

# 46. Solomon Builds the Temple

*The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children*

## Notes for Parents & Teachers

### 46. Solomon Builds the Temple

- a. There are a lot of details in this story, but if you talk about each of the places and things that were covered with gold, and get them talking about them, they will remember a lot.
- b. The story needs little explanation.
- c. King David had to fight many battles, and he won them all. Now his son, Solomon, didn't need to fight any battles because his father had won them, so he could concentrate on building this special church to worship the Lord.
- d. Of course remind them of the ark and the Ten Commandments being in the innermost, the most special place. You might tell them, if they live where there is a church, that in our churches, there is only the Lord's Word in the most holy part of the church. Just as the ark and the Ten Commandments were in the temple, the Lord's Word, where the Ten Commandments are to be found, is the only thing in the most special place in our churches. Also the Word is in a special place in your home.



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## The Lord Is Pleased When Solomon Builds the Temple

Now in the 480th year since the children of Israel left the land of Egypt, King Solomon started to build a temple in Jerusalem for the Lord. He made it 90 ft long, 30 ft wide and 45 ft high. There was a porch in front of the temple, and the temple had many narrow windows. There were three floors, connected by stairs to each other. There were also many rooms. The temple was built of blocks of stone which were uncut and brought to Jerusalem so that there was no hammering, nor the sound of axes or any tools of iron, when the temple was being built. When the walls were built, the king covered them and the ceiling of the Lord's House with boards of cedar wood, carved with gourds and flowers opening up. The floors were covered with planks of fir. No stone was seen.

Then the king built a special house inside the temple and covered it inside and outside with pure gold. This was called the holy of holies. The altar by the entrance to the holy of holies was covered in cedar. Within the holy of holies, Solomon made two cherubim of olive wood, each 15 feet high, and the wings of the one cherubim touched the wings of the other cherubim in the middle of the room. These too were covered in gold. Then the king covered all the walls of the house and the doors with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees and flowers opening up, and he covered them all in gold. It took the king seven years to build the temple.

After that, King Solomon had all the furniture, the lampstands, the bowls, the spoons and everything that was needed for the house of the Lord made out of gold. Then when the work for the house of the Lord was completed, he brought into it all the things which King David, his father, had blessed—the silver, the gold and other things that were in the Tabernacle.

Finally, King Solomon called the children of Israel together, and the priests lifted up the ark and brought it into the holy of holies and placed it under the wings of the cherubim. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which the Lord God gave to the children of Israel with the ten commandments written on them. And it was, when the priest came out of the holy place, that the cloud that always went before the children of Israel, came into the house of the Lord, and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

1 Kings 6, 7 and 8

