

Grand Opening: I Love My Church

*“So King Solomon **finished all his work on the Temple of the Lord.** Then he brought all the gifts his father, David, had dedicated—the silver, the gold, and the various articles—and he stored them in the treasuries of the Lord’s Temple. Solomon then summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes—the leaders of the ancestral families of the Israelites. They were to bring the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant to the Temple from its location in the City of David, also known as Zion. So all the men of Israel assembled before King Solomon at the annual Festival of Shelters... When all the elders of Israel arrived the priests and Levites brought up the Ark of the Lord along with the special tent and all the sacred items that had been in it. There, before the Ark, King Solomon and the entire community of Israel sacrificed so many sheep, goats, and cattle that no one could keep count! Then the priests carried the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant into the inner sanctuary of the Temple—the Most Holy Place... When the priests came out of the Holy Place, a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, **for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of the Lord.**” 1 Kings 7:51, 8:1-7, 10-11 NLT*

*““The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. **Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.** From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’” Acts 17:24-28 NIV*

1. Stir up passion.

*“**Passion** for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” Psalms 69:9 NLT*

2. Stay prayerful.

*“He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a **house of prayer,**’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves!”” Matthew 21:13 NLT*

3. Serve God’s purpose.

*“There is one body and one Spirit, and God called you to have **one hope.**” Ephesians 4:4 NCV*