



# SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

## No 2 I Lay In Zion For A Foundation

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

**Isaiah 28:16**

## INTRODUCTION

- we have established that construction of Solomon's Temple was by far the most expensive building ever undertaken in history

likewise, the Temple bore more attention to detail than any other architectural design...coming from the mind of God, this should surprise us

- first and foremost, the Temple was designed to be a house...this would stand in general contrast to the places of worship built for the purpose of extolling the virtues of various deities.

in his dedication prayer, Solomon declared "I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever." **1 Kings 8:13**

the Lord responded, "I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me. I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever..." **1 Kings 9:3**

in other words, the Temple was not just to be a place for displaying the beliefs of the people...it was the place where God's Spirit dwelt among His people

### **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

NOTE: search the phrase 'my name' in *Kings* and *Chronicles* and consider that the name of God would be manifested by the Temple to other nations and people...what would that mean?

## 1. THE START OF CONSTRUCTION

Solomon continued the preparations for construction during the first three years of his reign

much of his time was spent in closing out the affairs of his father...personal issues concerning *Adonijah*, *Joab*, *Abiathar*, and *Shimei*

**1 Kings 2:13-46**

one of his greatest concerns was the preparation of the threshing floor David had purchased from Ornan

to prepare the site, Solomon "filled up great valleys with earth...to be on a level with the top of the mountain, on which the Temple was built"

~ *Antiquities of the Jews*, Josephus

construction began in the spring of 967 BC, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel...the Temple was completed some seven and a half years later, in the fall of 960 BC

**1 Kings 6:1 (37-38); 2 Chronicles 3:2**

## 2. THE SOURCE OF CONSTRUCTION

the Temple was constructed with assistance from the Phoenicians...Solomon turned to the old friend of his father, King Hiram of Phoenicia (KJV *Tyre* and *Sidon*...modern-day Lebanon), who supplied labor and fine cedar, fir, and algum wood

**1 Kings 5:1-12; 2 Chronicles 2:3, 8-10**

Solomon contracted with expert Phoenician craftsmen to carve the timbers (**1 Kings 5:6**), quarry the stone (**verse 18**), and fashion the intricate bronze items such as the two pillars, the lavers, and the bronze sea

all of this was bartered in trade to Solomon for Israeli copper, wheat, barley, oil, olives, wine, and figs...and some land **9:12-13**

NOTE: Solomon, the Israelite king, specialized in the vessels of gold. Hiram, a Gentile king, specialized in the vessels of brass. This foreshadows the coming in of the Gentiles with Israel to the New Testament church... the Temple of the Lord...the Body of Christ (**Ephesians 2:11-22**). In the church, the Gentiles are no longer strangers but fellow-citizens in the household of faith.

the Phoenicians were expert sailors and ship builders, so rather than hauling the wood a hundred miles over land, the logs were made into rafts and floated down the coast of the Mediterranean Sea from Lebanon (**1 Kings 5:8-9; 2 Chronicles 2:16**)

the wood was received at the Israeli seaport of Joppa and then transported approximately thirty miles east up to the city of Jerusalem

NOTE: Later in his reign, Solomon built a navy for Israel and trusted King Hiram's sailors to operate it (**1 Kings 9:26-28**). For the most part, the two kings enjoyed a good friendship throughout their reigns.

assisting the Phoenician tradesmen was a large Israeli workforce, since the labor requirements were enormous **1 Kings 5:13-16**

Solomon created a workforce of 183,300 laborers broken down as such:

30,000 laborers working in Lebanon with a rotating schedule of 10,000 per month

70,000 bearers of burdens

80,000 stone masons

3,300 supervisors to oversee the transportation of lumber and quarry work

### 3. THE SKILL OF CONSTRUCTION

one of the most unique considerations of the construction project was the reverence for the work as the workmen guarded the sanctity of the house

construction sites are almost always noisy, but no sound of hammer, axe, or other tool was heard on the job site

#### **1 Kings 6:7**

And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

stones were cut and fully dressed at the quarry and when they were received onsite, the builders rejected any stone which did not fit perfectly

#### **Psalms 118:22**

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

in order to create the furnishings and design the intricate relief work done on the inside walls of the Temple, a master artisan was needed

NOTE: when Moses built the Tabernacle, the Lord assembled the needed workers and empowered them to do their work

Aholiab & Bezaleel

Exodus 31:1-11 (35:30-35)

Solomon requested just such a person from King Hiram...who sent the craftsman, Hiram (or Hiram-Abi, 2 Chronicles 2:13-14).

he was the son of a mixed marriage, for his father was Phoenician and his mother was from the tribe of Naphtali...he was gifted as a metal worker and his crowning achievement would be the two brass pillars that stood at the entrance of the Temple

NOTE: 2 Chronicles 2:14 identifies Hiram, the metal-worker, mother with the tribe of Dan, not Naphtali (1 Kings 7:13-14); but there is no discrepancy. When Solomon became king of Israel, he established new districts and borders. Thus, the tribes of Dan and Naphtali were united into the eighth district of Naphtali, supervised by Ahimaaz (1 Kings 4:15).

## 4. THE SILHOUETTE OF CONSTRUCTION

there is a tremendous picture for us in the details of this work force...just as God used Jews and Gentiles to build His Temple, the church of the early New Testament was built in the same manner (with the Samaritans...half-Jew, half-Gentile...thrown in for good measure)

in **Ephesians 4:11**, Paul listed the outworking of this building program in the church:  
*apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers*...there is a similarity to the craftsmen and construction workers of the Temple

### **Ephesians 2:19-22**

the **apostles** and **prophets** together laid the foundation for the house, building according to the pattern shown to them

the **evangelists** serve as quarry-men, bringing in the materials to be beautified and fit into the house of the Lord

the **pastors** and **teachers**, as stone masons, fulfill the ministry of shaping and polishing the stones for the Temple of God

### **1 Peter 2:5**

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.