

A STUDY OF FIRST KINGS (LESSON P-05)

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]**
- 3. SOLOMON'S WISDOM DISPLAYED [3:16-28]**
- 4. ORGANIZATION OF THE EMPIRE [4:1-28]**
- 5. SUMMARY OF SOLOMON'S WISDOM [4:29-34]**

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

- 1. PREPARATIONS FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE [5:1-18].**
- 2. CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE [6:1-38].**

CURRENT LESSON (P-05)

3. SOLOMON'S PALACE AND OTHER BUILDINGS [7:1-12].

7:1] - His private "house" didn't have all the work force and pre-construction work as the Temple, and there wasn't such an urgent need to get it done; therefore, it took a longer period of time to complete it.

7:2-12] - There seemed to be four distinct buildings: the Temple, Solomon's private house, the Armory (hall of cedars), and the Throne Room. In addition, there were porches and other small outbuildings for storage and equipment. Remember, it was in "Solomon's Porch" that Jesus found and overthrew the tables of the money changers. This location had been carried over from the Temple that Solomon had built to the one Herod had built.

Using the rule of thumb of 1 cubit = 18 inches, the various sizes and dimensions of these buildings and building stones can all be determined.

4. THE FURNISHINGS OF THE TEMPLE [7:13-51].

7:13-14] - Hiram is a somewhat mystical figure; but figured very prominently in the

construction of the Temple. In 2 Chronicles 2:14, his mother is said to have been of the daughters of Dan; but the apparent "discrepancy" can easily be reconciled: Hiram's mother, a "Dannite" (of the Tribe of Dan), had been married to a "Naphtalite" (of the Tribe of Naphtali), so that later when she married a "Tyrian" (a man from Tyre), she might be described as a widow of the tribe of Naphtali. It can also be explained: if she was a native of the city of Laish (in the Tribal allocation of Dan), she might hold a "dual citizenship" of being born in Dan and living in Naphtali.

King Hiram was noted as extremely skilled as a metal worker; but 2 Chronicles 2:13 speaks of his artistic skill in many different areas of construction. In fact, it was because of all these many and varied areas of natural and learned expertise that he was appointed to superintend not only the heavy construction of the building, but also the finish carpentry of all the huge number of delicate works of art in the Temple.

7:15-18] - These two massive columns that stood in the front of the Temple were made of the brass (bronze) which was taken from the king of Zobah (1 Chronicles 18:8). In 2 Chronicles 3:15, they are said to have been "35 cubits" high. There, however, their joint lengths are given; whereas here the length of the pillars is given separately. Each pillar was 17½ cubits long, which is stated, in round numbers, as 18. Their dimensions in American measure are as follows: The pillars without the capitals ("chapiters") measured 32½ feet long, and 7 feet diameter; and if they were hollow, as described in Jeremiah 52:21, the metal would be about 3½ inches thick; so that the whole casting of one pillar must have been from 16-20 tons. The height of the capitals was 7¾ feet; and, at the same thickness of metal, would not weigh less than 7-8 tons each. The pillars, when set up, would stand 40 feet in height.

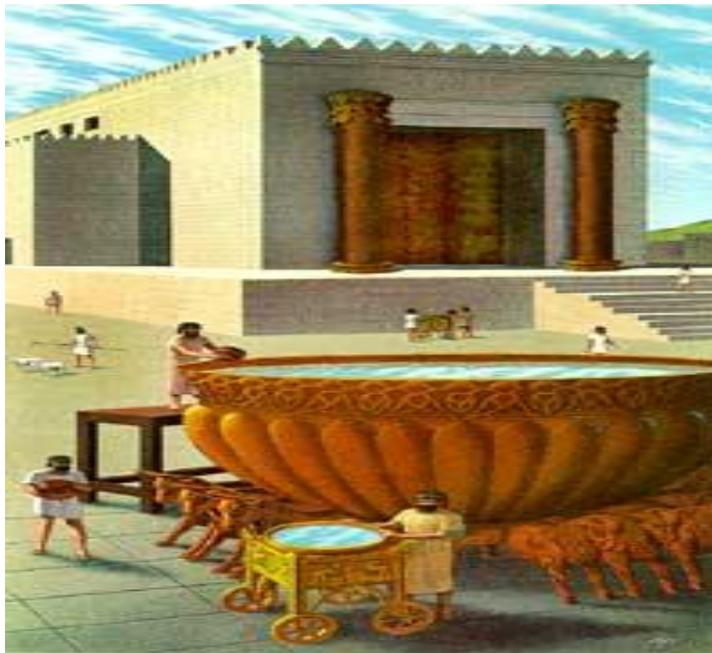
The "nets of checker work" (vs 17) was delicate work resembling the branches of palm trees, and wreaths of chain-work - that is, plaited in the form of a chain, composing a sort of crown or garland. Seven of these were wound in festoons on one capital, and over and underneath them were fringes, one hundred in a row. Two rows of pomegranates strung on chains (2 Chronicles 3:16) ran round the capital (1 Kings 7:42) (compare 2 Chronicles 4:12-13 and Jeremiah 52:23), which had a round shape (1 Kings 7:41). These carvings apparently served the double role of "beauty" and "practical" - to form a binding to the ornamental work - to keep it in place on the casting.

7:19-22] - The "lily work" consisted of beautiful ornaments, resembling the stalks, leaves, and blossoms of lilies of large dimensions, as suited to the height of their position.

These two names were symbolical, and indicated the strength and stability of the spiritual kingdom of God, which was embodied in the Temple.

7:23-26] - In the Tabernacle, there was no molten sea and the "laver" ("lavatory") served the double purpose of washing the hands and feet of the priests as well as the parts of the sacrifices; but in the Temple, there were separate vessels provided for these different

functions. The "molten sea" was an immense semicircular vase, measuring 17½ feet in diameter and 8¾' deep. At 3½" thick, this could not weigh less than 25-30 tons in one solid casting - and held from 16,000-20,000 gallons of water.

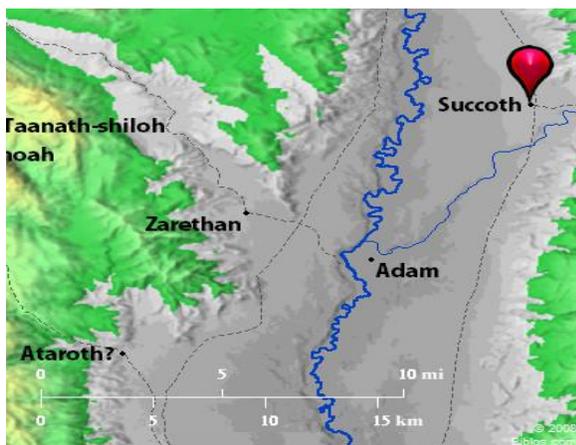


300 images of flowers ("lily work") and oxen were either carved or cut on the outside all round; and it stood on a pedestal of twelve oxen. These oxen would have had to have been of considerable size (Assyrian bulls), so that their corresponding legs would give thickness or strength to support so great a weight because when this vessel was filled with water, the whole weight would be about 100 tons.

7:27-39] - These ten "bases of brass" were "four-wheeled carriages" for the support and transportation of

their onboard lavers of water. The description of their structure shows that they were elegantly fitted up and skillfully adapted to their purpose. They stood on four supports attached to the axles, so that the figured sides were considerably raised above the wheels. They were all exactly alike in form and size. These lavers were capable each of holding 300 gallons of water, and probably weighed approximately 2 tons when filled with water.

7:40-45] - These verses contain a general description of Hiram's works, as well as those already mentioned as other minor things. His metal workers are frequently mentioned by ancient authors as being very skilful in making metal cups and bowls; and it would have been perfectly natural for King Solomon to employ them in making the golden and brazen utensils for his Temple and palaces.



7:46] - "The plain of Jordan" - "Zarthan", or "Zaretan" (Joshua 3:16), "Zartanah" (1 Kings 4:12), or even "Zeredathah" (2 Chronicles 4:17), was situated on the eastern bank of the Jordan in the territories of western Manasseh. It was located at the "ford of the river" near the mouth of the Jabbok River. Two reasons have been given by various commentators for the castings being made there:

(1) From such a distance, the city of Jerusalem would not be annoyed by the smoke and noxious vapors necessarily occasioned by the process; and

(2) That part of the Jordan valley abounds with soil known as "marl". Clay and sand are the molding material still used for bronze; but such large quantities of metal as one of these castings would contain could not be fused in one "normal" furnace, but would require a series of furnaces (especially for such a casting as the brazen sea).

The metal would have been heated in a series of furnaces; then poured into the natural mold of "marl". In this way, a national foundry was erected (and has been discovered) in the plain of Jordan. I think we can all agree that these people were extremely intelligent; by no means are they the "cave men" that we sometimes think them to be!

In fact, it should be noted that this can be said of mankind all the way back to Adam and Eve; and there just isn't any way this intelligence can be explained by evolution. They were created by an Intelligent Creator and designed by an Intelligent Designer!

7:47-51] – These implements were probably made according to the dimensions of similar devices that had served in the Tabernacle. The actually implements in the Tabernacles were probably deposited with honor as relics in storage within the Temple. Apparently, Solomon called for the design and construction of all new lavers tables, and lamp stands.