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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

Daily Rice 2024 March 13

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The glory of God has become the pride of man

In 1 Kings chapter 7, the details of King Solomon's construction of the temple and his palace are described. The construction of the temple took 7 years and involved many craftsmen and workers, using a large amount of gold, silver and copper. The construction of the palace took 13 years, using similar materials and techniques. In addition, the chapter describes the details of King Solomon's palace and gardens built for himself and his queen, as well as some other buildings and facilities. At first he was determined to build a house for the name of Jehovah, but finally he built a house for himself. At first, it was the people who took turns in the ministry in the Sabbath, but in the end, it became a yoke and hard labor for the people, which eventually led to the division of the kingdom. Today, many ministries in God's name should also beware of building temples for God's name, and eventually becoming palaces for themselves, and the glory of God becomes the pride of man. The heart that truly glorifies God does not care about outward adornment, but about loving others, forgiving attitude, and sure faith, etc., and we should be humble, loving, holding fast to the Lord's way, respecting the word of the Lord in the church, and naturally those outside can see it and give glory to God.

When the glory of God becomes the pride of man, people begin to forget humility and reverence. They indulge in their own accomplishments and power, ignoring God's grace and love. Pride blinds them, causing them to ignore the needs and sufferings of others and focus only on their own interests and pleasures. This pride alienates people from their relationship with God, diverting their hearts from their true purpose and plunging them into vanity and emptiness. Therefore, when God's glory is overshadowed by human pride, we need to humbly pray to Him that His light will illuminate our hearts so that we can recognize our limitations and seek true fulfillment and peace in love and humility.

In the beginning, the people took turns in ministry in Rest as a sign of shared devotion and unity. Everyone has the opportunity to contribute to a common goal, and this joint participation strengthens community cohesion and mutual support. Over time, however, this involvement evolved into a heavy burden on the population. Some people begin to tend to shift the blame to others, while others feel overburdened and unable to take on more responsibility. This has led to unequal distribution and tensions within the community. Eventually, the ministry system, which was meant to be united and dedicated, became unfair and unsustainable, and lost its original purpose. Therefore, we need to look at the nature of ministry and ensure that it is always a voluntary offering and a shared responsibility, rather than a source of burden and pressure.

Church ministry may at first be seen as a light job, full of passion and dedication. People may be excited to get involved, wanting to contribute to the community and the faith. Over time, however, these ministry activities can gradually become a heavy burden.

On the one hand, as ministry increases and needs expand, individuals may feel overloaded and exhausted. They may have to sacrifice their time, energy, and personal lives to fulfill their responsibilities and meet the needs of the church. This constant stress and burden can lead to exhaustion and irritability, and even affect their physical and mental health.

On the other hand, there may be unequal distribution and unfair treatment. Some people may have taken on too much responsibility, while others have been relatively light-hearted. This unfairness can lead to internal conflict and dissatisfaction, undermining team cohesion and the spirit of cooperation.

Therefore, in order to avoid ministry becoming a heavy burden, the church needs to review and adjust the ministry system to ensure a fair distribution of responsibilities and a reasonable arrangement. In addition, there is a need to focus on the physical and mental health of the individual, to encourage people to maintain a balance between ministry and personal life, and to provide support and encouragement to maintain the passion and persistence of the ministry.

Here are some verses in the Bible that teach us to serve God:

Romans 12:1-2 - "Therefore I beseech you, brethren, in the mercy of God, that you offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; It is only natural that you should serve in this way. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good, perfect, and pleasing will of God. "

Matthew 20:28 - "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to lay down his life as a ransom for many." "

Galatians 5:13 - "Brothers, you are called to be free, but do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your passions, but to serve one another in love. "

Philippians 2:5-7 - "Let your mind be of the mind of Christ Jesus. He was in the very nature of God, and instead of taking it by force to be equal to God, he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a slave and becoming a man. "

These verses teach us to love one another with humility and to serve God and man, rather than selfishly pursuing personal gain.

We pray together

May God give us a heart full of gratitude and satisfaction to serve you. May we experience God's grace and love in our dedication and service, resulting in endless joy. May our ministry be motivated not only by duty and obligation, but also by love and joy. Pray that the Lord will strengthen our faith so that we can approach every opportunity to serve with joy, knowing that everything we do is for the glory of God and the blessing of others. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

1 Kings 7

1Kg. 7:1 It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace.

1Kg. 7:2 He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high, [That is, about 150 feet (about 46 metres) long, 75 feet (about 23 metres) wide and 45 feet (about 13.5 metres) high] with four rows of cedar columns supporting trimmed cedar beams.

1Kg. 7:3 It was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the columns — forty-five beams, fifteen to a row.

1Kg. 7:4 Its windows were placed high in sets of three, facing each other.

1Kg. 7:5 All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in the front part in sets of three, facing each other. [The meaning of the Hebrew for this verse is uncertain.]

1Kg. 7:6 He made a colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty wide. [That is, about 75 feet (about 23 metres) long and 45 feet (about 13.5 metres) wide] In front of it was a portico, and in front of that were pillars and an overhanging roof.

1Kg. 7:7 He built the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge, and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling.

[Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew floor]

1Kg. 7:8 And the palace in which he was to live, set farther back, was similar in design. Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.

1Kg. 7:9 All these structures, from the outside to the great courtyard and from foundation to eaves, were made of blocks of highgrade stone cut to size and trimmed with a saw on their inner and outer faces.

1Kg. 7:10 The foundations were laid with large stones of good quality, some measuring ten cubits [That is, about 15 feet (about 4.5 metres)] and some eight. [That is, about 12 feet (about 3.7 metres)]

1Kg. 7:11 Above were high-grade stones, cut to size, and cedar beams.

1Kg. 7:12 The great courtyard was surrounded by a wall of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams, as was the inner courtyard of the temple of the LORD with its portico.

1Kg. 7:13 King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram, [Hebrew Hiram, a variant of Hiram; also in verses 40 and 45]

1Kg. 7:14 whose mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali and whose father was a man of Tyre and a craftsman in bronze.

Hiram was highly skilled and experienced in all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him.

1Kg. 7:15 He cast two bronze pillars, each eighteen cubits high and twelve cubits round, [That is, about 27 feet (about 8.2 metres) high and 18 feet (about 5.5 metres) round] by line.

1Kg. 7:16 He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars; each capital was five cubits [That is, about 7 1/2 feet (about 2.3 metres); also in verse 23] high.

1Kg. 7:17 A network of interwoven chains festooned the capitals on top of the pillars, seven for each capital.

1Kg. 7:18 He made pomegranates in two rows [Two Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint; most Hebrew manuscripts made the pillars, and there were two rows] encircling each network to decorate the capitals on top of the pillars. [Many Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac; most Hebrew manuscripts pomegranates] He did the same for each capital.

1Kg. 7:19 The capitals on top of the pillars in the portico were in the shape of lilies, four cubits [That is, about 6 feet (about 1.8 metres); also in verse 38] high.

1Kg. 7:20 On the capitals of both pillars, above the bowl-shaped part next to the network, were the two hundred pomegranates in rows all around.

1Kg. 7:21 He erected the pillars at the portico of the temple. The pillar to the south he named Jakin [Jakin probably means he establishes.] and the one to the north Boaz. [Boaz probably means in him is strength.]

1Kg. 7:22 The capitals on top were in the shape of lilies. And so the work on the pillars was completed.

1Kg. 7:23 He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits [That is, about 15 feet (about 4.5 metres)] from rim to rim and five cubits high. It took a line of thirty cubits [That is, about 45 feet (about 13.7 metres)] to measure round it.

1Kg. 7:24 Below the rim, gourds encircled it — ten to a cubit. The

gourds were cast in two rows in one piece with the Sea.

1Kg. 7:25 The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were towards the centre.

1Kg. 7:26 It was a handbreadth [That is, about 3 inches (about 8 centimetres)] in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It held two thousand baths. [That is, probably about 9,700 gallons (about 44 kilolitres); the Septuagint does not have this sentence.]

1Kg. 7:27 He also made ten movable stands of bronze; each was four cubits long, four wide and three high. [That is, about 6 feet (about 1.8 metres) long and wide and about 4 1/2 feet (about 1.4 metres) high]

1Kg. 7:28 This is how the stands were made: They had side panels attached to uprights.

1Kg. 7:29 On the panels between the uprights were lions, bulls and cherubim — and on the uprights as well. Above and below the lions and bulls were wreaths of hammered work.

1Kg. 7:30 Each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles, and each had a basin resting on four supports, cast with wreaths on each side.

1Kg. 7:31 On the inside of the stand there was an opening that had a circular frame one cubit [That is, about 1 1/2 feet (about 0.5 metre)] deep. This opening was round, and with its basework it measured a cubit and a half. [That is, about 2 1/4 feet (about 0.7 metre); also in verse 32] Around its opening there was engraving. The panels of the stands were square, not round.

1Kg. 7:32 The four wheels were under the panels, and the axles of the wheels were attached to the stand. The diameter of each wheel was a cubit and a half.

1Kg. 7:33 The wheels were made like chariot wheels; the axles, rims, spokes and hubs were all of cast metal.

1Kg. 7:34 Each stand had four handles, one on each corner, projecting from the stand.

1Kg. 7:35 At the top of the stand there was a circular band half a cubit [That is, about 3/4 foot (about 0.2 metre)] deep. The supports and panels were attached to the top of the stand.

1Kg. 7:36 He engraved cherubim, lions and palm trees on the surfaces of the supports and on the panels, in every available space, with wreaths all around.

1Kg. 7:37 This is the way he made the ten stands. They were all cast in the same moulds and were identical in size and shape.

1Kg. 7:38 He then made ten bronze basins, each holding forty baths [That is, about 195 gallons (about 880 litres)] and measuring four cubits across, one basin to go on each of the ten stands.

1Kg. 7:39 He placed five of the stands on the south side of the temple and five on the north. He placed the Sea on the south side, at the south-east corner of the temple.

1Kg. 7:40 He also made the basins and shovels and sprinkling bowls. So Hiram finished all the work he had undertaken for King Solomon in the temple of the LORD:

1Kg. 7:41 the two pillars; the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; the two sets of network decorating the two bowlshaped capitals on top of the pillars;

1Kg. 7:42 the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network, decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars);

1Kg. 7:43 the ten stands with their ten basins;

1Kg. 7:44 the Sea and the twelve bulls under it;

1Kg. 7:45 the pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls. All these objects that Hiram made for King Solomon for the temple of the LORD were of burnished bronze.

1Kg. 7:46 The king had them cast in clay moulds in the plain of the Jordan between Succoth and Zarethan.

1Kg. 7:47 Solomon left all these things unweighed, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

1Kg. 7:48 Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in the LORD's temple: the golden altar; the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence;

1Kg. 7:49 the lampstands of pure gold (five on the right and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary); the gold floral work and lamps and tongs;

1Kg. 7:50 the pure gold dishes, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers; and the gold sockets for the doors of the innermost room, the Most Holy Place, and also for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

1Kg. 7:51 When all the work King Solomon had done for the temple of the LORD was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated — the silver and gold and the furnishings — and he placed them in the treasuries of the LORD's temple.

Here's a detailed summary of chapter 7 of 1 Kings:

Chapter 7 begins with a description of the construction of Solomon's palace, which took thirteen years to complete. The palace was built with cedar wood from Lebanon and was decorated with carved designs of flowers, cherubim, and palm trees.

The chapter goes on to describe the construction of other structures in Jerusalem, including the House of the Forest of Lebanon, which was a large building made of cedar wood and decorated with carved pillars and beams. The House of the Forest of Lebanon was used for storage and also served as a royal armory.

The chapter also describes the construction of Solomon's throne, which was made of ivory and overlaid with gold. The throne was decorated with six steps and twelve lions, and was said to be the most magnificent throne in the world.

The chapter then turns to a description of the temple furnishings, including the ten gold lampstands, the tables, and the basins. The basins were used for washing the sacrifices and were made of bronze.

The chapter concludes with a description of the work of two craftsmen, Hiram and Hiram, who were skilled in working with bronze. They were commissioned by Solomon to make various objects for the temple, including the bronze pillars, the large bronze basin called the Sea, and the ten smaller basins. These objects were made with great skill and attention to detail.

Overall, chapter 7 highlights Solomon's wealth and power, as demonstrated through the construction of his palace and the other structures in Jerusalem. The chapter also emphasizes the importance of skilled craftsmanship in creating objects for the temple, and highlights the skill of the craftsmen who worked on these projects.

Here are some important verses from 1 Kings chapter 7 in the Christian Bible:

1 Kings 7:1-12 - A description of Solomon's palace, which was even more impressive than the temple he had built.

1 Kings 7:13-14 - The arrival of Hiram, a skilled craftsman who had been sent by King Hiram of Tyre to help Solomon with his building projects.

1 Kings 7:15-22 - A description of the bronze pillars that Hiram cast for the temple, including the famous Jachin and Boaz pillars that stood at the entrance.

1 Kings 7:23-26 - A description of the large bronze basin that Hiram made for the temple, which was used for ceremonial washing.

1 Kings 7:27-39 - A description of the other bronze furnishings and decorations that Hiram made for the temple, including the ten stands for the basins and the various carts and grates.

These verses continue to highlight the extravagance and opulence of Solomon's reign, as well as the skill of the craftsmen who worked for him. The description of the temple furnishings, including the famous Jachin and Boaz pillars, underscores the importance of the temple as the center of Israelite worship.

In the seventh chapter of the book of 1 Kings in the Bible, we are presented with a detailed description of the construction of King Solomon's palace and other significant structures. Here are some reflections on this chapter:

The importance of balance and priorities: While Solomon's palace is described in great detail, we also see the construction of other structures such as the Hall of Pillars and the Hall of the Throne. This demonstrates the need for balance in our lives and the importance of allocating resources and attention to different areas. It reminds us to prioritize our relationship with God and His purposes above worldly pursuits.

Excellence in craftsmanship: The chapter emphasizes the exquisite craftsmanship and attention to detail in the construction of various structures. Skilled workers, including Hiram from Tyre, are mentioned for their craftsmanship and expertise. This highlights the value of employing our God-given talents and skills to glorify Him and create beauty in the world.

The role of collaboration: King Solomon collaborates with King Hiram of Tyre, who provides materials and skilled workers for the construction projects. This highlights the importance of cooperation and working together to achieve common goals. It reminds us of the strength and effectiveness of unity and partnership in various aspects of life.

The fleeting nature of worldly accomplishments: While the grandeur and magnificence of Solomon's palace and other structures are highlighted, it is important to remember that they are temporary and subject to decay. The chapter emphasizes the impermanence of worldly accomplishments and possessions. It prompts us to seek eternal treasures and invest in things that have lasting significance, such as our relationship with God and the well-being of others.

These reflections offer insights into the themes and lessons found in the seventh chapter of 1 Kings. They underscore the importance of balance and priorities, excellence in craftsmanship, collaboration, and the fleeting nature of worldly accomplishments. As you continue reading, you will encounter more narratives and teachings that further expand on these themes and provide spiritual guidance.