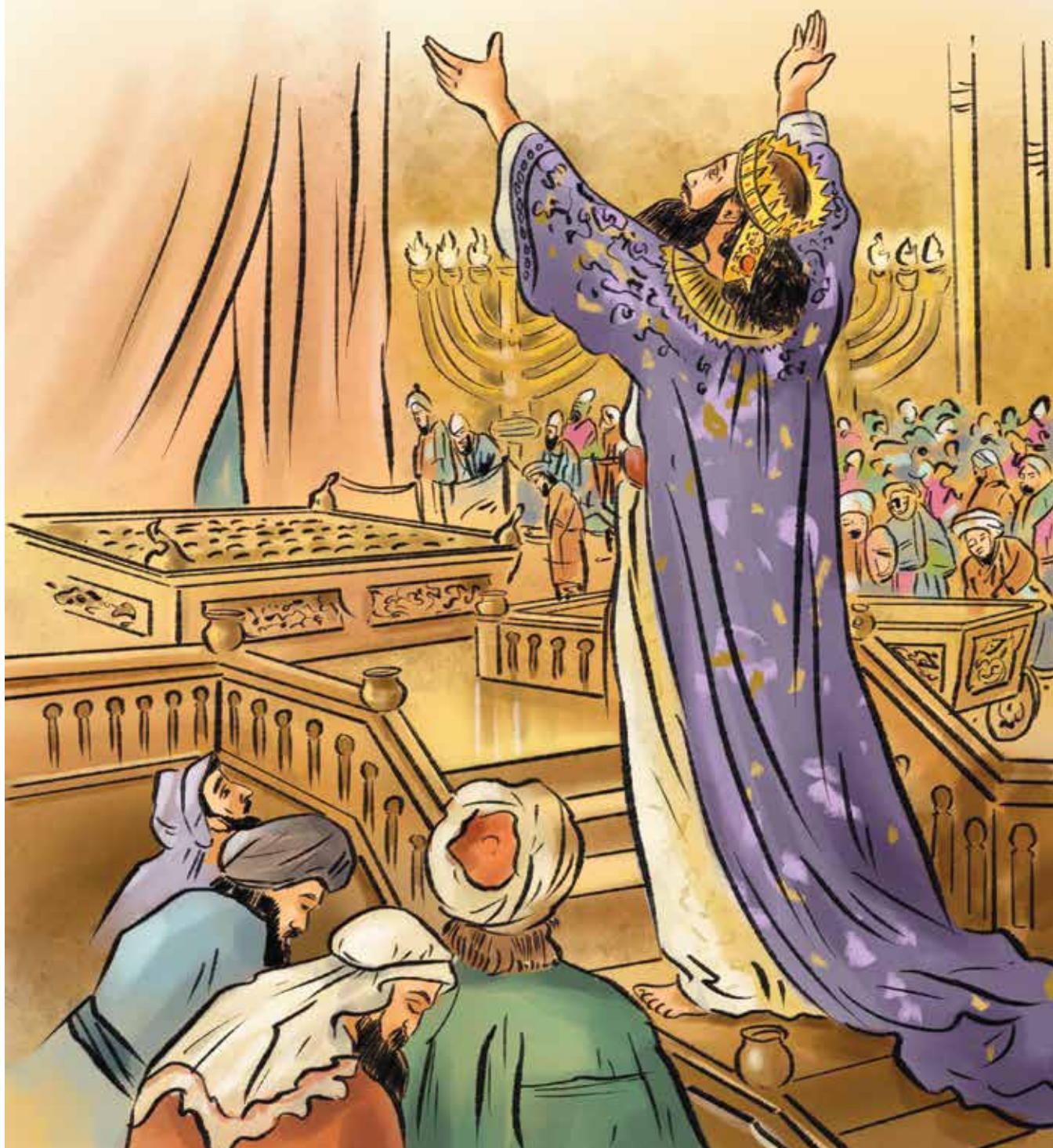


# Solomon's Temple



As desired by the Lord, Solomon built a magnificent temple in Jerusalem to serve as a religious centre for worship and a symbol of God's presence in the midst of His people.



Solomon's greatest achievement was to build the temple which took seven years to complete. He brought skilled artisans from neighbouring countries and employed huge labour to work alongside them.

A great festival was held for the dedication of the temple with the priests carrying the Ark of Covenant in a huge procession into the sacred inner sanctuary. After everyone left, a cloud filled the temple signifying that God was pleased with His dwelling place. Solomon addressed the crowds and prayed to thank God. He pledged fidelity to the one true God by keeping His commandments. The festival lasted seven days.

The temple became a sign of unity between the northern and southern tribes and the Jews avoided all forms of idol worship. However, in course of time, the temple was reduced to a worldly structure with the priests and elders observing the 'letter' of the law rather than the 'spirit'.

This led to exploitation of the poor Jews by the priestly class and the powerful chiefs of the tribes. Solomon himself fell to the demands of his many foreign wives and allowed the practice of pagan cults and worship of idols.

The Israelites thus began to abandon their one true God and the Laws and adopted alien religious ideas and practices. By the time Solomon's reign came to an end, God, through the prophets, foretold the collapse of his kingdom.



## Word of God

**1 Kings 8: 27 – 29, 41 – 43; 9: 4 – 5**

"But can you, O God, really live on earth? Not even all of heaven is large enough to hold you, so how can this Temple that I have built be large enough? Lord my God, I am your servant. Listen to my prayer, and grant the requests I make to you today. Watch over this Temple day and night, this place where you have chosen to be worshiped. Hear me when I face this Temple and pray.

"When a foreigner who lives in a distant land hears of your fame and of the great things you have done for your people and comes to worship you and to pray at this Temple, listen to his prayer. In heaven, where you live, hear him and do what he asks you to do, so that all the peoples of the world may know you and obey you, as your people Israel do. Then they will know that this Temple I have built is the place where you are to be worshiped."

"If you will serve me in honesty and integrity, as your father David did, and if you obey my laws and do everything I have commanded you, I will keep the promise I made to your father David when I told him that Israel would always be ruled by his descendants."

## Insight

### **Vincent De Paul: Patron Of Charity Work**

Vincent De Paul (1581 – 1660) was a French priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. He is the patron of various charity works. Vincent de Paul was known for his compassion, humility, and generosity. He founded Congregation of the Mission and Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. Inspired by his work, many organisations carry out various charitable works in India and various other countries.



## Notes

### Know Now

**EXCAVATIONS:** A number of archaeological excavations at the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, the site where Solomon built the Temple, have taken place over the last 150 years. The first were undertaken by the British Royal Engineers in the 1870s. In 1930, R.W. Hamilton, director of the British Mandate Antiquities Department, carried out the only archaeological excavation ever undertaken at the Temple Mount's Aqsa Mosque by the British Mandate, the excavations show a Byzantine mosaic floor underneath the mosque that was likely the remains of a church or a monastery.

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