

1 Kings 5-6, 8

But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

1 Kings 8:27 NIV

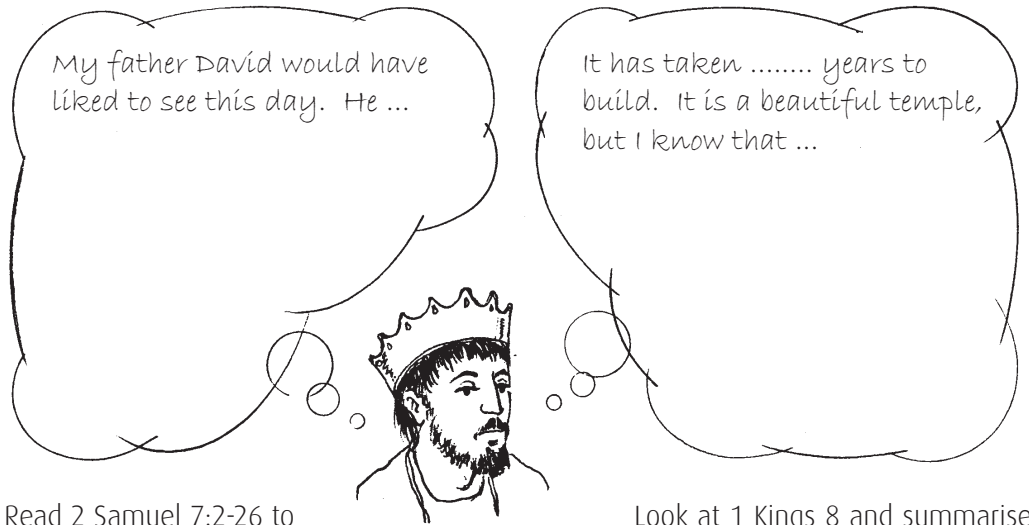
Readings this week:

- S 1 Chronicles 22
- M 1 Kings 5
- T 1 Kings 6:1-14
- W 1 Kings 8:1-21
- Th 1 Kings 8:22-43
- F 1 Kings 8:44-66
- S Psalm 15

Did you know that the word 'temple' in the Bible means 'large house' or 'palace'? This tells us a bit about what the temple was for - it represented God living with His people.

The word 'tabernacle' is similar - it means 'place or tent of meeting'. The temple or the tabernacle were the main places of worship in Bible times and the meaning of these words helps us to see that they were a sort of special house for God - one where people could meet him, worship him and get to know him.

The materials Solomon used for the temple were the best. The temple building showed everyone around what the people of Jerusalem thought about their God. If we are living temples for God, we have to make sure we become a good place for him to live.



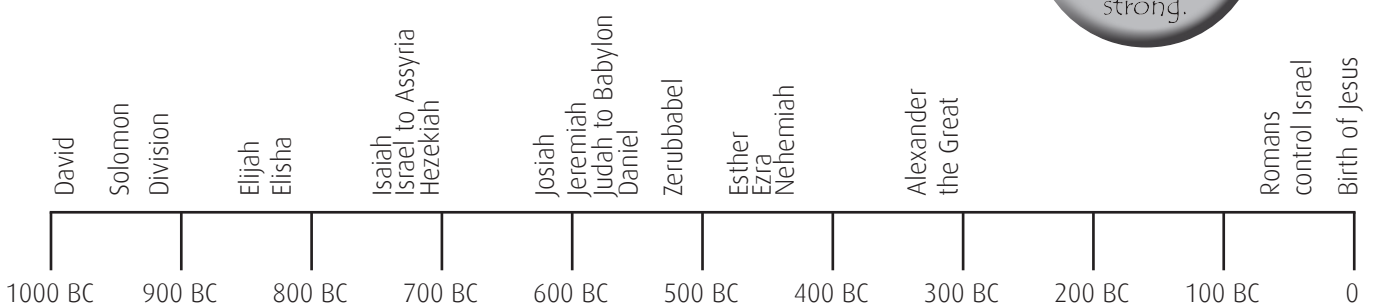
Read 2 Samuel 7:2-26 to remind yourself that David left Solomon a job to do. What would Solomon have thought as it was completed?

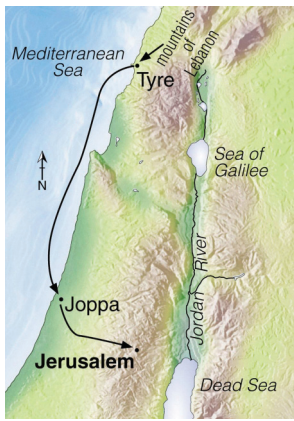
Look at 1 Kings 8 and summarise what Solomon was thinking as he made his prayer of dedication.



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Pray that your building for God will be strong.





Do we need to build a place for God to live? Look at these passages together and then answer the questions.

Where does God live? (Isaiah 57:15)

Who can live with him? (Psalm 15)

What is his house made of? (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Peter 2:4-5)

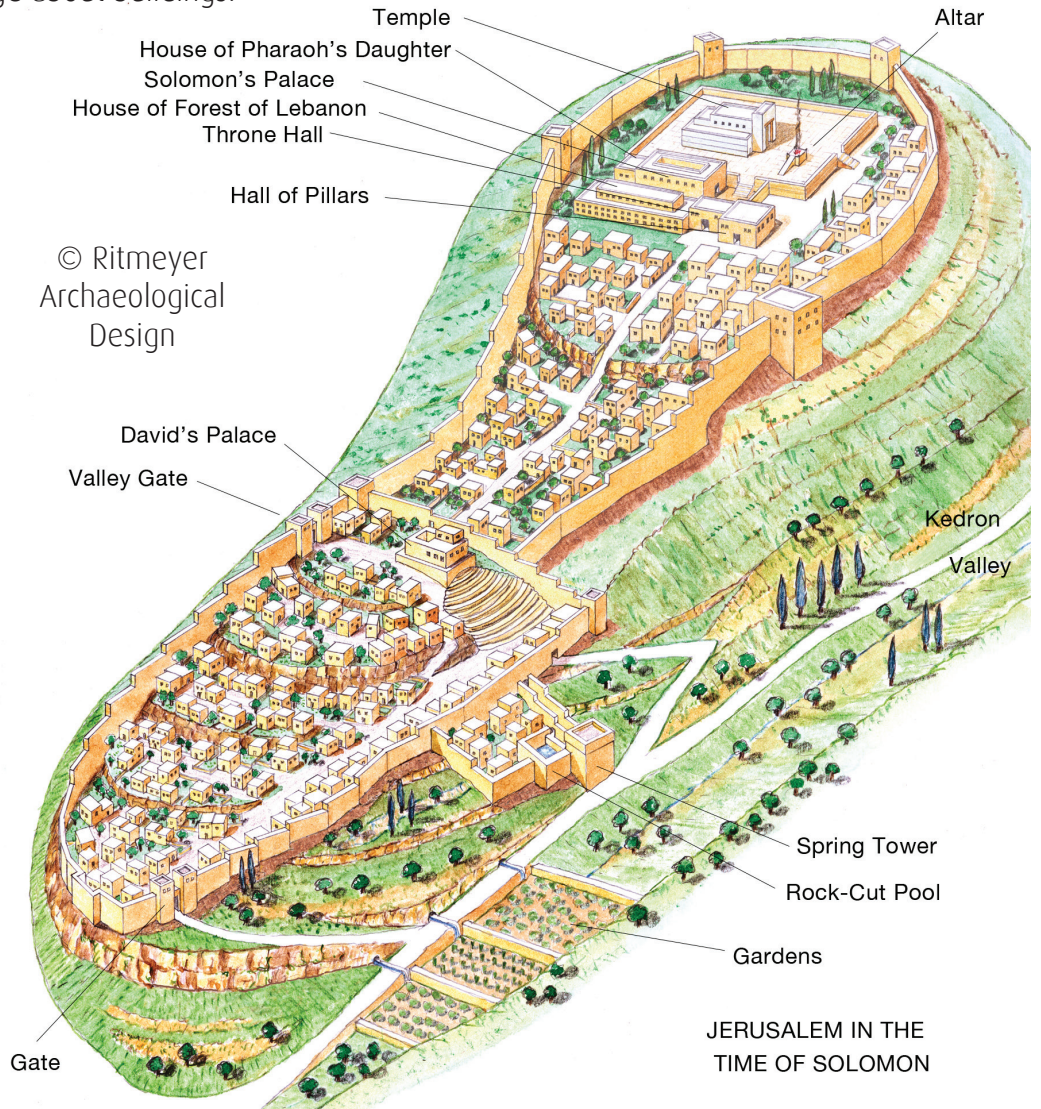
How can we enter God's house? (John 10:9; Hebrews 10:19-20)

Other parts of the Bible use the process of building as an analogy for things we do in our lives. Can you think of and find Bible passages which talk about: plumb lines, cornerstones and firm foundations. What do these mean?

Use photos or drawings to make a poster with a slogan which summarises God's message about buildings.

Do some research to find out how Solomon built the temple, what it was made of, and how long it took. Use these passages to help you:
1 Kings 6:7, 15, 18, 21;
1 Kings 7:23-26

The picture of the temple on the left, and the map of Jerusalem on the right, have been produced by Leen and Kathleen Ritmeyer. They are Christadelphians and also Archeologists. Leen has been involved in all of Jerusalem's major excavations, producing site plans and reconstruction drawings. Look at the places marked on the map and try to find out where they are mentioned in the Bible.



Digging Deeper

The kingdom on earth

Look at 1 Chronicles 22:7-9. It tells us why God didn't want king David to build the temple. What was the difference between David and Solomon?

1 Kings 4:21, 24-25 tells us the size of the kingdom Solomon inherited from his father David. (If you want to get a more accurate picture, look at 1 Samuel 30:1-2, 16-20; 2 Samuel 5:9-10, 12:22-25; 8:2, 13-14; 10:15-19; 12:26-31 and a good Bible map.)

Read 1 Kings 4:25 and compare it with Micah 4:4. We have seen in the lesson that Jesus, David's greater son, is building a spiritual temple of faithful men and women. Micah 4:1-5 shows us what his kingdom, here on earth, will be like.