

God's Presence In Our Lives

Part 6

“Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.” (Hebrews 9:4)

The above is what is mentioned in the book of Hebrews about the things that were present in the Ark of the Covenant and as the following:

- 1- **A golden pot holding the manna.**
- 2- **Aaron's rod that budded.**
- 3- **The tables of the covenant.**

But if we read **2Chronicles 5:10** **“There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.”** The same we read in **1King 8:9** **“There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.”** That when Solomon had finished building the temple and brought the ark inside the temple. Therefore we found two things are missing:

- 1- A golden pot holding the manna:** That represents God's provision and discipline in living a life with good stewardship.
- 2- Aaron's rod that budded:** That represents God's power to deal with the enemies.

Solomon was rich for he had received much from his father David and he did not labour to collect all the riches that he had. Let us read how much Solomon was rich and prosperous **“20 The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy. 21 And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These countries brought tribute and were Solomon's subjects all his life. 22 Solomon's daily provisions were thirty cors of fine flour and sixty cors of meal, 23 ten head of stall-fed cattle, twenty of pasture-fed cattle and a hundred sheep and goats, as well as deer, gazelles, roebucks and choice fowl. 24 For he ruled over all the kingdoms west of the River, from Tiphseh to Gaza, and had peace on all sides. 25 During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree. 26 Solomon had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses. 27 The district officers, each in his month, supplied provisions for King Solomon and all who came to the king's table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking. 28 They also brought to the proper place their quotas of barley and straw for the chariot horses and the other horses.” (1King 4:20-28)** As well as king Solomon had no enemies because David had dealt with all the enemies and he handed over to him the Kingdom in peace, therefore Solomon did not need to go and fight any war or have any battle.

From the above we might conclude that Solomon did not learn the importance of God's presence and what that means in his life. Everything was available to him and in large amount, as well as he had peace and no threat was coming against him. That is why he was not much

aware or it is not much important for him if the **golden pot holding the manna** and **Aaron's rod that budded** are not there or present inside the Ark of the Covenant. When a man (Christian, or our children) receive everything freely and without labour or struggle then the following are the possibilities:-

- 1- Few will appreciate and value God's provision and what He gave them and start to behave wisely, and act as good steward and not to boast and waste.
- 2- When everything available then the material things that are available will replace God's presence.
- 3- When everything available then many will be corrupted.
- 4- When everything available and no hardship then this will be a bad atmosphere for a man (Christian, or our children) to grow, and will be more tempted to do wrong.

1King 10:21 **“All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days.”** You may ask this question and say: **“If God is blessing us then why we cannot spend as Solomon spent?”** We will answer your question in this way: All the money that Solomon had it came from his father David, so if it is right for you to spend like Solomon then it will be right for David to spend lavishly and without leaving anything to Solomon. David did not spend; in addition he bore much pain to collect for building the temple. David was not selfish, but his heart and mind was with God and with His plan and will. David said, **“I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the LORD a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them.” (1Chronicles 22:14)** So now what you think about yourself; are you going to follow the steps of Solomon or the steps of King David?

Solomon built the temple of God in Jerusalem but he did many other things that it showed that he was not appreciative or careful to keep God's presence in His life.

1- Building houses (palaces): **“37 The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv. 38 In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.” (1King 6:37-38)** **“1 It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace.” (1King 7:1)** **“7 He built the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge, and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling.” (1King 7:7-8)** Solomon spent to build his own houses or palaces 13 years and that was double the time that he spent to build the house of God. You may dedicate much of your time and money to build your own house and you spend much on it. But you may not even live in it. You may even be in debt for it and you may spend the best years of your remaining life to collect and pay for it. Remember houses will not be a place of refuge or a shelter to you that will replace God's presence in your life. Therefore return back to God and put your eyes on Him who can shelter you and protect you.

2- Non ordained marriages: **“Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter. He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the LORD, and the wall around Jerusalem.”**

(1King 3:1) Marriage can bring you to heaven or hell. Marriage is a partnership, therefore with whom you have partnership then your destiny will be as well determined. Solomon had a wrong motive of marriage for he was searching for alliances. Marriage is a covenant with God and not with man. Solomon sought alliance with non believers and that brought him away from God's presence. Solomon even knew that he should not do that as we can read here: **"Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the ark of the LORD has entered are holy."** (2Chronicles 8:11) He knew it wrong but still he did it. Further more about the marriages of Solomon we can read the following: **"1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter--Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. 7 On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. 9 The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. 10 Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the LORD's command. 11 So the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates."** (1Kings 11:1-11)

3- Spending on friends or people who admire you: King Solomon spent much on the queen of Sheba, **"King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country."** (1Kings 10:13) **"King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for; he gave her more than she had brought to him. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country."** (2Chronicles 9:12) He gave her bountifully and more than what she gave. What for he did that? Pride! You may do the same and spent much on people or friends unnecessarily just because they are feeding your pride.

4- Showing off: **"17 Then the king made a great throne inlaid with ivory and overlaid with pure gold. 18 The throne had six steps, and a footstool of gold was attached to it. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them. 19 Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom. 20 All King Solomon's goblets were gold, and all the household articles in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's day."** (2Chronicles 9:17-20) For what Solomon spent all that for a chair to sit on? Showing off and boasting. You might do the same and start to squander what is in your hand; just to show off you may spend much on clothes, shoes, mobiles, etc.

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My dear and beloved: The Lord had spoken to Solomon the following: **"1 When Solomon had finished building the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had achieved all he had desired to do, 2 the LORD appeared to him a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. 3 The LORD said to him: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there. 4 "As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, 5 I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' 6 "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples. 8 And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' 9 People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them--that is why the LORD brought all this disaster on them.'" (1Kings 9:1-9) The Lord had placed in your hands many riches and blessings and it is up to you either to squander it on yourself and ruin your life and your descendants, or cherish and appreciate what the lord had placed in your hands and be a good steward and that what God desire to see in you; in this way you will ensure your life and the life of your descendents as you agree to pray.**

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to live in obedience to your instructions, to fear you, abiding in your word, being a good steward and keeping your presence in my life. Lord makes me aware and shields me from temptations and keeps reminding me of your ways. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life