

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

May 7

MONDAY

Solomon assigned Hiram to make sets of interwoven chains decorated with pomegranates, and also utensils including buckets, bowls, and shovels.

READ: I Kings 7:40-45

The bowls and shovels were cooking utensils used to boil the lamb that was brought to the Temple. This was for the priests to eat. The shovels or giant spoons were used to remove the cooked meat from the hot bowls. The point is this: God perfectly provided for every need of His people. He did not over-look anything, not even a pot or spoon! This same God provides for you and me in the same way! He never misses a thing. He knows our every need.

TUESDAY

All the bronze work described in previous verses was done over by the Jordan River where there was clay for making the forms. There was so much made of bronze, it wasn't even possible to weigh it all accurately.

READ: I Kings 7:46-47

The casting process was this: a figure was made out of wax. Clay was formed around the wax. The clay hardened. The wax was melted and taken out thru vents. Then molten bronze was poured in and the dye was cast.

This all pictures God's work in my life and yours. The wax represents our temporal lives on earth. The bronze pictures what God will do with us in glory. The applying of the clay and the melting of the wax picture how God is doing His work in us now. That's why we sing the hymn, "Make me and mold me, Savior I pray!" God is doing that in your life this very day!

WEDNESDAY

The writer summarizes all that Solomon made for the Temple. When they were all finished, Solomon brought in all the things David had prepared to be in the Temple and used in worship.

READ: I Kings 7:48-51

In the OT Tabernacle, there was one lamp stand. In Solomon's Temple, there were ten! And both the Tabernacle and the Temple, according to Hebrews 9, are shadows of what God has for us in Heaven! So, how much better will Heaven be than anything we know here? Not ten times, but beyond anything we dare imagine! That's what God has prepared for those who love Him.

THURSDAY

Solomon arranges for the Ark of the Covenant to be moved from the lower city (an older part of Jerusalem which is also called "the city of David") to the Temple situated in the upper part of the city. All the leaders of Israel were

present as the Ark and the old Tabernacle were carried up to the Temple.

READ: I Kings 8:1-4

The importance of moving the Ark to the Temple was this: it established the fulfillment of God's promise that He would dwell in the midst of them and be their God. That same truth is found in Revelation 21:3 and can be applied to you and me! God dwells with us! Always. Where we are, God is. And He is our God! What a difference that would make in our lives today, if only we would get a hold of that truth and really hang onto it!

FRIDAY

As part of the ceremony for moving the Ark to the newly completed Temple, Solomon and the people sacrificed so many sheep and oxen that no one could count them. Priests carried the Ark on long poles inserted through rings on the corners of the Ark. They placed it in the Holy of Holies, the innermost room of the Temple. The poles were left there with the Ark, and are still there years later, when I Kings was being written.

READ: I Kings 8:5-8

The poles, or staves, used to carry the Ark were left in place. Even though the Ark was now in its permanent home. Why? For one thing, God commanded it in Ex. 25:15, and Solomon wants to obey God; and secondly, because the staves were to remind the people of the way God had led them step by step from Egypt to the Promised Land. It is a good thing for us to look back at the way God has brought us to the place where we are today. It's a reminder of His faithfulness. It's also a forecast of what He has ahead for us tomorrow.

SATURDAY

The two stone tablets upon which God Himself wrote the Ten Commandments were the only things in the Ark by this time. After the priests placed the Ark in the Holy of Holies, a great cloud - a symbol of the presence of God - filled the room.

READ: I Kings 8:9-11

The cloud, which in the OT, symbolically pictured the presence of God, was called the Shekinah Glory, meaning the visible presence of the invisible God. In the years that came after Solomon's reign, when the people turned away from Him, God would remove His visible glory from the Temple. But during those same years, through the prophets, God promised that His glory will fill a future Temple. And in a sense, Jesus pictures that, as well. His body was a sort of Tabernacle and His life was filled with all the presence of God! We, too, have the presence of God in our lives this very day!