

# Church of God Sunday School

## SOLOMON BUILDS GOD'S TEMPLE

1 Kings 5:1 — 9:9  
1 Chronicles 28:1 — 29:8  
2 Chronicles 2:1 — 7:22

Many years before Solomon became king, his father David wanted to build a temple for the Lord. But this was not God's will for David. God told David, "Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood."

David must have been disappointed to hear this! Then God said that instead of David building a house for *Him*, God was going to build a house for *David* (2 Samuel 7:16). This was not a house for David and his family to live in. God was establishing the "house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4). Someday, from this house (or family) would come the Savior of the world—Jesus—and His kingdom would last forever!

God promised David that his son Solomon would "build my house and my courts." Before David died, he gave Solomon the plans for the temple. David said, "I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God." David had set aside gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and precious stones to be used in the building of the temple.

Now David was dead, and "the wars which were about him on every side" were over. The kingdom was finally at peace. It was time to build the temple. Where would this beautiful house for God be built? Many years before "the LORD appeared unto David . . . in the threshingfloor of Ornan [*OR-nan*]." David bought this threshing floor and "built there an altar unto the LORD" (1 Chronicles 21:26). This was the place for the temple!

Solomon sent a message to Hiram, the king of Tyre, who had been a dear friend of King David. Solomon wanted to use the beautiful cedar and cypress trees that grew in Tyre for the temple. Hiram "rejoiced greatly" when he "heard the words of Solomon." Hiram told Solomon that he would send the trees to him by floating them down the sea coast. Solomon sent workers to help the servants of Hiram.

Meanwhile, Solomon had "great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones" prepared for the foundation of the temple. "Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders" worked together.



It had been 480 years since Israel had left the bondage of Egypt. While Israel wandered in the wilderness, God gave Moses specific instructions on the "pattern on the tabernacle" (Exodus 25-26). This was where the jar of manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the ten commandments were kept in the Ark of the Covenant. At that time, God's tabernacle or temple was not permanent, for the people of Israel were traveling to the Promised Land.

"In the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, . . . he began to build the house of the LORD." The building of the temple took seven years. It was a beautiful building! The "whole house [was covered] with gold." A great altar was built in the same place David had built an altar many years before. A very special room was built inside the temple. This room was where the Ark of the Covenant would be kept.

When everything was finished, Solomon "brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated." He put all the silver, the gold, and the instruments "among the treasures of the house of God." Then Solomon called "the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes."

It was time to bring the Ark of the Covenant to the temple. Solomon and the people offered many sacrifices to the Lord. Then the priests took the ark "to the most holy place" and placed it under the "wings of the cherubims." When the priests came out of the holy place, the people began to praise and thank the Lord.

God filled the temple with a cloud, just as He did many years before in the wilderness (Exodus 40:34). By this the people knew that God's presence was dwelling in the temple.

"Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD," stretched out "his hands toward heaven," and prayed a dedication prayer to God. He said, "LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee." Solomon asked God to bless His people and to have mercy on them if they sinned against Him.

When Solomon had finished praying, "fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices." The people bowed "with their faces to the ground" and worshiped the Lord. Then Solomon and the people offered sacrifices and offerings to God. "On the eighth day he sent the people away." The people went home "joyful and glad of heart."

God appeared a second time to Solomon in a dream. God told Solomon that He had heard Solomon's prayer. His presence would dwell in the temple Solomon had built. God said that He would keep His promises if Solomon or his children would obey the commandments and laws of God. But if they turned from God to "go and serve other gods and worship

them," God would no longer dwell in the temple.

If that happened, when people would ask what had happened to "this house," they would be told that Israel had forsaken "the LORD their God." (Sadly, this very thing happened about 410 years later; Jeremiah 52:12-13.)

When Solomon built this temple, he knew it could not completely hold God's presence. He said, "Heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee." God is everywhere. The temple was a place where the people could go to worship God.

Today, you do not have to go to a temple or a church to be in God's presence. Because Jesus died on the Cross, your body can be "the temple of the Holy Ghost" (1 Corinthians 6:19). God can live in your heart. Just as it was with Israel, to keep God's presence, you must obey God's commandments. If you turn from God to anything else, God will leave you.

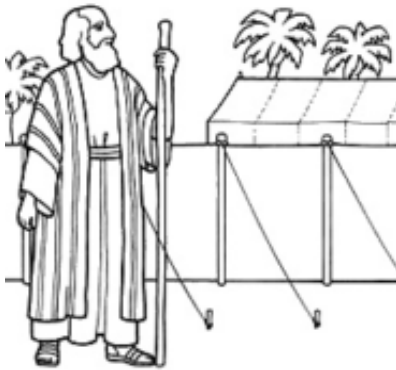
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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever."*

—2 Samuel 7:13  
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# Building a House for God

## (Who Am I?)



**I built a tabernacle for God in the wilderness. Who am I?**

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**I wanted to build a house for God, but God told me no. Who am I?**

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**My father gave me the plans for building God's temple. Who am I?**

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