

# The Year of Discipleship in 3-D

*(Further Developing Devoted Followers of Christ)*



Welcome! Growing into more fully-devoted followers of Christ, may this time help all: **Grow Upward** into a more mature personal relationship and commitment to Christ Jesus faithful to God's Word!

**Grow Outward** to neighbor and world around, learning how to love well and to lead in what matters to God - guided by God's Word, by Jesus Himself, and by the Holy Spirit!

And, **Grow Inward** to discover a more contemplative faith, enhanced by both silence and prayer!

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The Scripture for Sunday, October 31, 2021

## [STUDY LESSON 8]

### THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:

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

{1} 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. {2} Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, {3} "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. {4} But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. {5} 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.

{8:1} 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. {2} All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. {3} And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. {4} 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. {5} 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. {6} 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. {7} 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. {8} 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. {9} 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. {10} And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, {11} 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.

{12} Then Solomon said,

"The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

{13} I have built you an exalted house,

a place for you to dwell in forever."

### DISCUSSION GUIDANCE AND QUESTIONS:

For an overview of 1 & 2 Kings consider watching: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/kings/>

For an overview of "The Temple" theme consider watching:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/temple/>

1. Open (*or have someone in the group open*) with a prayer inviting the work of the Holy Spirit to open up the hearts and lives of any and all to shape believers into more fully devoted following of Christ.
2. Read (*or have one or more persons read*) the passage printed above (*or from a bible*).
3. As you listened or read this passage, what word or phrase tended to linger with you? Quietly reflect on what might be some of the reasons for that or even the implications.
4. Name some or any of the things you have ever built, constructed, or created of which you take pleasure and are affirmed?
  - a. Your home?
  - b. An addition to your home?
  - c. Some remodeling?
  - d. Something from your place of employment?
  - e. A challenging assembly of something purchased (followed the directions well)?
  - f. Something you built from scratch?
  - g. Other...
5. What, if anything, do you remember about moving in to someplace new? How did you feel about this?
6. Previously transported via the moveable “Tent of Meeting” for many years (*ever since the exodus from Egypt and the wandering in the wilderness*), the Ark of the Covenant finally finds a permanent home in what will come to be known as Solomon’s Temple. How do you react to the temple now having a fixed dwelling place in Jerusalem? Ponder and reflect on any meaning arising from a mobile sanctuary over against a “bricks and mortar” building. What comes to your mind?
7. Is it in any way troublesome or disconcerting that David and Solomon would first build a luxurious palace for themselves prior to an “exalted house” for the Lord?
8. Given the extensive details regarding the construction, and here in 1 Kings, the processional and entrance of the Ark of the LORD into “a house for the name of the LORD my God” (1 Kings 5:5), what do you sense God is communicating? What implications are here for you?
9. A great deal of human engagement takes place in the account of not only building, but the festive activities by priests and Levites (those responsible for matters surrounding temple worship). What are some of the roles, if any, which you have taken on regarding worship and how you help it happen in “good order?”
10. As you consider the contents of the ark, that of the two tablets of stone from Mt. Horeb (*aka Mt. Sinai*), what might be any of the meaning for you behind these exclusive items within? (*See also Hebrew 9:4 and a list of additional contents*)
11. Spend some time talking or reflecting upon worship as an aspect of discipleship. If willing, share (*or personally identify within yourself*) an aspect of your life where you believe God is calling you to worship in a new way.
12. What is your one discipleship “takeaway” from this text? What change in you is being elicited?
13. (*Optional*) Read the passage once more. Then, take some time to close (or have someone close) with a prayer.