

# 2 kings + 1 temple =



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olomon, king of Israel, wanted to build an awesome temple for the name of the Lord. His detailed plans called for extensive use of pure gold, cedar, olive wood and fine stones and intricate woodwork and carvings. You can read all about the temple in 1 Kings 5 and 6.

While the temple was being built, workers were not allowed to use hammers, chisels or any other iron tool at the temple site. Inside the temple, Solomon had the workers cover the stone walls with cedar and then cover the cedar with gold.

Do you know where Solomon found the cedar wood that he used in the temple? In Lebanon. Before Solomon even began to build the temple he remembered that his neighbors in Lebanon had the finest cedar the world had to offer.

Solomon sent a message to Hiram, king of Tyre, which is in Lebanon.

“Give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the Sidonians” (1 Kings 5:6, NIV).

When Hiram heard Solomon’s request he was delighted and said, “Praise be to the Lord today, for he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation” (verse 7).

Hiram was a good neighbor and he valued Solomon’s friendship. To express his friendship, Hiram not only had his people cut



# LEBANA

# friendship



down the cedars, he also had them ship the special wood to Israel and help construct the temple. That's something a good friend would do.

Children living in Lebanon today are just like you. They like to have fun, play and spend time with their friends. Though they speak a different language and eat different food and live in a different country, they can still be your friends.

If you ever meet someone from Lebanon you might impress them and get to know them better if you can remember a few facts about their country such as:

- Beirut, the country's capital, used to be known as the "Pearl of the Middle East."
- Lebanon is mentioned 76 times in the Bible.
- Byblos, a city in Lebanon, is one of the oldest in the world.
- Lebanon's name has been around 4,000 years.
- Beirut had the world's first law school.

Hiram and Solomon knew how to treat each other right — as good friends should. In return for the cedars of Lebanon, Solomon supplied Hiram with much wheat and pressed olive oil for his royal household.

By giving to one another and expecting nothing in return, Hiram and Solomon's kingdoms were better off, but more important than that — they became closer friends.

— Kirk Noonan

**LUMBERJACKS  
IN LEBANON HELPED  
BUILD GOD'S  
TEMPLE!**



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