



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 4

Law/Gospel

In my sin, I want to keep God at a distance; I don't want Him to see who I really am. **God, in His love, draws me near to Him through His Son, Jesus, the Word made flesh. He tabernacles (dwells) with me and all believers through Word and Sacrament, forgiving my sin.**

Bible Words

It is good to be near God.
Psalm 73:28

Fun Facts

God directed Israel to make a movable tabernacle so He could dwell with them as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land. (*Tabernacle* means "dwelling.") God provided details for making this tent sanctuary and furnishings in Exodus 25–30. When built, a cloud covered it and "the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34). Later, Israel built and experienced the destruction of three replacement temples. Jesus is the final tabernacle. Jesus "dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. . . . For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:14, 17).

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5–6

King David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, a replacement for the tent tabernacle made in the wilderness, but the Lord refused his offer. Instead, David gathered materials and his successor built it.

King Solomon, son of David and Bathsheba, used the best supplies and craftsmen for the temple. King Hiram of Tyre provided workmen and cedar from Lebanon, floated south on rafts on the Mediterranean Sea.

Solomon drafted 30,000 Israelites to work in Tyre, in monthly shifts of 10,000. He sent 70,000 burden-bearers and 80,000 stonecutters to Israel's hill country to quarry large stones for the foundation and walls.

Situated on the highest site in Jerusalem, the temple stood almost four stories high, ninety feet long, and thirty feet wide. Craftsmen laid cypress wood floors and lined the internal stone walls with cedar. Artists carved the cedar with cherubim, palm trees, and flowers. Finally, metal workers overlaid all of the cedar with gold.

Solomon divided the temple into two areas, following the design of the tabernacle. Priests entered the Holy Place once a day to pray and burn incense. Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place, and only once a year, on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement.

An artist from Tyre made bronze pillars and new items to join the ark of the covenant and other tabernacle furnishings in the temple. Workmen finished construction in seven years and the people joyfully dedicated the temple to the Lord God of Israel.

The New Testament Book of Hebrews explains how the Old Testament points to Jesus, our great High Priest, who was tempted as we are but did not sin (Hebrews 4:14–16). He offered Himself once for all sin on the cross (Hebrews 9:26). He is the mediator of the new covenant, the founder and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2, 24).

Prayer

Dear Lord, send Your Holy Spirit to dwell in us, lead us, and give us Your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

