

## GOBBET PREPARATION WORKSHEET<sup>1</sup>

**Name:** Scott Thong     **Text:** 2 Chronicles 6:12-21

1. *Read, re-read and read again* the assigned text till you get a sense of its flow and feel you understand

it. Write down some preliminary thoughts about the text.

- What is Solomon's expectation?
- Will God indeed dwell with man on earth?
- Solomon was allowed by God to build the temple instead of David, yet Solomon strayed after other gods which eventually led to the temple & nation's destruction

2. How has the author *organised* this passage? Please a) show the **structure** *in sections with verse references* and b) explain what *strategies* you used to see this **structure**.

- 12-13a: Surroundings and setting
- 13b-15: Reaffirming God's faithfulness to His promises
- 16-17: Calling upon God to uphold His promise regarding David's lineage
- 18: Extolling God's greatness
- 19-21: Calling upon God for attentiveness and forgiveness, individually and corporately

**Structure based on the change in focus between each section.**

3. How does the **context** inform the meaning of this passage? Please consider: 1) the **literary context**

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted for CEP Malaysia (<https://cep.kvbctrust.org/cep-course/>) from Simeon Trust Small Group Preparation Worksheet, [www.simeontrust.org](http://www.simeontrust.org).

(the relevant passages on either side), 2) the **book context**, and 3) the **biblical context** (connections to other places in the canon, i.e. the whole Bible).

- **1) Literary context:** Chapter 5, the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant (signifying God's presence) into the finished temple. Chapter 7, God's response to Solomon's prayer by filling the temple with His presence and reiterating His promises/warnings to Solomon and Israel.
- **2) Book context:** Chapter 1, Solomon's early reign over Israel. Chapters 2-7, building of the temple and God's presence enters it. Chapters 8-9, achievements during Solomon's reign over Israel. Chapters 10-12, Rehoboam's reign and Jeroboam's rebellion leading to the division of Israel & Judah. Chapters 13-35, reigns of Judah's kings who are mostly unrighteous. Chapter 36, the last independent kings of Judah, capture and exile of Judah by Babylon, and return of the exiles by Cyrus.
- **3) Biblical context:** Stationary temple had been foretold to replace the mobile tabernacle (Deuteronomy 12:5); David was promised his lineage/house will be established by God and will build a house for God (2 Samuel 7:8-17); David was not allowed to build God's house due to his bloodshed but instead prepared plans & materials for Solomon to do so (1 Chronicles 28); God's house was destroyed due the people's disobedience but God showed mercy just as Solomon had prayed for (Daniel 9, Jesus Christ as saviour).

4. What is the **main idea (theme)** and **aim** that the author is communicating to his audience? Answer

each question with one simple sentence, in 15 words or less.

- **Main idea:** God is faithful to His promises
- **Aim:** To reinforce the (post-exilic) reader's trust that God is faithful whatever the current situation may be

5. How does your text **relate to, anticipate or apply the gospel** (i.e., how can we read our passage in

light of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ)?

- God indeed is faithful to His promise to David through Jesus Christ, descendant of David (Matthew 1:1) who rules the whole universe forever (Daniel 7:14, Luke 1:31-33, Hebrews 1:8, Revelation 11:15).
- God did indeed condescend (Philippians 2:6-8) to come dwell on earth with humans and be contained in a human body as Jesus (John 1:14).
- God replaced the stone temple with living temples (1 Corinthians 3:16) – each believer indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) whom Jesus sent, worshiping in spirit and in truth (John 4:21-24).
- The temple was where God’s name (presence) dwelt, His house; God is now with us always as we bear His name (Matthew 18:19-20 & 28:18-20) as His household (John 1:12, 2 Corinthians 6:18).

6. Drawing on your work to this point, what **conclusion** will you argue to *your audience* (in one short sentence)? What **applications** will you make for *your audience* (Christian and non-Christian)?

- **Conclusion:** God is faithful and merciful beyond expectation.
- **Applications:** Be thankful that He is faithful and merciful, and live in a way that honours it.

7. What is your **sermon/talk/Bible study title** and your **preaching/teaching outline**?

### **The House That God Built**

- 12-13a: Background of building the temple.
- 13b-17: Recap of God’s promise that David’s house will endure and build God a house.
- 18: Point out the irony of Solomon’s words as God indeed one day dwell on earth, all His infiniteness contained in the body of a human.
- 19-21: Remind of how the history of humanity, the Israelites and every one of us is one of repeated failure – we all need forgiveness, we all need God’s help to succeed, and thank God that He gave us both through the Incarnation, Crucifixion & Resurrection. We are now God’s house – both as temples and as family (household).