

# **A STUDY OF FIRST KINGS, LESSON P04**

## **REVIEW**

- I. THE UNITED KINGDOM: SOLOMON TO REHOBOAM [1:11-11:43]
  - A. SOLOMON'S ASCENSION TO THE THRONE [1:1-2:46]
    - 1. ADONIJAH'S ASPIRATIONS DEFEATED [1:1-53]
    - 2. LAST WORDS AND DEATH OF DAVID [2:1-11]
    - 3. SOLOMON'S ELIMINATION OF RIVALS [2:12-46]
  
  - B. THE WISDOM AND WEALTH OF SOLOMON [3:1-4:34].
    - 1. SOLOMON'S AND PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER [3:1]
    - 2. SOLOMON'S WORSHIP AND VISION [3:2-15]
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    - 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE EMPIRE [4:1-28]
    - 5. SUMMARY OF SOLOMON'S WISDOM [4:29-34]

## **CURRENT LESSON**

### **C. SOLOMON'S BUILDING ACTIVITY [5:1-9:28].**

#### **1. PREPARATIONS FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE [5:1-18].**

5:1] - Hiram (970-937) had been a friend of David and had assisted him in many of his public works. His agreement with Solomon continued those commitments for building products and skills for agricultural products.

A minor tiff is going to develop when Solomon exchanges twenty cities to Hiram for a boatload of gold, and Hiram didn't like his end of the deal (9:11-14); but the rift was soon healed.

5:2-6] - Solomon correctly assumed that Hiram knew about David's desire to build the Temple; and he solicited his aid in carrying that plan. He was going to need many of the huge magnificent cedar trees that grew in modern day Lebanon; and commented on Hiram's skill in working with wood and stone.

5:7-11] - King Hiram of Tyre and Sidon (modern day Lebanon) was extremely glad to know that Solomon had succeeded his father, David on the throne of Israel. He willingly and readily agreed to sending the building materials to Israel. King David had already purchased the property and had begun to amass a great deal of these materials.

Hiram asked for a payment of food in return for the labor and materials he was going to send. The amounts seen staggering: 130,000 bushel of wheat and 120 gallons of pure olive oil each year; but this was really “nothing” from all the stock piles in Israel.

5:12-17] - The Jews served a period of service while the Canaanites were permanently slaves. The men were arranged in shifts: 10,000 would be in Lebanon and 20,000 would be in Israel working the soil.

A man named Adoniram was placed as “Secretary of State” over this arrangement; but he was soon going to be thoroughly detested for his mishandling of these huge amounts of materials and labor (12:18).

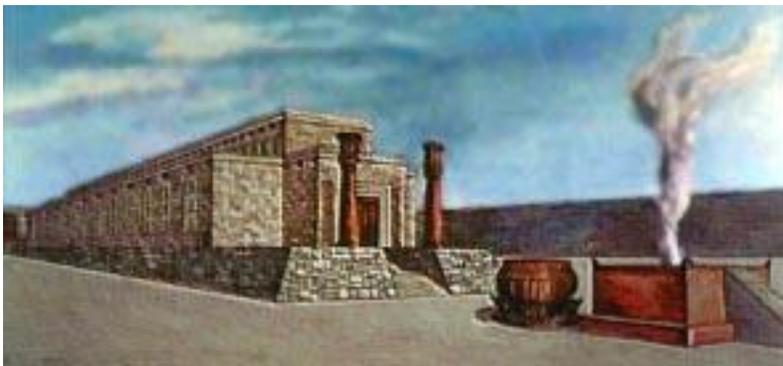
Solomon conscripted 70,000 men to serve as “transporters) and 80,000 stone cutters. 3,300 “first line supervisors” were appointed to oversee this massive undertaking. The first project was to lay the “foundation” of the Temple.

This “foundation” was a massive “leveling” of the property to accommodate all the five buildings and the grounds.

5:18] - The “stone finishers” were “Gebalites” (“citizens of Gebal”) (see Josh 13:5) from a community about 13 miles north of modern day Beirut. These great beveled or grooved stones, measuring some twenty, others thirty feet in length, and from five to six feet in breadth, can still be seen in the substructures at the ancient site of the temple; and, in the judgment of the most competent observers, were those originally employed “to lay the foundation of the House”.

## **2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE [6:1-38].**

6:1-5] - Solomon ascended the throne about 963 BC; and began to build the Temple in his fourth year (959 BC). “Zif” roughly corresponds to our May.

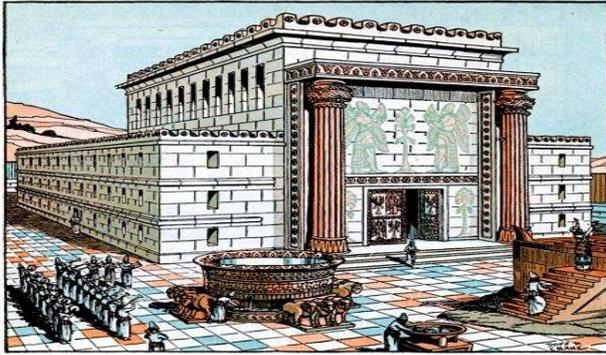


The building proper was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, 45 feet high with a porch which added another 30 feet to the length. There were narrow windows along the ceiling of the main structure, with a series of “side rooms” surrounding it.

A “cubit” roughly corresponds to about 18 inches (the length of a man’s hand from his elbow to the tip of his fingers. Obviously, this would vary from person to person; and 18 inches is an average.

6:7-10] - The lowest side rooms were 7½ feet wide; the second floor were 9 feet wide; and

the top floor were 10½ feet wide. There was a set of stairs connecting the three floors of side rooms around the perimeter of the main chamber.

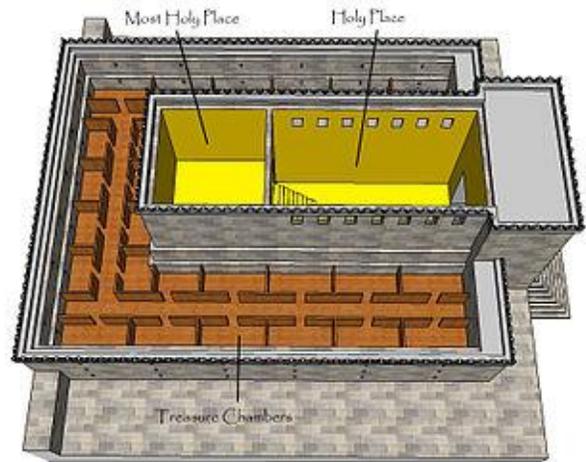


The stones were completely prepared at the quarry by the excellent stone masons that there was no need for further shaping on site. This describes the careful manner in which the stones were quarried; and was not because of any religious limitation.

rooms where the priests lived.

There was one main door to the side

The inside was wainscoted with cedar planks.



6:11-14] - The LORD affirmed His covenant with Solomon: if the King would obey Him, God would honor Solomon's "House" (Temple) by manifesting His presence there.

6:15-18] - The Most Holy Place was 30' X 30' X 30', and occupied the rear 1/3 of the total length of 90' (vs. 20), completely covered by cedar boards. There was very intricate carpentry work in the carved finishings.

6:19-22] - The "Oracle" ("The Most Holy Place" or "The Holy of Holies") measured 30' X 30' X 30'; overlaid it with pure gold.



6:23-28] - These two cherubim (plural of cherub) are new additions of olive-wood overlaid with gold. They were huge, standing upright at 15' high. The wings spanned 7½ feet in one direction and reached out over the Ark; touching the tips at the center, each of them covering 15'. The two statues reached from one side of the room to the other: 30'

6:29-36] - There were very intricate carvings in the rooms; the floors itself was overlaid with gold. Huge intricate folding doors of olive wood overlaid with gold provided entrance to the first inner room (The Holy Place). two leaves of the other door were folding.

6:37-38] - The building spanned 7 years, which was actually a short time for such a magnificent building. Much of the preparation had been accomplished before Solomon's time; the rather ornate building was relatively small; and there was a huge company of craftsmen involved.