

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE**  
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**Introduction**

This Chapter gives us details of the construction of the Jewish Temple under the leadership of Solomon.

**1 Kings 6:1**

This verse is very important because **it gives a time post to us for dating events in history. It says that the construction began 480 years after the Exodus from Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign.**

This would place **the building of the Temple at 966 B.C. and the Exodus at 1446 B.C.** The time of the year is described here as the *month of Zif*. *"Zif" is not the name of the month but a descriptor of the month. "Zif" means "to be prominent; brightness; or splendor" and figuratively refers to the spring, the month of flowers, the time of year when the splendor and beauty of blooming plants bring forth their beauty! This would correspond to the actual Jewish month of Ijar or our calendar month of May!*

**1 Kings 6:2**

**The size of the Temple is recorded here.** A cubit was considered from the tip of the hand to the elbow which was about 18 inches.

60 cubits in length= 90 feet.

20 cubits in width= 30 feet

This would be a total of 2700 sq.ft.

30 cubits in height= 45 feet

These dimensions were double of those of the Tabernacle. The proportions were the same.

According to 1 Kings 7:21, a porch adorned the entry of the Temple and was accented by two huge pillars.

*Jachin* means **"He shall establish; steadfastness"**

*Boaz* means **"In it is strength"**

The remainder of **chapter 6** gives a beautiful description of this building. In 1980, a fellow by the name of Robert Boyd computed the cost the Temple if it was to be built in 1980. At that time he computed it to be 240 billion dollars!

Can you imagine what it would cost to build it today?

The description of the Temple gives us understanding of the cost and Solomon's attitude in trying to do his best for God!

**1 Kings 6:7**

We read where the building was made from stone, most likely acquired from the quarries north of Jerusalem. We see that they had so much respect and reverence for God that the stones were pre-cut so that it eliminated the need for hammering at the Temple site.

**1 Kings 6:21, 30**

We see that the inside of the Temple was magnificent. The walls were lined with red boards of cedar and floors of fir wood. Engraved on the wood were angelic cherubims, palm trees, and flowers. Thin sheets of beaten gold were laid over the wood on the walls and the floors.

These verses are a wonderful reminder of Heaven where the streets are of gold. Gold is the emblem of God's glory and righteousness. Not only was gold on the walls, but beautiful precious stones were inlaid into the wood and gold.

*2 Chronicles 3:6—And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold was gold of Parvaim.*

Building the Temple was an enormous project that took 7 1/2 years to complete.

**1 Kings 6:37,38—In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the Lord laid, in the month Zif: And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.**

The month of Bul is the eighth month which corresponds with our October and November.

When we look at the purpose of the Temple, we find some insights for us as Believers on how God wants us to live our lives and the purpose He has for us.

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**1. WE BELIEVERS ARE GOD'S TEMPLE!**

Remember how Jesus compared His own body to a temple in *John 2:19-21* – 19 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21 But he spake of the temple of his body.*

**A. Paul Reminded The Corinthian Believers (And Us) That We Are Also A Temple Of God!**

*1 Corinthians 3:16,17— Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20—What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

*2 Corinthians 6:16—And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

*Romans 8:9—But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

**B. Paul Reminded The Ephesian Church That The Whole Body Of Believers In Christ Are A Habitation Of God Through The Holy Spirit! (Ephesians 2:20-22)**

**Understand that the Temple was the visible sign of God's presence among His people!** God promised to dwell among them if they would obey Him! (*1 Kings 6:12-13*)

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Similarly, in our day, **Believers are to live in such a way where others can see God's presence, holiness, and influence in our lives!**

*2 Corinthians 3:2-3—Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

**We are walking Bibles as we yield to the Holy Spirit and let Him construct us to make us more like Christ each day!**

*A story is told about Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary doctor who had spent his life helping the poor in Africa. Reporters and city officials had gathered at a Chicago railroad station one afternoon in 1953 to meet Dr. Schweitzer, who was the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner.*

*A few minutes after the train came to a stop, this giant of a man, (six feet four inches tall, with bushy hair and a large mustache) stepped from the train. Cameras flashed as city officials approached him with hands outstretched. Various people began telling him how honored they were to meet him.*

*The man politely thanked them and then, looking over their heads, asked if he could be excused for a moment. He quickly walked through the crowd until he reached the side of an elderly black woman who was struggling with two large suitcases. He picked up the bags with a smile and escorted the woman to a bus. After helping her aboard, he wished her a safe journey. As he returned to the greeting party he apologized and said, "Sorry to have kept you waiting."*

*In response to Schweitzer's action, one member of the reception committee said with great admiration to the reporter standing next to him, "That's the first time I ever saw a sermon walking."*

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**May the LORD help us to realize we are being watched by others so that we may be good ambassadors of Christ! Because we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, we are to live in a way that pleases, honors, and glorifies God!**

**As the LORD looks at us does what He sees please Him?**

*WE BELIEVERS ARE GOD'S TEMPLE!*

**II. WE BELIEVERS ARE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN THIS TEMPLE OF HIS!**

**A. Sacrifices Were Made To The LORD In His Temple! (That was one of its main purposes!)**

We also are to offer sacrifices in our life to the LORD in our bodies which are also His Temple! Not animal sacrifices mind you, but sacrifices none the less!

*1 Peter 2:5—Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

**B. We Can Offer The Sacrifice Of Our Body (Our Very Lives) In This Temple That He Dwells In!**

*Romans 12:1—I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*[The story is told of a Chinese Believer who was moved with compassion when many of his countrymen were taken to work as laborers in South African mines. In order to be able to witness to his countrymen, this man sold himself to the mining company to work for five years. He died there, still a slave, but not until he had won more than 200 men to Christ. He was a living sacrifice in the fullest sense.]*

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**C. We Can Offer The Sacrifice Of Prayer!**

*Psalm 141:2—Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.* Few people spend much time praying because they are either too busy or feel they have no time to pray. But listen, we ALL choose what to do with the 24 hours in a day that we have been given!

**D. We Can Offer The Sacrifices Of A Broken And Contrite Heart!**

*Psalm 51:17—The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

**E. We Can Offer The Sacrifices Of Praise And Thanksgiving To The LORD!**

*Psalm 107:21-22—Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.*

*Hebrews 13:15—By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

**Why is praise considered a sacrifice?**

How often do you hear praise for God? Do we only openly praise God in the confines of the Local Church?

How often do you praise the LORD in the presence of the lost? Many folks are worried about being considered "nuts," so they are shy when it comes to talking about the LORD or openly praising Him.

God loves our praise of Him! He wants our praise of Him! He deserves our praise of Him!

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1. **He Wants Our Praise Daily!**  
*Psalm 72:15—And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised.*
2. **He Wants Our Praise Continually!**  
*Psalm 71:6—By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.*
3. **He Wants Our Praise While We Are Alive!**  
*Psalm 146:2—While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.*

*WE BELIEVERS ARE GOD'S TEMPLE!*  
*WE BELIEVERS ARE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN THIS TEMPLE OF HIS!*

**III. WE ARE TO REMEMBER AND OBEY THE WORD OF THE LORD IN HIS TEMPLE!**

The Temple was a place for remembering the Law of the Lord.

If we are to be godly temples, we must be focused on the Word of God. The Bible must play an important role in our lives!

Oh how we need to give attention to:

1. **READING God's Word!**  
*1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading...*
2. **STUDYING God's Word!**  
*2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
3. **MEMORIZING God's Word!**  
*Psalm 119:11—Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

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4. **DELIGHTING IN God's Word!**  
*Psalm 1:2—But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*
5. **LOVING God's Word!**  
*Psalm 119:97—O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.*
6. **LETTING God's Word DWELL IN YOU!**  
*Colossians 3:16—Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
7. **OBEYING God's Word!**  
*James 1:22—But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

We are all still under construction! In order to be conformed to Christ's image, we must yield to the Holy Spirit as the Master Builder in our lives!