

**Text:** 2 Chr 2.11-12

The plans of Solomon for the temple drew a response from Hiram, King of Tyre, that sounds remarkable to our ears.

Read 2 Chr 2.11-12

One wonders if Hiram has some kind of faith in the Lord, with words like these. Yet the commentators are sour on that kind of thinking:

“Hiram’s acknowledgment of **the Lord** (*Yahweh*), **the God of Israel**, as the Creator of **heaven and earth** (v. 12) was just a formal courtesy and tells nothing of his own personal faith.”<sup>1</sup>

Maybe so.

Matthew Henry disagrees with the learned, and says:

“It should seem that Hiram was not only very well affected to the Jewish nation, and well pleased with their prosperity, but that he was proselyted to the Jewish religion, and worshipped Jehovah, *the God of Israel* (who was now known by that name to the neighbouring nations), as *the God that made heaven and earth*, and as the fountain of power as well as being; for he sets up kings.”<sup>2</sup>

It isn’t really our concern to decide whether Hiram was a believer or not. It really makes no difference to us.

What we are concerned with today is the worship of the Lord who saved us. We are doing that by our singing and preaching as usual, but today we are also doing it by celebrating our communion, our fellowship with him, our personal participation in his life through the Spirit of God.

In that light, I don’t even want to think about Solomon, but about our Lord Jesus and consider the blessing Jesus is to us as our king.

---

<sup>1</sup> Eugene H. Merrill, “2 Chronicles,” in John F. Walvoord and Roy B Zuck, eds., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983), 621.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible : Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1996), 583.

## I. A mark of God's love for His people

### A. The state of people without God

NAU **Matthew 9.35-36** Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.<sup>36</sup> Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

### B. The need of the people for a spiritual leader

NAU **Numbers 27.15-17** Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying,<sup>16</sup> "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation,<sup>17</sup> who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

### C. The desperate case of the people when leadership fails

NAU **1 Kings 22.17** So he said, "I saw all Israel Scattered on the mountains, Like sheep which have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These have no master. Let each of them return to his house in peace.'"

1. Ahab is king of Israel
2. He has talked Jehoshaphat into an alliance
3. They consult the prophets, of whom is Micaiah, who prophecies truth to them

### D. The true King is provided as the perfect Leader for God's people

NAU **John 3.16** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

## II. A wise Guide from God to His people

### A. Solomon was gifted in an unusual way with wisdom and understanding

1. Great skill in human judgement

2. Great skill in administration, building, leadership

B. The wisdom of God provided a Leader who would meet the deepest needs of his people (but one who would be misunderstood and rejected by many)

1. The wisdom of God sent many spiritual leaders to speak to the people through history

NAU **Luke 11.49-50** “For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and *some* of them they will kill and *some* they will persecute,<sup>50</sup> so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

2. God in these last days spoke through his Son

NAU **Hebrews 1.1-2** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,<sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

3. The wisdom of God works in spite of the ignorance of the world

NAU **1 Corinthians 1.21** For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

NAU **1 Corinthians 1.24** but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

4. In Jesus, the wisdom of God is displayed so that God can be just with sin and the justifier of sinners [God’s salvation is incredibly wise]

NAU **Romans 3.21-26** But now apart from the Law *the* righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,<sup>22</sup> even *the* righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace

through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;<sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;<sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

5. The wisdom of God is now made known to the world through the church the Lord Jesus created

NAU **Ephesians 3.10** so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

### III. An engaged Leader who will build His people into a house for himself

- A. Solomon built with stones a house *for himself*  
B. Our Lord will build his people, as living stones, into a house for himself

NAU **1 Peter 2.4-10** And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,<sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup> For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."<sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,"<sup>8</sup> and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.<sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;<sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Conclusion:

*Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them...*

Hiram said this of Solomon, but we indeed can say it of our Lord Jesus Christ.