



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

KING DAVID'S DESIRE TO BUILD THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 / First Assembly of God / Ft. Myers, Florida
with Pastor Dan Betzer

From the time of Israel's leaving the bondage of Egypt under Moses' leadership around 1450 BC, the famed Tabernacle in the Wilderness was used for worship and sacrifice. It was portable and was transported from place to place until the Jews finally arrived in "the Promised Land" around the year 1400 B.C. When David became the second king of Israel some 400 years later, it became his desire to erect a permanent and magnificent Temple to God:

1 II Samuel 7:1-3

2 *And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the Lord had*
3 *given him rest round about from all his enemies; [2] That the king said*
4 *unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the*
5 *ark of God dwelleth within curtains. [3] And Nathan said to the king,*
6 *Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the Lord is with thee.*

7

8 Well, it might have been David's desire and even had the OK from the
9 priest Nathan, but the plan did not have God's OK at all:

10

11 I Chronicles 28:3

12 *But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name,*
13 *because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.*

14

15

16 *You will note that I have bypassed several Old Testament books to get to*
17 *the above reference in First Chronicles. The Old Testament has 39 books*
18 *total, 12 of which are known as "the historical books." Following the*
19 *Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), are*
20 *these fabulous 12 books called "historical" and they include: Joshua,*
21 *Judges, Ruth, First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings, First and*
22 *Second Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther. The books I am referring*
23 *to now, First and Second Chronicles, contain a retelling of the history of*
24 *Israel from Solomon to the captivity of Israel by the Babylonians and is*
25 *primarily the story of the southern Kingdom of Judah. But, also from the*
26 *Chronicles, we learn of God's rejection of David's desire to build him a*
27 *grandiose temple.*

28

29

30 I believe it is clear that no one wanted that great Temple more than King
31 David, yet God would not allow him to build it. In his reign of 40 years,
32 he had shed the blood of many of Israel's enemies and God did not want
33 a man of war to build is holy place in Jerusalem. David explained to
34 the people:

35

36

1 I Chronicles 28:5-6

2 *And of all my sons, (for the Lord hath given me many sons,) he hath*
3 *chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the*
4 *Lord over Israel. [6] And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall*
5 *build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and*
6 *I will be his father.*

7

8 In Jerusalem today is the great museum that houses the model of
9 Jerusalem as it was in Jesus' time. It is an astounding site to behold! The
10 Temple would have filled as much as a fourth of the entire old city.
11 Flanked by Solomon's porch and a market, the length of the actual Temple
12 was 180 feet long, 90 feet wide and 50 feet high. The highest point on the
13 Temple that Solomon built was over 200 feet.

14

15 The king spared no expense for the building's creation. He ordered vast
16 amounts of cedar wood from King Hiram of Tyre (Lebanon today), had
17 huge blocks of the choicest stone quarried and commanded that the
18 building's foundation be laid with hewn stone. Some 3300 officials were
19 appointed to oversee the project. It is known that paying for this was
20 expensive: Solomon had to hand over twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram:

21

22 I Kings 9:11

23 *(Now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees*
24 *and fir trees, and with gold, according to all his desire,) that then king*
25 *Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.*

26

27 The Temple was destroyed when the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem in
28 587 BC and much later the Temple as Jesus knew it was rebuilt by King
29 Herod the Great. That Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD, as
30 Jesus had prophesied in Matthew 24 and 25.

31

32 As glorious and elaborate as the Temple was, it contained very little
33 furniture. The Holy of Holies held the Ark of the Covenant, which
34 contained the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. By today's
35 monetary units, Solomon's Temple would have cost over 200 BILLION
36 dollars. It was truly one of the ancient wonders of the world. So where did

1 Solomon get that kind of money? Most of it from David. Although he was
2 not allowed by God to build the Temple, he spent most of his adult years
3 as King saving up the funding for its construction.

4

5 I Chronicles 29:1-9

6 *Furthermore, David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon*
7 *my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the*
8 *work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the Lord God. [2]*
9 *Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold*
10 *for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the*
11 *brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things*
12 *of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistening stones, and of*
13 *divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in*
14 *abundance. [3] Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house*
15 *of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I*
16 *have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have*
17 *prepared for the holy house, [4] Even three thousand talents of gold, of*
18 *the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay*
19 *the walls of the houses withal: [5] The gold for things of gold, and the*
20 *silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the*
21 *hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this*
22 *day unto the Lord?*
23 *[6] Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and*
24 *the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's*
25 *work, offered willingly, [7] And gave for the service of the house of God*
26 *of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten*
27 *thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one*
28 *hundred thousand talents of iron. [8] And they with whom precious*
29 *stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the Lord,*
30 *by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. [9] Then the people rejoiced, for*
31 *that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered*
32 *willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.*

33

34 I grew up in an Iowa Assemblies of God church. It was a good church of
35 about 350 people, on the average. The church building was old but in
36 fairly good shape; it is now long since gone. No, it was not much of a

1 building, but it was a powerful church at that time. The secret behind its
2 strength was prayer and a powerful pastor, A. M. Alber. He gave me carte
3 blanche to his rather extensive library and was a help to me in many ways.
4 But, it wasn't the building! It was the strong ministry emanating from it.
5 I have never been a great lover of church buildings for they are at best
6 tools to be used in the work of our Savior. Below you will see a picture of
7 our "home missions" church in Sandusky, Ohio. Darlene and I led that
8 congregation in its first days (September, 1973). We had no building, just
9 meeting in a hotel ballroom on Sundays. Every Monday morning I took
10 my payroll check downtown to deposit it at the Western Security Bank
11 (the building on the corner in the picture below.) I loved that facility,
12 situated on the primary corner in town. It was a four-story marble structure
13 (inside and out) that had been constructed about a century ago (now). In
14 the main banking room, which became our sanctuary, some 25 feet above
15 the marble floor was the gold-leafed ornate ceiling. When illuminated by
16 the two massive bronze chandeliers, the ceiling lit up in golden splendor.

17

18 Above was a mezzanine plus two floors of office spaces, which we turned
19 into Christian education rooms. Plus, there was a full basement which we
20 put to good use.

21



22

1 God spoke to my heart and assured me that this would be our church
2 building. Everyone around me, except Darlene, just scoffed at me. The
3 bank was paying property taxes on this glorious structure - taxable for 6.5
4 million dollars. 27,000 square feet of marble, gold, and bronze.

5
6 We ended up purchasing that facility for \$80,000 and a local farmer
7 supplied that amount. We could seat about 400 in the sanctuary, which
8 was filled again and again. Now... decades have passed and the Lord has
9 led us on to other ministries. Several years ago, the congregation decided
10 they didn't want that "old building" and almost gave it away to the city.
11 Now take a good look at that picture... See the building next door to the
12 church? The city took both of them and decided to turn it into Sandusky
13 City Hall. The major told me not long ago, that the old bank/church
14 building was one of the loveliest buildings anywhere along the Lake Erie
15 shoreline. The city spent \$22 million dollars remodeling it.

16
17 The church? Doesn't exist anymore. What few people remained merged
18 with another one. Sad, sad story.

19
20 So what happened there? The vision, the faith that spawned that work in
21 the first place was gone. And, so was the church.

22
23 It is not the church building, my friend. It's the faith shown by the people
24 in it that make all the difference. David and Solomon had faith. When
25 those twin virtues disappeared, so did that 200-BILLION dollar structure.

26
27 It is my strong conviction that it has only been God's blessing for our
28 obedience to His work that has made First Assembly go! May it continue
29 until Jesus returns!