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1 KINGS 5:1-7:51

Last week we saw Solomon getting down to the business of being king of Israel. We saw that Solomon had a dream and in that dream God told him to ask what he wished and God would give it to him.

We saw that Solomon asked for an understanding heart and we saw that God told him that He would give him this...that He would give him wisdom and discernment, and because Solomon had asked for a heart that understood, He would also give Solomon wealth and honor for which he did not ask.

We're going to learn in the weeks ahead if Solomon used the discernment and the wisdom and the understanding heart that God so lavishly and graciously allowed him to have.

We're going to learn in the weeks ahead if he applied this discernment to his decisions of life more than he applied to his life the wealth and the honor that God also gave him.

Today, we're going to see Solomon build the temple that his father, David, had longed to build.

God told David in effect, "No. You can't build My house because you have blood on your hands, David. You've been a man of war. You've had battles to fight and enemies to defeat. You can gather some of the building materials, but you're not going to be allowed to build My house."

Remember that God's house for many years wasn't a house at all...it was a tent. God had instructed Moses to build Him a tent.

Now, it was a very elaborate tent. But it was portable...it was sort of a mobile home for God...but it was a place that was moved around through the wilderness and it was a place where God's glory and God's presence was manifested.

And for many years, the only "church house" they had was this tent. They camped around this tent. This tent was the central part of their lives.

But, now it was time for a more permanent structure to be built for God. The wars had ended. The enemies of Israel had been conquered. And God is going to allow Solomon to do what He would not allow his father to do.

It will be built just like God tells them to.

**They will make it the very size God tells them to make it.
They will make it the very color God tells them to make it.
They will furnish it exactly how God tells them to furnish it.**

So, with all that in mind, let's look at **1 Kings 5:1-12...**

In the passage we just read, there are four things that had to take place before God would manifest His presence in the temple.

1) Peace must be achieved. Verse 3...

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David was a warrior king. David knew war strategy. David had defeated the enemies of God's people over and over. These wars were absolutely necessary. David was not a bloodthirsty person. David went to war over and over because this was what God told him to do.

But, now, peace prevailed. Solomon is king. Nobody is fighting against Israel. Nobody is bringing armies to invade Israel. Peace in Israel had been achieved.

2) The right purpose had to be accomplished. Verse 5...

Solomon purposed in his heart to build a temple...but he purposed in his heart to build it "for the name of the LORD my God."

The intention of Solomon was not to build this house for Solomon's name...or even for his father, David's, name. His purpose was to build this house for the name of the LORD!!

And may I say...had there been any other purpose than this, the building might have stood, but God's presence would never have filled it. (Herod's temple?)
Before God's presence could manifest itself in this temple...peace must be achieved and the right purpose must be accomplished and

3) God's promises had to be believed. Verse 5...

"And, behold, I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD..."
WHY?

"As the LORD spoke to David my father, saying, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he will build the house for My name.'"

We mentioned this promise earlier...

When David desired to build God a house and God sent the prophet Nathan to him to tell him he would not be allowed to do it, God also told David that He would raise up his son and he's going to sit on his throne and he will be allowed to do what David was not allowed to do.

Now, if Solomon had not believed this promise the temple would not have been built and God's presence would never have been manifested in it.

The last thing...

4) God's plans had to be followed.

These plans are found back in **Exodus** where God gave Moses the plans for the tabernacle. These plans are also found in **chapters 6 and 7 of 1 Kings**.

As I studied this week, I wondered how Solomon got these plans. I mean, the plans contained in **1 Kings** aren't nearly as detailed as the plans God gave Moses for the tabernacle in the wilderness.

Well, **1 Chronicles 28** tells us that God gave these plans to David and David gave them to Solomon.

Isn't God good?

He knew what was in David's heart.

He knew the deep longing of David's heart was to build Him a house. So, he allowed David to know the plans for the temple.

He allowed and enabled David to assemble much of the gold and silver for the temple.

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So, the temple is about to be built. The four things that had to be accomplished in order for the presence of God to be in this temple had been accomplished or put in place...

Peace had been achieved...

The purpose was right...

God's promise was believed...

God's plans were to be followed...

Chapter 7 tells us more details of the temple. It tells us of a man named Hiram of Tyre who came to do beautiful work in bronze. **Verse 14** tells us he was a worker in bronze and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill for doing any work in bronze. And this chapter goes on to tell describe to us the work that he did.

EXAMPLE: The two pillars at the porch of the nave...one named Jachin and the other named Boaz. **Jachin – “He shall establish”. Boaz – “In it is strength”.**

(When Roy Guenin used to teach the teachers on Wednesday night he would throw this question out to the teachers any time we were anywhere close to the temple...For some reason, this bit of Bible trivia had stuck in his mind and he wanted to make sure it stuck in ours!!)

This temple must have been a grand and glorious place. Next week we're going to see Solomon's prayer of dedication of the temple. But, what I want to do in the time we have remaining is to apply this lesson to the life we live today.

What we've looked at today is truth. It actually happened. It's not a fairy tale. God intends for you and me to know these things or He wouldn't have put them in His book...

But, you and I don't live in the Old Testament times.

We don't sacrifice animals at the altar.

We don't sacrifice turtledoves or pigeons or lambs or goats or bullocks or rams.

We don't live in an Old Testament economy. We don't have a temple like they had in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament economy the word “temple” is applied in two different ways.

1) it is applied to the **individual** Christian.

2) It is applied to the church **collectively**.

And in the time we have left this morning, I want us to look at these two applications.

The first application of the word “temple” we'll look at is “the individual Christian.”

1 Corinthians 6:19...

After the Cross, the temple is not a building of rock and cement and mortar and walls and floors and roofs.

Now, you and I as individual Christians are the temple of God, and it is in our body that the Holy Spirit will manifest the presence of God.

Having said that, let me say this. Every born again believer in the Lord Jesus has the Holy Spirit living within them. However, every Christian does not know the fullness of the presence of God!

It's one thing to have the Lord *prominent* in your life, and it's something else for Him to be *preeminent* in your life.

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Don't you know some Christians who are so filled with the presence of the Lord that you can tell it when you're around them? And then, don't you also know some Christians who walk in such doubt and defeat and discouragement that you wonder if they're really Christians at all?

What do you think makes the difference?

Well, I believe the same things that were true of the Old Testament temple must also true of the New Testament temple. The Old Testament temple couldn't be filled with the presence of God without four things being true. We just looked at them...the first one was that **peace must be achieved...**

You'll never have the presence of God in your life until you have the peace of God in your life.

A lost person can look like a Christian. He can be a preacher. He can be a teacher. He can be a deacon or a committee member. He can talk the talk and even appear to be walking the walk...but the Holy Spirit of God will never manifest His presence in an unbeliever.

There must be peace with God and that's not something you do on your own.

Colossians 1 tells us that we have peace with God through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only Jesus could make peace with God for me. Only the blood of Jesus! We don't come to God any other way, do we?

We must be saved and to be saved there must have been a time in our lives that we knew we were a sinner and we knew we needed a Savior and we knew we could not save ourselves...and we looked at Calvary and saw that the blood of the Lord Jesus could!

Another thing, you must have the right purpose in your life. What is the purpose of your life?

1 Corinthians 6:20...

In **1 Corinthians 10**, Paul says "...whatever you do, whether you eat or whether you drink, or whatever you do, do it unto the glory of God."

That's to be the purpose of our lives. I've said it before. The purpose of our lives isn't about us! The purpose of our lives is to be about God!

And if you're living for any other reason than to glorify God...you're living for the wrong purpose and His presence isn't going to be manifested in our life in all His fullness!

Number three...**promises have to be believed.** God will never manifest the fullness of His presence in the heart of someone who doesn't believe Him.

Have you ever been with someone who says, "Well, this part of the Word of God we can believe, but this part we can't. You can believe this, but this part is just fable and fantasy.."?

Now, we may not understand all of it...and we may not be able to explain all of it...but we can still believe every word of it because we can believe God and He wrote it!

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We don't have to explain Him...we don't have to defend Him...all we have to do is believe Him!
We can't be **saved** unless we believe Him.

Romans 10:9-10:

"...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

We can't **pray** if we don't believe in Jesus. Jesus said,
"Whatsoever you ask in My name, believing you will receive."

We'll never ever see the glorious presence of God manifested in our lives until we truly believe in the promises of this book...and have the peace with God that comes only through the Lord Jesus and have the right purpose for our lives!

But, there's another thing that must be true...

That is that we must follow **God's plans for our lives!**

And we find God's plans for our lives by looking into His Bible. The Bible is God's rule book. God says I'm to walk in the Spirit. I'm not to walk in the flesh, I'm to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Henry Blackaby said in his EXPERIENCING GOD study that we're to look and see what God is doing and then seek to get in on it. That's just another way of saying we are to yield ourselves not to what **we're** doing, but to what **God** is doing.

God has a plan for you and me. And we need to seek His face every day and seek to live our lives according to that plan!

The New Testament not only says that individually we are temples of God, the Bible says that the New Testament church is the temple of God as well.

1 Corinthians 3:16...

In this chapter Paul is speaking to the church at Corinth. He is speaking to them and telling them that their church is a carnal church.

There are only two kinds of churches...churches that are putting for their own agenda...churches that are going their own way and doing their own thing...these are carnal churches. They are operating according to the desires of their flesh.

Then there are spiritual churches. These churches seek to know God's agenda and God's plan and they are going His way and doing His thing.

Over in **Acts 2**, on the Day of Pentecost, the Bible says, ***"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all in one place with one accord."***

For God to make His presence known in all its fullness, there must be peace in the church. I praise God that we serve God in a church where there is peace. **We may not always agree with each other, but I do believe we all love each other and want to be in one accord.**

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The part of the Scripture we just read in **Acts 1** that is lacking, not only in our **church**, but also in our **class** is that **“they were all in one place...”**

Two Sundays ago, there was a meeting of teachers after church. Now, we don't have many teachers' meetings here at Kirby. In fact, I don't remember one in a long, long time!

This meeting gave each teacher the goal the office has set for our attendance on April 13. Our goal has been set at 34. Bro. Casey took the highest attendance we have had in the last six months and he added 3 to it.

Now, folks, we have 52 on roll. Wouldn't it be nice if we could get 34 out of the 52 who ought to be here that Sunday here that Sunday? Wouldn't it be nice if we could get them here every Sunday?

Wouldn't it be nice if our church membership would all show up one Sunday? Some of us would have to go sit in the parking lot, wouldn't we?

Well, enough of that ridiculous wishful thinking...

Not only should there be peace in the church that desires for the presence of God to manifest itself there, but also, that church's purpose should be God's purpose...

And all we have to do is remember the pastor's sermon from a couple of Sunday nights ago. He preached on the fact that the church's purpose is to give glory to God.

The church's purpose is to praise God! WHY? Well, because God inhabits the praises of His people. And if the church is going to experience the presence of God, then our purpose must be to give glory to God!

The church also must believe God's promises. The time has come for God's people – His church - to take a stand and let the world know that we believe God's promises...that we believe His Word from cover to cover. Praise God for a pastor who preaches “thus saith the Lord” Sunday after Sunday.

Lastly, if the church is going to experience God's presence we must follow God's plans. God has laid down certain plans for us to follow. One of them is stewardship. We're to give. Another of them is fellowship. We're to come and gather ourselves together. We're not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

How are going to know each other and the needs that are so pressing in a fellow believer's life if we don't come to church?

I want to ask you today if you are experiencing God's presence in your life. Now, we know He has taken up residence in you. His presence is a reality in every believer's life. But, is that presence we're talking about manifested in all its fullness?

Is there anything that's preventing that fullness?

Is the peace of God upon you? God longs to give you His peace that passes all our understanding. He longs for it to guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

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Are you following God's purpose for your life? Are you seeking to know what God's purpose is?

Do you believe God's promises? Do you even know them? You have been given a love letter from God...just full of His promises to you. I believe it must grieve Him deeply to know that we have His book of loving promises and some of us never even bother to find out what they are.

Lastly, I want to ask you if you're following God's plan for your life. If you don't know His promises, the chances are very, very good that you don't know His plans.

Next week, we're going to see Solomon dedicate this temple to God. So, I want to end today's lesson with this question...Have you completely dedicated your temple to God?

May God help us to do just that this week. We have a revival coming up in April. We need to put our temple in order so that God can do some real work of revival in our midst.