

October 27, 2013

Lesson 8: Solomon's Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 'You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name."



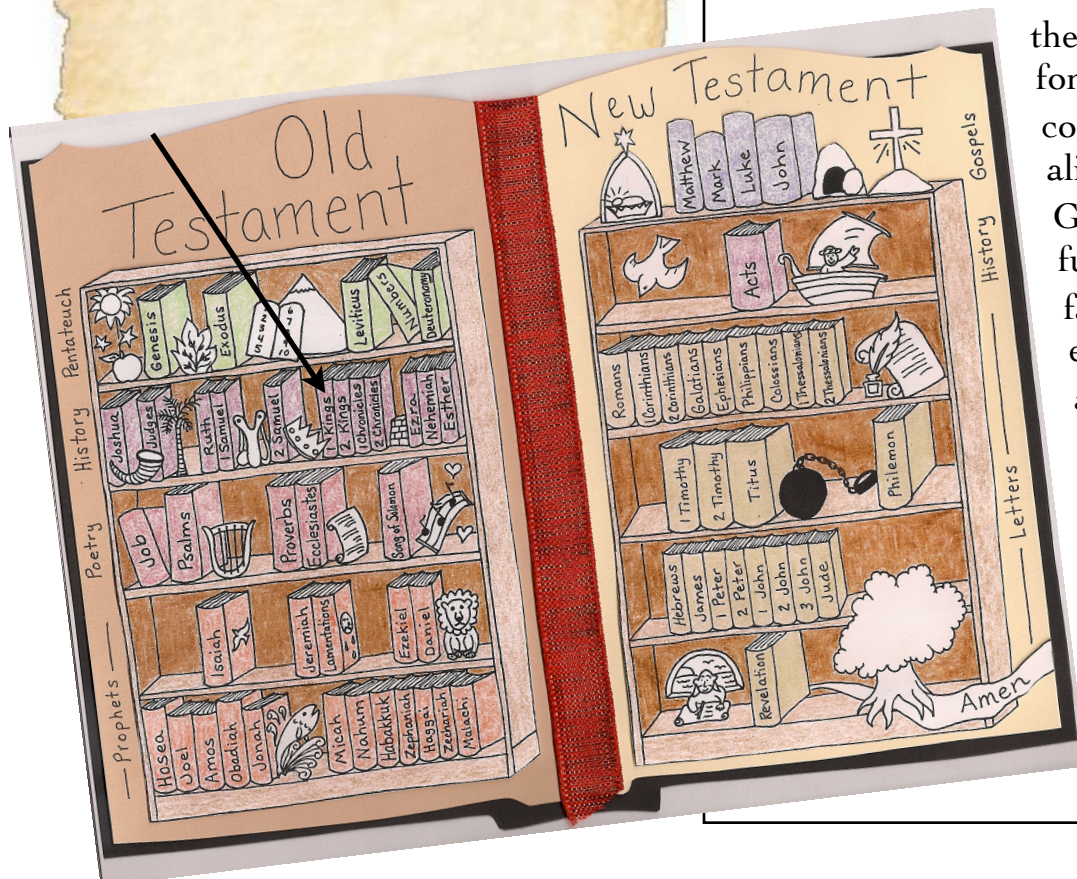
Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the city of David, which is Zion. All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. So they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites, when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon said,
'The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.
I have built you an exalted house,
a place for you to dwell in for ever.'

Solomon's Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13

“...for the glory
of the Lord filled
the house of the
Lord.”



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The Big Story Truth: Even in times of hardship and change, even when we have done something terribly wrong and need to be corrected, God is with us and will call us back into the relationship of promise and faith in God's provision!

About This Scripture Passage: God made promises to his people. God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their family would grow, that they would be a blessing to the whole earth, and that they would have a land God would give them. God promised David that his son would one day build a temple. God keeps God's promises. The Ark of the Covenant within the temple is a symbol God's promise and of God's presence with his people.

But God's people were not always faithful. For as much as God was faithful, the people rebelled. Solomon, who had this beautiful vision of a temple for God, built the temple by means of foreign allegiances that compromised his faith and alienated his subjects. God's people divided, future kings worshipped false gods, and the enemies conquered. The ark of the covenant was carried away. Even the temple itself was destroyed. But did that mean that God's presence was no longer with the people? No. As the people went into exile, God went with them....

Making the Connection: Today is the Sunday in the church year that we call "Reformation Sunday." It is the day that we remember what happened in the 1500s when Martin Luther nailed his complaints against the Catholic church to the door of the church in an effort to get everyone to open their eyes to how God's servants in the church were not being faithful to God's Word. Hearing the story of the building of the temple on this day is a reminder that God's love and God's presence can never be "boxed." God's love will always be transforming us, shaping us, pushing us to grow and to learn in new ways. For kids, it's important for them to hear that as they grow and as they change.... and as they get things wrong, and screw up... that God will still be with them.

Where in the World Are We?

The temple is built in the city of Jerusalem. Be sure to help your kids locate the city of Jerusalem on the magnified map. Show them pictures of what the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant may have looked like.

For Your Reflection:

What is a major screw up that you've had in life?

How did God open your eyes to what needed to be corrected?



The Temple, Jerusalem!



Ark of the Covenant

