

June 1 Answers

- 1) Construction of the temple. The building of the temple is the story of a friendship between a **Jew** and a **Gentile**: Solomon and Hiram. They formed a **partnership** of mutual benefit, and the citizens of both their nations labored side-by-side to build the temple. Solomon proudly claimed God as his own, “the LORD **my** God,” and declared Him to be “**greater** than all gods.” Hiram echoed this truth: “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who **made** heaven and earth.” Even if he was only being polite, Hiram took notice of how God had blessed Israel. This is what God always wanted Israel to be: a shining **light** of holiness and godliness to the surrounding nations. Oh that our lives would be a beacon in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation! Solomon displayed the wisdom God had given him as construction began. He drafted **three** times the number of workers needed for the project and arranged their schedules so they didn’t have to be away from home for more than a **month** at a time. This showed his concern for the welfare of his workers and the importance he placed on **family** life. It also reminds us that the strength of a **nation** depends on the strength of its families. The builders constructed the temple in reverent **silence** (“neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house”), and they used only the finest materials (the gold overlay in the Most Holy Place was around 2 mm thick!). This teaches us the importance of honoring God with our best.