

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR READ THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY FOR 12/18/12

- 1. LIST SOME WORDS YOU WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE THE TEMPLE AND ITS FURNISHINGS AS SOLOMON BUILT IT (2 CHRONICLES 3-4). WHY DID SOLOMON BUILD THE TEMPLE IN THIS MANNER? HOW MIGHT SOLOMON'S EXAMPLE PROVIDE A MODEL FOR US IN COMPLETING PROJECTS THAT WE UNDERTAKE?**
- 2. SINCE THE CHRONICLER WAS WRITING FOR EXILES WHO RETURNED FROM BABYLON, WHAT ASPECT OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THE DEDICATION OF TEMPLE (2 CHRONICLES 5) WOULD ENCOURAGE THEM? WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT DOES THIS DESCRIPTION GIVE YOU, A MEMBER OF THE "HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS" (THE APOSTLES' CREED), FOR YOUR OWN WORSHIP?**
- 3. THE LORD APPEARED TO SOLOMON AT NIGHT (2 CHRONICLES 7:12) TO TALK WITH SOLOMON ABOUT THE PRAYER THAT HAD BEEN OFFERED TO THE TEMPLE. THE LORD ASSURED SOLOMON THAT WHEN THE PEOPLE PRAYED, HE WOULD LISTEN; WHEN THEY CONFESSED THEIR SINS, HE WOULD FORGIVE. THESE WERE WORDS OF ASSURANCE. AT WHAT OTHER TIMES HAS GOD "APPEARED AT NIGHT" WITH WORDS OF ASSURANCE FOR HIS PEOPLE? FOR YOU?**
- 4. WHAT PICTURE DO YOU SEE OF SOLOMON IN CHAPTERS 8 AND 9? DOES HE SEEM TO BE GROWING IN FAITH DURING THESE YEARS? THE REST OF THE STORY IS IN 1 KINGS 11. WHAT WARNING DID GOD GIVE SOLOMON (1 KINGS 11:11-13)? HOW MIGHT THIS WARNING BE A BLESSING FOR US?**
- 5. THE QUEEN OF SHEBA RECEIVED THE MESSAGE THAT SOLOMON RULED "BECAUSE OF THE LOVE OF YOUR GOD FOR ISRAEL AND HIS DESIRE TO UPHOLD THEM FOREVER,... TO MAINTAIN JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 CHRONICLES 9:8). WHAT MESSAGE MIGHT THIS PICTURE SEND TO RULERS OF OUR OWN DAY?**
- 6. AT THE TIME OF THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM, PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT ISRAEL "WHO SET THEIR HEARTS ON SEEKING THE LORD" MOVE TO JERUSALEM "TO BE ABLE TO OFFER SACRIFICES TO THE LORD" (2 CHRONICLES 11:16). WHAT CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES DID THIS MOVE ENTAIL? WHAT SIMILAR CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES DO CHRISTIANS STILL MAKE, WITH THE BLESSING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TO WORSHIP THE LORD? IN YOUR PRAYERS, THANK GOD FOR THE STRENGTH HE HAS GIVEN TO PEOPLE TO MAKE SUCH CHANGES.**

7. THE EVENTS OF 2 CHRONICLES 12 FOLLOW AN OUTLINE SIMILAR TO AN OUTLINE OF SECTIONS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE. POINT OUT THE SIMILARITIES. WHY WOULD CHURCH SERVICES FOLLOW SUCH AN OUTLINE?

8. WHAT IS THE COMMON MESSAGE OF THESE THREE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: 2 CHRONICLES 13:15, 2 CHRONICLES 14:12; AND ROMANS 8:31-32?

9. SCRIPTURES USE THE FIGURE OF SPEECH "THE EYES OF THE LORD" TO PAINT A PICTURE OF GOD FOR US. HANANI PAINTED SUCH A PICTURE FOR ASA, THE KING (2 CHRONICLES 16:9). MOSES USES THIS PHRASE IN DEUTERONOMY 11:12, THE PSALMIST REFERS TO GOD'S EYES IN PSALM 33:18-19 AND PSALM 34:15, SOLOMON USES THIS PICTURE IN PROVERBS 15:3, JEREMIAH USES IT IN JEREMIAH 24:6, AND PETER REFERS TO IT IN 1 PETER 3:10-12. WHAT PICTURE OF GOD IS PAINTED IN ALL THESE PASSAGES? WHAT MESSAGE IS GOD CONVEYING TO US IN THESE PASSAGES?