



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 24, Day 1 --- 2 Chronicles 2-3 - 1 Kings 5-6

Week 24, Day 2 --- 2 Chronicles 4 - 1 Kings 7

Week 24, Day 3 --- 2 Chronicles 5 - 1 Kings 8

Week 24, Day 4 --- 2 Chronicles 6-7 - Psalm 136

Week 24, Day 5 --- Psalm 134 - Psalm 146-150

Week 24, Day 6 --- 2 Chronicles 8 - 1 Kings 9

Week 24, Day 7 --- Proverbs 25-26

Week 24, Day 1 --- 2 Chronicles 2-3 - 1 Kings 5-6

It took seven years to build the temple. It might not have been quite as amazing as the pyramids of Egypt, but it was an incredible work of architecture and engineering. I always marvel that they cut all the materials away from the site and then put it together like a puzzle on site. The amount of gold was incredible. Chronicles tells us that it wasn't the Jews who did most of the work in building the temple. Instead, it was the large population of people who descended from the nations that were never completely conquered. They were enslaved to do this work and are an indication of ongoing temptation to the Jewish people.

Week 24, Day 2 --- 2 Chronicles 4 - 1 Kings 7

It is interesting to compare the past couple of chapters with the instructions for building the tabernacle that are found in Exodus. There God provides the instructions and He sends the Holy Spirit to provide the craftsman with the ability to complete what He has designed. In the case of the temple it would seem that Solomon was the designer. He hires craftsman to complete his design. I think it is for good reason called Solomon's temple. God will come and dwell in it, but it is not God's temple. There is a subtle shift that happens with the completion of Solomon's temple as the people begin to place more emphasis on the temple than they do on God. Idolatry is a very subtle temptation. It is very easy to worship the wrong thing.

Week 24, Day 3 --- 2 Chronicles 5 - 1 Kings 8

What's the biggest party you've ever been to? Can you imagine a party with a million people? That's just a guess on my part, but I'm thinking that 120,000 sheep ought to feed a million people or more. This was a great day. Unfortunately, it was the high point for Israel and things started to go down from here. Solomon's prayer was prophetic. Everything he mentioned as an if became a reality in the future of Israel. Even Solomon will soon turn his back on God. This happens so often when God works through us to accomplish something great. We begin to think we did it and all too soon forget God.

Week 24, Day 4 --- 2 Chronicles 6-7 - Psalm 136

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Psalms 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

The dedication of the temple was a major event in the history of Israel. We know it was important because it is recorded at length in two separate histories. 2 Chronicles does include God's response. This history was probably written while the people of Israel were in captivity in Babylon. The people are being reminded that God made them a promise. They have turned from God and the land needs to be healed. They are being called to prayer. The New Testament includes similar promises for us. This is what Psalms 136 tells us. God's love is forever. He always wants us to return no matter what we've done.

Week 24, Day 5 --- Psalm 134 - Psalm 146-150

Praise the Lord. When you watch a sporting event and something great happens do you sit quiet or do you jump and shout? I'm not a loud person and generally don't show much emotion, but I occasionally will make a shout when something really great happens. The game has to be important and the play has to be pivotal. The point of all these psalms is that God is always worth shouting about. God is greater than any single event that we might encounter on a day to day basis. There are as many ways to praise God as there are people, but He must be praised. How do you praise Him?

Week 24, Day 6 --- 2 Chronicles 8 - 1 Kings 9

Solomon's accomplishments are amazing. It is hard to describe this in modern terms. In his day Solomon was the wealthiest man in the world. It was like he had the wealth of an Arab oil sheikh and the power of the president of the United States. What these chapters are trying to communicate is that Solomon had everything a man could ask for. Solomon is going down and in these chapters there is a hint of what is going to take him down. The Israelites were instructed in the law to only marry other Israelites. Solomon's most famous wife is not an Israelite, she is Egyptian, and that is why she can't live in the house of David. She has to live by herself because contact with her would make an Israelite ceremonially unclean. Marrying women from other nations has always been a common way of making alliances, but it was not God's plan.

Week 24, Day 7 --- Proverbs 25-26

26:12 Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Solomon provides a very valuable warning toward the end of his own proverbs. It is very sad that he didn't listen to what he wrote. Pride is a dangerous thing. Maybe the worst kind of pride is the kind that is convinced that it knows everything. I have experienced this kind of pride in myself and it never results in good. The older I get the more I'm discovering how little I really know and how foolish I generally am. I have much to learn and I think that is a much safer attitude.