

1 Kings Chapter 05 Commentary

1Ki 5:1 ¶ "And Hiram, king of Tyre, sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David. 2 And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, 3 Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. 4 But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent."

Hiram, king of Tyre, who has been a long-time friend to King David, sends his servants, we believe, to offer his condolences to Solomon regarding his father's death, and to congratulate Solomon in that God has made him king in the stead of his father. Hiram is desirous to maintain the same friendly relationship that he had with King David with King Solomon.

King Solomon immediately responds and to show that he would like to establish friendly relations with Hiram, explains to King Hiram that you know my father David desires to build a house unto the Lord, but could not because of the wars on every side. Solomon relates to Hiram: God had given my father rest from all enemies before he died and now this kingdom of peace in come to be under my reign, by the grace and mercy of God.

5 "And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name. 6 Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians. 7 And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people."

Solomon explains that David had it in his heart to build an house to the Lord, but could not because God said he had blood on his hands, but God promised David He would put one of his sons on the throne to build the house of God, seen in **2Sa 7:12-17; 12 "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: 15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. 16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever. 17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David."**

Wherefore, Hiram and Solomon made a league, for Hiram to send the Sidonians, who were the most skillful men in hueing timber for building, which skill Solomon proposed to use in building the house of God. The Sidonians, and the Israelites sent to help them, were to harvest and hue the cedars of Lebanon, which were in Israel.

Obviously, there was a set of prints by which the temple was to be built, for we read later on in **1Ki 6:7 "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building."** This demonstrates the need for those, who were skilled to prepare the timbers and stones needed to build the temple, far from where the temple was erected.

What does this tell us about the New Testament church? Jesus called, and prepared them with the knowledge, the apostles, who were needed to lay the foundation stones of the church, and to build upon the foundation that he himself set in place. Each one was skilled in the position they filled to bring this to pass. Actually, this is still going on today as the new Testament church continues to grow. God is still calling out the men that are needed to lay the foundation stones for each group of believers who assemble to worship God in Spirit and Truth. God provides them with the necessary skill and knowledge of his word of truth to accomplish the duties required of them. This also reminds us that every Child of God has a purpose and a work to accomplish in worshipping God in the temple of the Lord, the New Testament Church. How do we know this? We are told in **Ro 8:27-30; 27 "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit,**

because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 ¶ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

We remember that those who were so skilled to build were not Israelites, but were in possession of a portion of the land of promise that was originally given to Israel, which Israel disobediently did not conquer. The timbers and stones were the possession of Solomon the King of Israel. This speaks to us that the house of God, today, is built of those whom God has chosen and saved, for they are his possession, just as the cedars of Lebanon were the possession of King Solomon. It demonstrates the grafting in of the Gentiles into the Church of Salvation by the Grace of God.

1Ki 5:4 *"But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent."* All is quiet within and without the kingdoms who have formerly opposed Israel, and King Solomon has absolute rule over all the land of promise, which heretofore, had not been accomplished. Now, let's look at another time of quiet in **Ac 9:31** *Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."* This is when Saul had been converted and was preaching in the churches, but strife followed him where he went. Thus, the brethren sent him to a different place and the churches were given rest from their enemies for a time. Thus, figuratively, we see God providing a time of quiet in Solomon's life, between Jews and Gentiles, in which the house of God could be built, as a figure of the time when the New Testament church would have a time of quiet and rest to prosper and grow.

What application can we make of these verses to ourselves today? As Hiram and the people of Tyre were not Israelites, we see a picture of God grafting in the Gentiles into the church of salvation by the grace of God. We also see the need, that as we are required to build up one another in the Lord, and the word of God, we are to seek out those who are the most proficient in the word of God, from whom we may learn how to purge ourselves, and thereby become fitly hewn timbers and stones in the house of God, the church. We should not seek out knowledge and understanding from those who are not skillful in the word of God, for therein, we will surely fail to fulfill the will and work of God that is assigned to us.

8 *"And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. 9 My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household. 10 ¶ So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire. 11 And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year."*

Hiram accepts the league which King Solomon sends him, and thus the building of the house of God is begun. What could this arrangement have to do with us today? We are told in many places in scripture what we see in **Jas 2:8** ¶ *"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"* We see that Solomon loved his neighbour, Hiram, and they helped each other.

Remember, when Jesus came to earth in his prepared body, to save God's people from their sins eternally, and to establish the age of salvation by grace and the New testament church. When the Israelites rejected that he was the Messiah, Jesus sent forth apostles to the Gentiles. These Gentiles to whom Jesus sent his apostles, believed the words of God, and made league with the church of Jesus Christ. Of the Gentiles much timber was hewn, and the New Testament church of God grew abundantly, to the glory and honor of God. This affirms what we are told in **Ro 9:6-8**; **6** ¶ *"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."* And further confirmed in **Ro 2:10-11**; **10** *"But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God."* Thus, we understand that God had purposed, before the world began, that there would

be a remnant, of both Jews and Gentiles, saved to occupy the eternal abode, which Jesus has gone to prepare, in the eternal heaven, for them.

12 "And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together. 13 And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men. 14 And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses: a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home: and Adoniram was over the levy. 15 And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains; 16 Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work. 18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so, they prepared timber and stones to build the house."

We are told again that God gave Solomon wisdom and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon. King Solomon raises a levy upon Israel, to pay the levy to Hiram, to obtain the skilled workers to prepare the cedars to build the house of God.

How do we apply this to our lives today as Children of God? We are not to be at war with the unsaved that we are in contact with. We are to show the attributes of godliness and tell them of the blessings associated with knowing God, and Jesus Christ, who is a personal Saviour. Remember, it was through God's infinite mercy and grace that we were brought out of nature's dark night, having heretofore been blinded to the ways of God. Loving our neighbours as ourselves is also fulfilling the "**law of Christ**" seen in **Ga 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."** What is the law of Christ? To love God with all that you are and to love thy neighbor as thyself. We cannot look into another's heart, and soul, and know if God has elected the save them eternally. Therefore, if we treat them with the same loving kindness that God has shown to us, who knows but what God may use you to direct them to the truth of God, by displaying Jesus's attributes in your own life.

We see in verse **17 "And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house."** God commanded, from the eternal heaven, that Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone, come to earth, and while he was here brought forth great stones, costly stones, and hewed them to lay the foundations of the Church of Salvation by the grace of God. This is manifested in the twelve apostles, some of whom were sent to the lost sheep of Isreal, and some who were sent to preach to the Gentiles, and all were sent to preach salvation by the grace of God.

This is manifested to us in **Eph 2:20-22; 20 "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."**

Therefore, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who has provided eternal remission of sins for all of God's people and has given each heir of grace eternal life in Christ. Praise God that we have a friend who is described to us by his forerunner John the Baptist in **Joh 3:26-36; 26 "And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. 27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. 29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. 30 He must increase, but I must decrease. 31 He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."**

In summation: we have a Philistine King, occupying a portion of the land of promise to Israel, making league with Solomon, King of Israel, who is in actuality ruling over all the land of promise for the first time in Israel's history. This gives us the prophetic picture of King Jesus, in King Solomon, both of whom are King over both Jew

and Gentile. Then we see that God, in his providence, has provided from the land of promise both the skillful workers, and the materials necessary, to build the temple of God on earth, which is the prophetic picture of the New Testament Church. Praise God! King Jesus has made a league of peace, with every heir of grace, and has furnished all things necessary to build the house of God. To Jesus, the name above all other names, be glory, honor, and majesty forever. Hallelujah! Amen!