

## 1 KINGS 6:1-38

### A. Introduction

1. In our elders' meetings, we're tracing the story of King Solomon, from his coronation to his burial, as recorded in 1 Kings 1-11.

As well as seeing how he points us to the 'one greater than Solomon', we're going to focus in on what we can learn as elders from his life and particularly his downfall, as we seek to lead those whom God has made us overseers over.

2. With the final verses of 1 Kings 4 and 1 Kings 5, a transition took place from the main focus being on how Solomon used his wisdom to rule over the people of Israel, to how he used it to build the temple.

1 Kings 6 presents Solomon as a builder who built the temple.

"he began to build the temple of the LORD." (1 Kings 6:1)

"The temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high." (1 Kings 6:2)

"In building the temple..." (1 Kings 6:7)

"So he built the temple and completed it." (1 Kings 6:9)

"So Solomon built the temple and completed it." (1 Kings 6:14)

As we look at the temple he built, we are pointed to the greater Solomon, the Lord Jesus, who is also a builder and who built a temple.

However, the temple, the Lord Jesus built is not a physical building but the church.

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

"For we are the temple of the living God." (2 Corinthians 6:16)

So in 1 Kings 6, as we look at what the temple Solomon builds is like, we are going to see what the temple that Jesus is building is like as well.

### B. What was the temple Solomon built like?

1. From verse 14 to 36, we are given a guided tour of the temple.

For the majority of the people of Israel, this was the closest they got to seeing what it was like inside.

The description given tells us about the God who would live in the temple.

2. The God who would live in the temple is glorious.

"So Solomon built the temple and completed it. He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, panelling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of pine. He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long. The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen. He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar. Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, which was overlaid with gold. So he overlaid the whole interior with gold. He also overlaid with gold the altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary." (1 Kings 6:14-22)

Everything about the temple says, "Glory!"

The gold that covered the temple was meant to reflect the splendour of God.

### 3. The God who would live in the temple is holy.

"In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high. One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits – ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip. The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. The height of each cherub was ten cubits. He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. He overlaid the cherubim with gold. On the walls all round the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold. For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs. And on the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold. In the same way he made four sided jambs of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall. He also made two pine doors, each having two leaves that turned in sockets. He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings. And he built the inner courtyard of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams." (1 Kings 6:23-36)

Everything about the temple says, "Holy!"

The presence of the cherubim was to remind us of God's holiness.

The decoration on the doors takes us back to the Garden of Eden and tells us that access to God is only possible for those who are holy.

### 4. The God who would live in the temple is glorious and holy and for the people to enjoy His presence among them, it required the obedience of the King.

"The word of the LORD came to Solomon: "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfil through you the promise I gave to David your father. And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel." (1 Kings 6:11-13)

The King who obeys sadly was not Solomon, but wonderfully there was one who was greater Solomon who did.

Jesus' obedience and sacrificial death make it possible for sinners to enjoy the presence of God in them, and actually be the temple of God.

The church that Jesus is building is the temple of the living God.

## **C. What is the temple Jesus is building like?**

### 1. The temple Jesus is building, like the one Solomon built, is glorious and holy.

"As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him – you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

Every local church should display God's glory and holiness if they are to enjoy the presence of God.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." (1 Peter 2:9-12)

Though we are not kings, like Solomon/Jesus, it is true that leaders can impact whether or not a local church is displaying God's glory and holiness.

As elders we are to live our lives by following all Jesus' commands – to set an example for the members to follow.

As elders we are to lead the church according to all of Jesus' regulations – ensuring that everything we do as a church is for God's glory and displays His holiness.

## 2. The temple Jesus is building will be completed.

"So he built the temple and completed it." (1 Kings 6:9)

"So Solomon built the temple and completed it." (1 Kings 6:14)

Jesus will do it in his perfect time.

It took 480 years after the Exodus for the building of the temple to begin, and seven years later it was completed.

"In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the LORD." (1 Kings 6:1)

"The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv. In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it." (1 Kings 6:37-38)

We don't know how long it will take for Jesus to finishing building His temple, and it might seem that He is slow in doing so, but we can trust that He has a purpose for taking His time, and we can be confident that one day He will complete His building work.