



As we read the Bible we can come across a long list of names, many which we are not even able to pronounce and we skip over those verses! I would also think that most of us at some time or other have been reading a passage – particularly from one of the prophets – and we have thought, 'I can't make head or tail of this.' If we are not aware of the background or customs of what is happening then it is difficult to understand such parts as these without the help of a commentary.

ALL SCRIPTURE: One of my favourite Bible passages is 2 Timothy 3: 16 – 17. ***'All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.'***

Notice that it says 'All Scripture'. This means that those parts of the Bible already mentioned above, have been put there for a purpose. Our Bibles help us to learn more about the nature of God, about His design for our lives and the scarlet thread weaving all the way throughout, about His plans for our salvation. The more we delve into it, the greater our understanding as to why certain things are included.



Another time when we can be tempted to skip to a more interesting part is when something is written in very great detail. One example of this is the building of the temple; really long description of every little detail. What an undertaking! God gave King David the plans but said that because he had shed too much blood in battles, his son Solomon would be the one to do the building. What David did was to make loads of preparation beforehand so that many of the materials etc. were already available when it was the time for building.

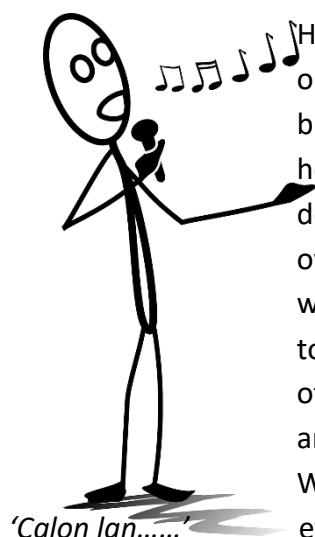
Up to that time worship had been carried out in a tent (tabernacle) because of the ease of dismantling and carrying as the Israelites moved around, but now that they were more settled it was appropriate to have a proper building. Thousands of people were involved in the task. I would have loved to have seen the finished temple that took seven years to build, as it must have been absolutely stunning. Some of the walls, floors and other decorative parts were overlaid with gold. Wood was carved with cherubim, palm trees, flowers and pomegranates.



A special place was set aside for the keeping of the Ark of the Covenant. All of the preparation of the materials was done outside away from the temple area so that no sound of hammer, axe or any other iron tool was heard inside the temple. Now that must have been extremely difficult to carry out and I wonder how it was possible for everything to be done under those circumstances – A bit different from today when we hear diggers and pneumatic drills on any building site!



You can read about this in 1 Kings Chapters 6 – 8 and also 1 Chronicles Chapters 28 – 29.



'Calon lan.....'

(Clean heart!)

How God plans everything in such minute detail. This is not only in the Bible but in our lives too. An unfathomable God not only had very detailed plans for the building of the temple but also has detailed plans for each of **OUR** lives; however, yes, He is sometimes an unfathomable God. Solomon knew all the details of the temple plans beforehand, but we do not know all the details for our own lives. We know what is past, we often have a rough idea as to where we would like our future to lie, but have no actual idea as how those ideas are going to pan out. I knew what job I wanted to do, but did not know exactly which aspect of that work I would be doing. I did not know where I would be working. Marriage and children were not really on my list so I was not expecting a handsome singing Welshman to sweep me off my feet! God knew all about these aspects of my life even before I was born.

When I buy an embroidery kit, a chart and instructions are included. Sometimes I alter bits or add my own bits of titivation, but when I do this it is no longer as the designer intended it to be. We can do this with our own lives. If we are aware of what God has said to us, yet go on to do our own thing, then we can go off-track. Occasionally we can go back and put things right, but sometimes things are irreversible and we have to live with the consequences of our actions.

One of the most difficult things I have found is when a decision has to be made and I am uncertain as to what to decide. If God gives me a clear indication regarding what to do, then that is fine but it sometimes becomes a problem when I have prayed and prayed about a matter and am met with silence from God. If He knows the plan for my life then He could give me an answer, so why doesn't He? Don't know. Maybe it is because it is not quite the right time to go ahead with a particular plan, but how long do I have to wait before taking action? Don't know. At least He could say something like, "Hang on a bit Doris." or "Not in my plans for you."!



Plans for the building of the temple were revealed and known. Plans for our lives are sometimes only partially revealed and it is only as we trust God for His direction that we are shown the plans He has for us. Those plans may not always include the ones that we had in mind but are the ones that fit into God's overall picture. He knows exactly what He wants us to do, where to go, who to speak to and how to act in every situation.

'I will put my trust in Him.'

Hebrews 2: 13