

Understanding God's "Construction Projects"

1 Kings 6

God not only wants to do things in you; He wants to do things through you.

In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, he began to build the house of the LORD.

1 Kings 6:1 (English Standard Version)

- **GOD HAS SPECIFIC TIMING FOR HIS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.¹²⁻¹³ . . . I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who . . . will build a house for my Name . . . 2 Samuel 7:10-13 (New International Version)

Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years.⁴¹ At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt.
Exodus 12:40-41 (NIV)

- **WE MUST STAY FOCUSED ON WHAT WE ARE BUILDING WITH GOD AND WHY.**

The stones used in the construction of the Temple were finished at the quarry, so there was no sound of hammer, ax, or any other iron tool at the building site. . . .¹⁵The entire inside, from floor to ceiling, was paneled with wood. He paneled the walls and ceilings with cedar, and he used planks of cypress for the floors.¹⁶He partitioned off an inner sanctuary—the Most Holy Place—at the far end of the Temple. It was 30 feet deep and was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling.¹⁷The main room of the Temple, outside the Most Holy Place, was 60 feet long.¹⁸Cedar paneling completely covered the stone walls throughout the Temple, and the paneling was decorated with carvings of gourds and open flowers. . . .²⁰This inner sanctuary was 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet high. He overlaid the inside with solid gold. He also overlaid the altar made of cedar.²¹Then Solomon overlaid the rest of the Temple's interior with solid gold, and he made gold chains to protect the entrance to the Most Holy Place.²²So he finished overlaying the entire Temple with gold, including the altar that belonged to the Most Holy Place. 1 Kings 6:7, 15-18, 20-22 (New Living Translation)

- God's people knew what they were building.
- God's people knew why they were building.
 - "Glory" = the bright light or brilliance that surrounds God's presence

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. Revelation 21:22-23 (ESV)

- "Glory" = the honor that is due God by all of His creation

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
Galatians 1:3-5 (NIV)

- The ultimate goal of God's construction projects: to bring glory to His Name!

Then the LORD gave this message to Solomon:¹²"Concerning this Temple you are building, if you keep all my decrees and regulations and obey all my commands, I will fulfill through you the promise I made to your father, David.¹³I will live among the Israelites and will never abandon my people Israel."
1 Kings 6:11-13 (NLT)

- **WHATEVER GOD IS BUILDING IN YOUR LIFE, YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM IS HIS PRIORITY.**

And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.⁴ If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.⁵ But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. 1 John 2:3-6 (NLT)

"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.²² On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.'²³ But I will reply, 'I never knew you. . . .'" Matthew 7:21-23a (NLT)

Cooperating with God's construction projects in our lives is important, but they must not replace what is most important: our relationship with Him.