

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

April 23

MONDAY

The interior construction of the Temple is described. There is a nave that is about 60 feet long and a smaller inner sanctuary about 30 feet where the Ark of the Covenant will later be placed. Cedar wood was used for construction.

READ: I Kings 6:14-19

The dimensions of the Temple surprise many people. Though somewhat larger than the Tabernacle, it wasn't big at all. It was God Himself who gave the original dimensions of the Tabernacle to Moses in the wilderness and what it signifies is this: that God is more concerned with quality than quantity. God is never impressed with big numbers. He looks for a heart here and a heart there that beat for Him. He would have one man (or one woman) who would consecrate himself fully to God over 100 who would be lukewarm in the faith and half-hearted in their determination to follow Him. Oh, that we could say today, "All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give!"

TUESDAY

Solomon had the workmen cover all the cedar wood with gold. He also had the altar gold plated, and he made a gold chain.

READ: I Kings 6:20-22

Gold speaks of purity. That's why Heaven is described in terms of gold. That's why the work we do for Christ is described that same way. And that's why the Temple is covered with gold. Purity and holiness are requirements when it comes to approaching God. That's why we rejoice so much in the Cross. It was there our sins were forgiven and there that the purity and holiness of Jesus was imputed to us. Praise the Savior, ye who know Him!

WEDNESDAY

Solomon had the workers craft two *cherubim* out of olive wood, each 12-15 feet tall. They were also overlaid with gold and he placed them in the inner part of the Temple - in the sanctuary - reaching from wall to wall.

READ: I Kings 6:23-28

The *cherubim* were evidently a class of angel and are seen in the presence of God, declaring His glory. Although we will never become *cherubim*, we will have a similar privilege of being those who stand before the throne of God and declare His glory. We will do something the angels cannot do: we will sing Salvation's story and tell of the One who died for us! That's what God has for us! That's why we say, "For me to live is Christ, and to die, is gain!" For the believer, to die is to gain Heaven, to see God, and to join the angelic chorus!

THURSDAY

More information about the construction of the Temple is given, including details about the carvings, gold-plating, and carpentry work.

READ: I Kings 6:29-32

Solomon overlaid the courtyards, and even the floors with gold, which speaks of value, of purity, and of the refining process. All three aspects are seen in the Temple: the value God puts upon worship, the purity required for it, and the process of purification that the believer must live out in his life. "You want to worship in My Temple?" God asks. "Then be holy as I am holy." That holiness is ours through the work of Jesus Christ alone.

FRIDAY

Here we read more details concerning the construction of the nave. The Holy of Holies is described, as well: it is to be built of cut stone and cedar wood that is overlaid with gold. The Temple was started in the fourth year of Solomon's reign and completed in his eleventh year - seven years later.

READ: I Kings 6:33-38

Did you notice the description of the engraving around the doorways? We read of the same engravings yesterday on the walls of the Temple. There were carvings, the text says, of cherubim, palm trees, and flowers. And those engravings were overlaid with gold. We don't usually picture a flower motif in the Temple but there it was - reminding the Jews that God is God over all creation and that He is the God of beauty, variety, and life. The hymn-writer reminds us that for the believer, the flowers take on a new beauty as we see in them the greatness of God. Why not look at a few flowers today!

SATURDAY

Solomon's own house took 13 years to build. It was built of cedar wood, as the Temple had been, and was about 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had three rows of pillars and there were three rows of windows.

READ: I Kings 7:1-5

The palace was much larger than the Temple. That alone explains the much longer time required to build it. The main feature seemed to be a huge porch with massive pillars, supporting a roof undoubtedly. This may have been a strolling place around the palace grounds. Much of the palace seems modeled after the Temple, only on a larger scale. Modeling things after a pattern which God gives is always a great choice, whether it's worship, activities, or way of thinking. When it comes to daily life, we are to be imitators of Jesus Christ. His life is the pattern, and yours and mine are to be copies of that. #78