

**Character Study: Solomon**  
**Part 2 – Solomon Builds the Temple**  
**I Kings 5-8**

**What's happening?**

- Solomon's father, King David, had desired to build a temple for God, but God did not allow David to do so. However, God did tell David that his son would complete the project. Understanding his call to build a permanent place for the people to meet with God, Solomon began making plans to build a temple. (5:1-5)
- Solomon recruited help from Hirman, the king of Tyre. He knew that Hirman could supply wood and manpower to help with the project. Hirman was excited and gave Solomon his full support. (5:6-8)
- Hirman's men would cut down trees and send them on rafts to the temple's location. Hirman would also have men on site to help cut the wood. Solomon gathered 183,000 of his own men to cut wood and gather large stones and precious stones for the temple. (5:9-18)
- Solomon used skilled craftsman who placed gold plating and decorations throughout the temple. The project was completed after seven years of construction. (6:1-38)
- Solomon gathered the Israelites and dedicated the temple with a prayer, the offering of many sacrifices, and a seven day feast. (8:12-66)

**What's God doing?**

> God allowed Solomon to build a temple in which God would " dwell " (I Kings 6:13). The temple would be a permanent structure, as opposed to the tabernacle which could be moved around to different locations. This would now be the place where the Israelites would go to worship God.

**What's to learn?**

→ The Israelites looked at the temple as a place they could worship God, and it would serve its purpose well. But even Solomon recognized that God could not be limited to the walls of a single building (I Kings 8:27). God, in his omnipresence, can be worshiped at any time and any place.

→ Solomon had the heart to do something big for God. When you look around, what can you do for the glory of God? God empowered Solomon to accomplish something great, and He may be desiring to empower you to do something great as well!

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