concerning David's plans and preparations for the temple. When telling Solomon's story, the majority of chapters are devoted to Solomon building the temple instead of his many other achievements. Thus, the temple is a major focus in both 1 and 2 Chronicles. Also, 2 Chronicles differs in that it only covers the reigns of Judah's kings. Israel's kings abandoned God and His temple, and thus they are not a focus in this book.

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: 2 Chronicles 1-3
Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 4-5
Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 6-7
Thursday: 2 Chronicles 8-9
Friday: 2 Chronicles 10-12

Questions

1. Where was the tabernacle of meeting with God located when Solomon began to reign?

2. How common was silver and gold during Solomon's reign? _____
3. How many men did Solomon choose to bear burdens, quarry stone, and oversee the process for building the Temple? _____
4. On what mountain did Solomon build the temple? _____
5. What did the Sea of Bronze rest on? _____
6. What types of punishments does Solomon acknowledge will happen to the disobedient in his prayer of dedication? _____
7. What queen came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions?

8. How long did Solomon reign over Israel? _____
9. Whose advice did Rehoboam listen to concerning the people's request to lighten the yoke they bore? _____

OBEDIENT

Solomon built an incredible temple for God, and the temple became the great center of the Jewish faith. At the temple priests served in various ways, but one prominent way was through the offering of sacrifices. There must have been millions of animals sacrificed in the temple over the centuries. While this was in accordance with the Mosaic Law, it was not a replacement for obedience. God had already said to Israel's first king, Saul, *"...to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams."* Solomon himself foresaw that if the people became disobedient to God, they would suffer from enemies, pestilence, famine and captivity (2 Chr. 6:24-40). Sometimes the sacrificial system became a mere ritual to the Israelites, and while they offered sacrifices at the temple, they didn't obey God in their daily lives. What lessons can we learn from the temple, the sacrificial system, and the obedience/disobedience of the Jews for our own lives today?

Outline of 2 Chronicles

I. The Reign of Solomon (ch. 1-9)

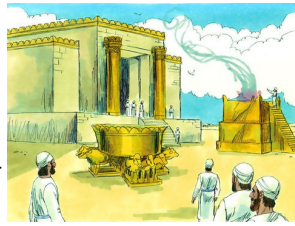
1. Solomon's Inauguration (1)
2. Completion of the Temple (2-7)
3. Solomon's Reign (8-9)

II. The Kings of Judah (ch. 10-36)

1. Rehoboam (10-12)
2. Abijah (13)
3. Asa (14-16)
4. Jehoshaphat (17-20)
5. Jehoram (21)
6. Ahaziah & Athaliah (22:1—23:15)
7. Joash (23:16—24:27)
8. Amaziah (25)
9. Uzziah (26)
10. Jotham (27)
11. Ahaz (28)
12. Hezekiah (29-32)
13. Manasseh & Amon (33)
14. Josiah (34-35)
15. Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, & Zedekiah (36)

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