

General Church Education



Furnishing and Dedicating the Temple

1 Kings 7:48-51; 8:1-20; 9:1-7

Lesson 5

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is Our Prophet

For ages 11-12 years

Furnishing and Dedicating the Temple

1 Kings 7:48-51; 8:1-20; 9:1-7

Teacher Background

The furnishings in the temple were based upon the furnishings of the tabernacle. The only piece of furniture that was the same was the Ark in which the Ten Commandments were kept. The children of Israel carried the Ark through the wilderness and into the Land of Canaan. It was brought into the temple with great ceremony. When this was complete, the temple could be dedicated. The dedication was a special event. It marked the beginning of permanent place of worship. It also marked a re-dedication to the covenant established between the Lord and the people years before. However, in time the people abandoned the covenant.

This story demonstrates how we can get caught up in the moment and promise all kinds of things. However, when the hard work of keeping those promises appears, we might forget them. To keep a promise, a person must value keeping their promises more than their selfish or worldly concerns. Adolescents can begin to understand the true importance of the furnishings in the temple and apply what they are learning in new ways. They can begin to look for the special meaning—the internal sense—in the stories they are reading. Knowing that the Lord is teaching at many different levels gives the Word more power in their lives.

Focus Points

- Solomon carefully followed the Lord's directions for furnishing the temple.
- Solomon installed the Ark of the covenant in which the Ten Commandments were kept.
- The Lord renewed His covenant with Israel.

Readings from the Writings

“The gold, the silver, and vessels of brass and iron, were put into the treasury of the house of Jehovah, because they signified the knowledges of spiritual and natural truth and good, gold and silver the knowledges of spiritual truth and good, and vessels of brass and iron the knowledges of natural truth and good.... This also is what is meant by ... the gold and silver which David gathered from the spoils of the enemy, and left to Solomon for building the temple.” *Apocalypse Explained* 700.17

“Since ‘the temple’ signified heaven, therefore all things of the temple signified such things as are of heaven, thus of Divine truth there; for, as said above, heaven is heaven from the Divine truth that proceeds from the Lord; therefore ‘the porch of the temple’ signified the things pertaining to the ultimate heaven, and as this sustains the two higher heavens, those two pillars were placed in the porch.” *Apocalypse Explained* 219

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following activity choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Let your heart therefore be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day.” (1 Kings 8:61)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Fill-in-the-Blanks—Furnishing and Dedicating the Temple

Fill in the blanks to complete the story of furnishing and dedicating the temple.

Dedication Prayer for the Temple of Israel

At the dedication of the temple Solomon spoke to the Lord. He asked Him to enter the temple and help people to follow the Lord’s commandments, and hear the prayers of people who looked to the temple when they prayed. Write a prayer that tells the Lord of your dedication to try to provide a place for Him in your mind and heart and asks for His help in doing this.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Build a Model of Solomon’s Temple

Build a high quality scale model of Solomon’s temple that includes all the furnishings. You will need stiff paper for printing. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-build-a-model-of-solomons-temple-1-kings-5-6.pdf>

Comparing the Tabernacle and the Temple

The tabernacle and the temple were built for worshipping the Lord. Examine the similarities and differences between them. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-comparing-the-tabernacle-and-the-temple-exodus-25-31-1-kings-6-7.pdf>

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. As you fill in the spaces, think about whether the king is good or evil. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

Furnishing and Dedicating the Temple

1 Kings 7:48-51; 8:1-20; 9:1-7

Vocabulary

sanctified—set apart for holy purposes

replicate—copy

statutes—laws

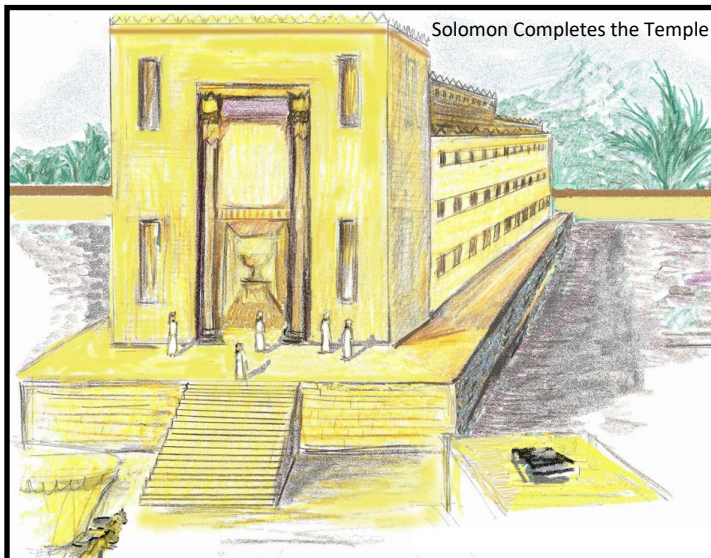
Pillars of Bronze

When the main structure of the temple was complete King Solomon decorated and furnished it. Solomon brought a skilled craftsman, Hiram, to Jerusalem to cast two pillars of bronze to stand at either side of the temple door. Each pillar was about 35 feet tall. Hiram set beautifully decorated bronze capitals shaped like lilies on the tops of the pillars. Solomon named the pillar on the right Jachim, and the pillar on the left Boaz.

Sea of Bronze and Ten Lavers

Hiram also made a sea of bronze for ceremonial washing. This sea was like a pool of water. It was seventeen and a half feet in diameter, and eight and three-fourths feet deep. The sea was three and a half inches thick. It weighed at least twenty-five tons and held sixteen to twenty thousand gallons of water. It was decorated with ornamental buds and rested on the backs of twelve cast oxen—three facing east, three facing south, three facing north and three facing west.

Why do you think there were twelve oxen? Can you remember other times when the number twelve is used in the Word?



Ten four-wheeled carts were built to support and carry lavers. The lavers were bowl-like vessels capable of holding three hundred gallons of water each. The lavers, as well as the sea, were used by the priests to prepare for sacrifices to God. The priests would wash themselves and the animals before offering them on the altar. Hiram completed his work by casting shovels and bowls to help in the ceremonies carried out in the temple.

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Furnishings for the House of the Lord

The sea of bronze and the ten lavers were placed outside of the temple in the courtyard. They served the same purpose that the laver served in the tabernacle. Solomon had several pieces of new furniture made for the temple. These included a table of showbread, an altar of incense and some gold vessels. He had ten lampstands made of gold to set in front of the inner sanctuary, five on the right side and five on the left. When the gold hinges for the doors were finished the temple was complete. Imagine what it must have been like when the doors were in place!

The Ark Is Placed Inside the Temple

When the temple was finished, the Ark was brought from the tabernacle into the temple. Solomon arranged for many important people to attend this special occasion. He assembled the elders of Israel, the heads of the tribes, and the chief fathers of Israel.

There was only one thing that Solomon did not replicate: the Ark. The Ark held the two tables of stone with the Ten Commandments on them—the sign of the covenant which the Lord had made with the children of Israel at Mount Horeb. The priests brought the Ark into the temple while all the elders watched. Meanwhile, Solomon and the congregation of Israel sacrificed so many sheep and oxen they could not be counted.

Solomon Dedicates the Temple

When the priests came out of the holy place, the glory of the Lord filled the temple in the form of a cloud. He seemed to be showing the people that He was pleased with the wonderful house that had been built in his name. Solomon then dedicated the temple with these words:

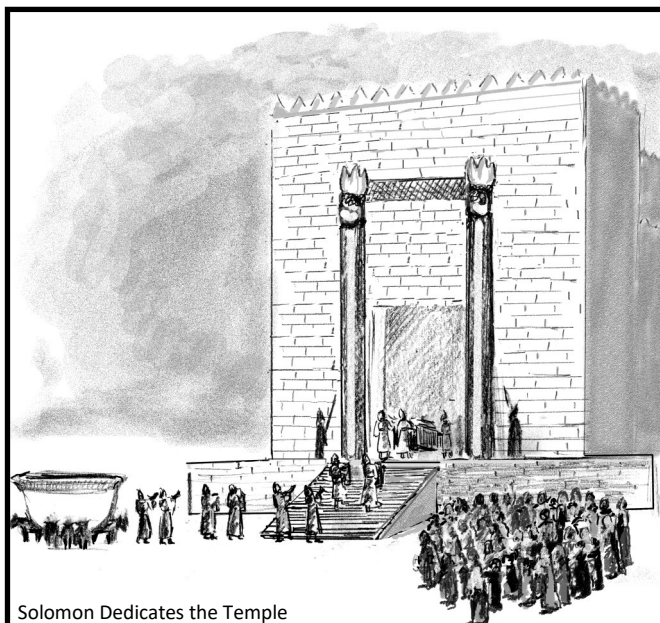
“The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud. I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell forever.” (1 Kings 8:12, 13).

After dedicating the temple, Solomon blessed the people and spoke of his father David’s desire

to build the temple and of the Lord’s promise that David’s son would be allowed to build it. He praised the Lord for fulfilling this promise. Then Solomon reminded the Lord of His promise to keep descendants of David on the throne, provided they follow the Lord.

Solomon Prays to the Lord

After this, Solomon He asked the Lord to dwell in the temple, to listen to the prayers of the people, and to judge the people, to condemn the wicked and justify the righteous.



Solomon Dedicates the Temple

Solomon asked that the people be forgiven when they sinned and be brought back to the Lord.

“Then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to his ways, whose heart You know that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which you gave to our fathers.” (1 Kings 8:39, 40)

Once again, Solomon blessed the people and asked them to keep the Lord’s commandments. When he had finished speaking, he and all of Israel offered more sacrifices to the Lord and feasted. When the feasting ended, Solomon sent the people away. They returned to their tents full of joy for all that the Lord had done for them.

The Lord Appears to Solomon

When the celebrations finished the Lord appeared to Solomon. He repeated the covenant that He first made with Noah and had renewed so many times. He told Solomon that He had sanctified the temple and would be able to dwell there and be with the people if they kept His statutes and His judgments. He warned Solomon that if they did not follow the commandments He would have to cut Israel off from the land which He had given them.



Dedication

Solomon worked for years to make the temple worthy of the Lord. During the dedication, Solomon said, “I have surely built a settled place for Thee to abide in forever.” “Dedication” means to set apart for a special use, and the dedication of the temple meant that it was set apart as the Lord’s house, the place where He would “dwell” and “abide,” and where all the people would worship Him.

Church buildings are like this today. Every church that has been built for the worship of the Lord has been dedicated to that purpose. Most dedications have been accompanied with celebrations and banquets because people of the church feel such joy when a new place of worship is completed. Many churches have some of the characteristics of the tabernacle and the temple to reflect their spiritual meaning. You may have noticed that there are usually three main parts to the sanctuary where people worship. There is a special place for the Word, the source of the Lord’s goodness and truth. This is like the holy of holies. There is a chancel where the minister conducts worship and helps people understand the Word. It is like the outer room. Finally, there is the place for the congregation to gather to learn from the Word, like the courtyard.

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Let your heart therefore be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day.” (1 Kings 8:61)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Fill-in-the-Blanks—Furnishing and Dedicating the Temple

Fill in the blanks to complete the story of furnishing and dedicating the temple.

Dedication Prayer for the Temple of Israel

At the dedication of the temple Solomon spoke to the Lord. He asked Him to enter the temple and help people to follow the Lord’s commandments, and hear the prayers of people who looked to the temple when they prayed. Write a prayer that tells the Lord of your dedication to try to provide a place for Him in your mind and heart, and asks for His help in doing this.

Fill-in-the-Blanks—Furnishing and Dedicating the Temple

1 Kings 7:48-51; 8:1-20; 9:1-7

Use the previous pages or read the story from the Word (1 Samuel 9-10) to answer the following questions.

(1) _____, the son of David, built the (2) _____ for the Lord in the city of (3) _____. It was modeled after the (4) _____ which the children of Israel built while in the wilderness.

(5) _____ of Tyre made two (6) _____ of bronze that were set by the vestibule of the temple. He also made a round (7) _____ which stood on 12 carved oxen. He made ten (8) _____ of bronze to put on ten (9) _____ of bronze.

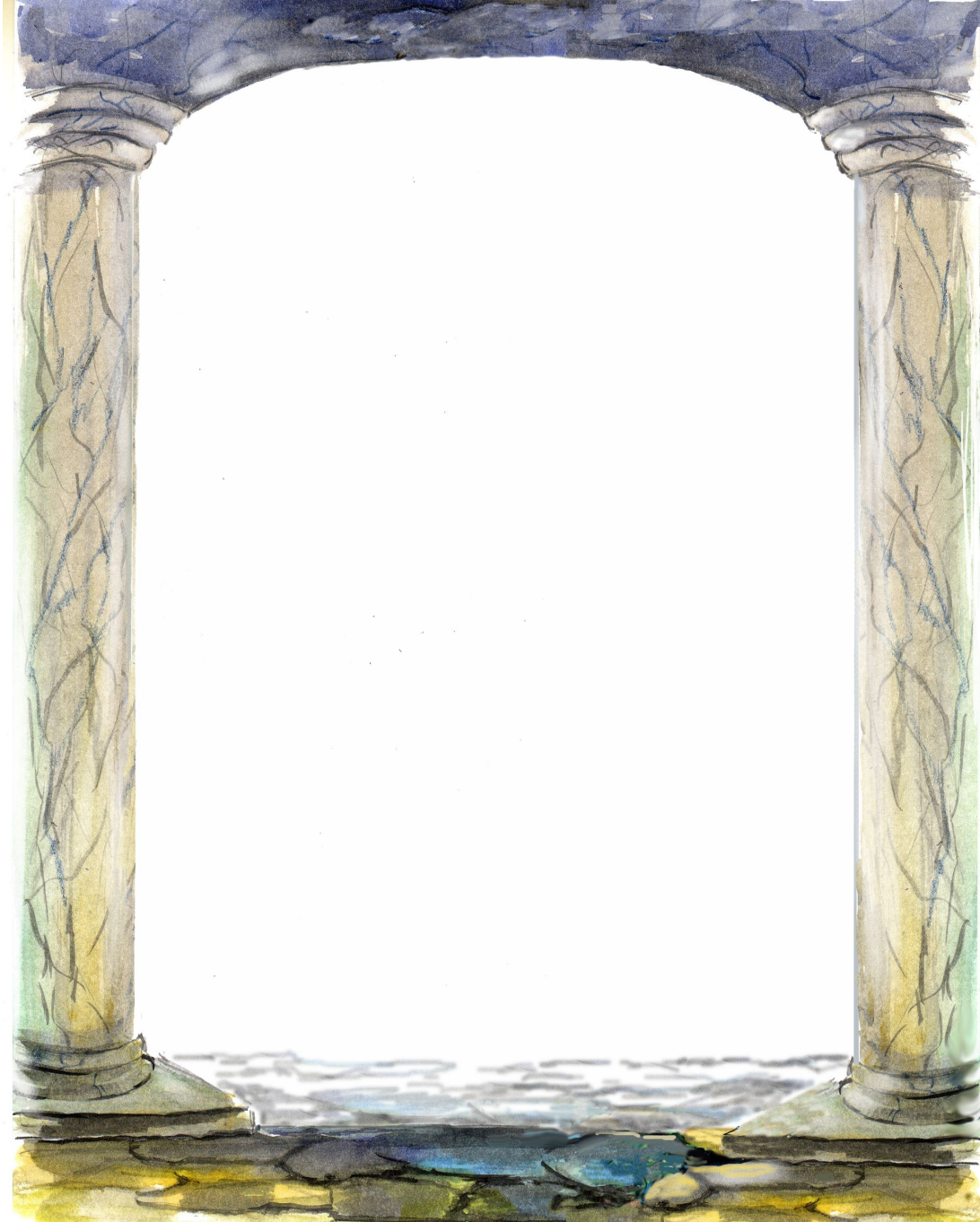
The middle part of the temple housed the (10) _____, the altar of incense and ten (11) _____. All of these furnishings were made of (12) _____. There were also utensils like the (13) _____, the trimmers, the (14) _____, the (15) _____ and the censers.

The innermost part of the temple housed the (16) _____. Two (17) _____ were carved to keep watch over it.

When the temple was completed, Solomon had a (18) _____ ceremony and celebration. After the priests left the holy place a (19) _____ filled the house of the Lord. Then Solomon prayed to the Lord and asked Him to be with Israel. The Lord heard his prayer and renewed His (20) _____. If the people followed the commandments He could be with them.

Dedication Prayer for the Temple of Israel

At the dedication of the temple Solomon spoke to the Lord. He asked Him to enter the temple and help people to follow the Lord's commandments, and hear the prayers of people who looked to the temple when they prayed. Write a prayer that tells the Lord of your dedication to try to provide a place for Him in your mind and heart, and asks for His help in doing this. Write your prayer between the pillars below.



Answers

Lesson 5

Fill-in-the-blanks—Furnishing and Dedicating the Temple

(1) Solomon, the son of David, built the (2) temple for the Lord in the city of (3) Jerusalem. It was modeled after the (4) Tabernacle which the children of Israel built while in the wilderness.

(5) Hiram of Tyre made two (6) pillars of bronze that were set by the vestibule of the temple. He also made a round (7) Sea of cast bronze which stood on 12 carved oxen. He made ten (8) lavens of bronze to put on ten (9) carts of bronze.

The middle part of the temple housed the (10) table of showbread, the altar of incense and ten (11) lampstands. All of these furnishings were made of (12) gold. There were also utensils like the (13) shvells, the trimmers, the (14) bowls, the (15) pots and the censors.

The innermost part of the temple housed the (16) ark. Two (17) cherubim were carved to keep watch over it.

When the temple was completed, Solomon had a (18) dedication ceremony and celebration. After the priests left the holy place a (19) smoke filled the house of the Lord. Then Solomon prayed to the Lord and asked Him to be with Israel. The Lord heard his prayer and renewed His (20) covenant. If the people followed the commandments He could be with them.