



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

A TIME FOR WAR AND A TIME FOR PEACE! PART I

Ecclesiastes 3:8

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE PART IX!

God bless you! Greetings!

Welcome to part IX (9) of our series 'Preparing for the Future'! We are hoping and praying to close out this exciting series in the next few weeks, so people can buy the whole series on line before Christmas.** I am sure you will find it as a whole very helpful.

(** free to Premium Subscribers)

Although Ecclesiastes 3 says a time for War and a time for Peace, we are going to handle this double edition the other way around, and talk about 'The time of Peace first! This is mainly to buy time as you will see towards the end of this article!

A TIME OF PEACE!

The characters here are Kings David and then Solomon his son and Hiram, King of Tyre. (The Old Testament, the stories of their cooperation and friendships are recorded in.....)

King David had a very good relationship with Hiram. Please see all the fascinating links below on King Hiram.

As you can see in the -win-win link below, it is clear that King David has a great friendship with the King of Tyre. Tyre is now part of modern day Lebanon. Lebanon is famous since antiquity for its impressive trees: Primarily the CEDAR TREE, (Cypress).



It is worth taking three minutes to read this information before we

continue with the Time of Peace.

Courtesy of: What are the cedars of Lebanon the Bible mentions? | GotQuestions.org

In ancient times, cedar wood was especially desirable for its aromatic qualities as well as its resistance to decay and bugs. Lebanon was known for its magnificent cedars and was once heavily forested with them. Cedar was a major export and source of wealth, although, in more recent years, Lebanon has faced deforestation. Even today, the image of a cedar tree is found on the Lebanese national flag.

In Ezekiel 31, Assyria is compared

to a cedar of Lebanon and described thus: "Beautiful

branches overshadowing the forest; it towered on high, its top above the thick foliage. The waters nourished it, deep springs made it grow tall; their streams flowed all around its base and sent their channels to all the trees of the field. So it towered higher than all the trees of the field; its boughs increased and its branches grew long, spreading because of abundant waters. All the birds of the sky nested in its boughs, all the animals of the wild gave birth under its branches; all the great nations lived in its shade. It was majestic in beauty, with its spreading boughs, for its roots went down to abundant waters” (verses 3–7). The symbolism of the cedar points to the former greatness of Assyria, as it towered magnificently over the other nations of the earth.

Cedar is mentioned throughout the Old Testament as an item of luxury and wealth. David used cedar wood in building his palace (2 Samuel 5:11; 7:2), and it was also used in building the temple (1 Kings 5:6; 2 Kings 19:23), which was almost completely panelled with cedar (1 Kings 6:6, 16, 18, 20, 36). Solomon used it in his Palace of the Forest of Lebanon, with cedar columns, beams, and roof (1 Kings 7:2). It was also used in the construction of the second temple (Ezra 3:7). The abundance of cedar was seen as a sign of prosperity (1 Kings 10:27; 2 Chronicles 1:15.) David and Solomon acquired their cedar from Hiram, king of Tyre, a city in Lebanon (1 Chronicles 14:1; 2 Chronicles 2:3, 8) where the best cedar was to be found.

The fact that God planted the cedars in Lebanon was a sign of His power and goodness

(Psalm 29:5; 104:16). His ability to break or burn them is a sign of His power to judge (Zechariah 11:1; Isaiah 2:3; 14:8). Jeremiah warned the king of Judah that, although he rested in a house of cedar—figuratively calling his residence “Lebanon”—he would not escape judgment (Jeremiah 22:14–15, 23).

The cedars of Lebanon were a gift from God and a source of wealth for Lebanon, the cities of Tyre and Sidon especially benefitting from their export (1 Chronicles 17:1, 6; 22:4). Although Tyre and Sidon were on friendly terms with Israel under David and Solomon, in later years they became enemies, and Tyre rejoiced over the fall of Judah. Therefore, God promised judgment (Ezekiel 26).

The cedars of Lebanon should remind us that every good gift comes from God, but when we focus on the gift without thanking and worshiping the One who gave it, we too will face judgment. (End of excerpt)

So King Hiram, had this amazing resource, growing everywhere across ‘Lebanon’. Just like the gold of Ophir, (not in Tyre) ++another valuable item, these trees were only found in abundance in the Kingdom of Hiram.

Through friendship and wise dealing with each other, King David and King Hiram spent many years exchanging various commodities and even large parcels of lands.

David imported vast amounts of the trees to build a palace (s). It seems they actually did rejoice in

each other’s successes.

When Solomon began construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem, he continued this trade with a King Hiram of Tyre, probably the son of the first King Hiram.

We can look in to great detail of this in these scriptures which go into detail of their trade.

Here is part of Solomon’s letter in



2 Chronicles 2.

2 Chronicles 2 And Solomon determined to build a house for the name of the Lord, and an house for his kingdom.

- 2 And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.
- 3 And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, as thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him a house to dwell therein, even so deal with me.
- 4 Behold, I build an house to the name of the Lord my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him

sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the Lord our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

- ▷ 5 And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.
- ▷ 6 But who is able to build him a house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? Who am I then, that I should build him a house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?
- ▷ 7 Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide.
- ▷ 8 Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants shall be with thy servants,
- ▷ 9 Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great.
- ▷ 10 And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty

thousand baths of oil.

- ▷ 11 Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, because the Lord hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them.
- ▷ 12 Hiram said moreover, blessed be the Lord God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the Lord, and an house for his kingdom.

So this is a wonderful example of trade in probably its highest form of win-win! King Hiram continues with this amazing message:

- ▷ 13 And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's,
- ▷ {13 "Now I am sending a skilled man, endowed with understanding, } Amplified version
- ▷ 14 The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, Skilful to work in gold,

And in silver,

In brass,

In iron,



In stone, and

In timber,

In purple,

In blue, and

In fine linen, and

In crimson;

Also to grave any manner of graving, and to

Find out every device which shall be put to him,

With thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.

So Hiram King of Tyre is also sending him this super man (whose mother was from Israel and his father from Tyre) to have that amount of talent and skills is a truly amazing thing and brings you before great kings!

Hiram closes the deal in this last part.

- ▷ 15 Now therefore the wheat, and the barley, the oil, and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send unto his servants:
- ▷ 16 And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem.
- ▷ 17 And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred.
- ▷ 18 And he set threescore

and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work.

Hiram lets Solomon know the transportation details, (which may have been conducted before,) and it's up to Solomon to bring the offloaded Cedars from Joppa (Jaffa) port to Jerusalem, which apparently takes 55 minutes on the expressway today!! Of course back in the day, I have no idea how long that would have taken, but where there is a will, there is always a way! So, here is a smooth example of godly trade we could say. Mutual reciprocation and friendship.

I once went with a Brazilian brother to meet the manager of a coffee export house, one of many in Botafogo in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The manager was a Christian and enjoyed our weekly Bible studies. While there, I observed some of the employees were making and receiving calls to and from all over the globe. One man said: ok, we can send you the 10,000 60K bags next week, you should get them with 10 days at your factory. That will be XXXX Reais, Brazilian money. Pay me on receipt as usual.' I was staggered. In my tiny untrained in business brain, I couldn't get it that such a vast amount of produce went 'for free' over to Denmark, and not a penny was paid beforehand! Well, there you go, I was just learning

about something wonderful called 'Trust'.

Monthly exports report - Cecafé (cecafe.com.br) amazing statistics!

Trade like that is a wonderful



thing. It was a Time of Peace, between Lebanon (Tyre) and Israel. Like most countries around the world your former friend may become your enemy. A new 'pharaoh' may arise 'who knew not Joseph'. And this did eventually happen just a few hundred years later between them.

In part II God willing, we will look at the 'Time of War' a totally different scenario.

God bless you,

Until next week.

Jerry for the WCF Team

Enjoy the links above and below and the extra p.s about verses 17-18



[Cedrus libani - Wikipedia](#)

**If you are a premium subscriber this will be a free digital file in pdf, God willing and for others who are interested it will be available for a small gift amount and download, on our web site, by God's grace from November.

Faith in Business: Solomon and Hiram: A Win-Win Relationship this excellent article by this seemingly excellent Non-profit business in the UK. How could they be thinking the same as me? Ha!

Hiram | Phoenician Ruler, Wealthy Merchant, Builder | Britannica

++Ophir | Middle East, Biblical Land & Trade Route | Britannica

P.S on verses 17-18. The trade having been fully secured, Solomon set about finding the 'right people' to work. He conducted a proper Census and found out that there were 156,360 migrants in Israel. Obviously they needed to work or be made slaves (work probably) and instead of the western benefit system, he used them ALL for the project, And he set 70,000 of them to be bearers of burdens, and 80,000 to be hewers in the mountain, and 3,600 overseers for them. This is the first example I have come across to solve a benefit system of the western world in the Bible. Just saying! I had to chuckle.



LEVITICUS 26:3-5

IF YOU WALK IN MY STATUTES AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, AND PERFORM THEM, THEN I WILL GIVE YOU RAIN IN ITS SEASON, THE LAND SHALL YIELD ITS PRODUCE, AND THE TREES OF THE FIELD SHALL YIELD THEIR FRUIT. YOUR THRESHING SHALL LAST TILL THE TIME OF VINTAGE, AND THE VINTAGE SHALL LAST TILL THE TIME OF SOWING; YOU SHALL EAT YOUR BREAD TO THE FULL, AND DWELL IN YOUR LAND SAFELY.

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