

## Incidents During Temple Construction (c. 966t/965t BC)

1 Kings 2:39–46; 6:11–13

### Shimei's Fatal Mistake

2:39 But it came about at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, "Behold, your servants are in Gath."  
 40 Then Shimei arose and saddled his donkey, and went to Gath to Achish to look for his servants. And Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath.  
 41 It was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and had returned.  
 42 So the king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD and solemnly warn you, saying, 'You will know for certain that on the day you depart and go anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word which I have heard is good.'  
 43 Why then have you not kept the oath of the LORD, and the command which I have laid on you?"  
 44 The king also said to Shimei, "You know all the evil which you acknowledge in your heart, which you did to my father David; therefore the LORD shall return your evil on your own head.  
 45 But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever."  
 46 So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and fell upon him so that he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hands of Solomon.

### God Reminds Solomon that Obeying Him is More Important than Building Him a Temple

6:11 Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon saying,  
 12 "*Concerning* this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word with you which I spoke to David your father.  
 13 I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

## The Temple Furnishings (966t–961t BC)

1 Kings 7:15–51

2 Chronicles 3:15–5:1

### The Temple Pillars

15 He fashioned the two pillars of bronze; eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of both.  
 16 He also made two capitals of molten bronze to set on the tops of the pillars; the height of the one capital was five cubits and the height of the other capital was five cubits.  
 17 *There were* nets of network and twisted threads of chainwork for the capitals which were on the top of the pillars; seven for the one capital and seven for the other capital.  
 18 So he made the pillars, and two rows around on the one network to cover the capitals which were on the top of the pomegranates; and so he did for the other capital.  
 19 The capitals which *were* on the top of the pillars in the porch were of lily design, four cubits.

3:15 He also made two pillars for the front of the house, thirty-five cubits high, and the capital on the top of each *was* five cubits.  
 16 He made chains in the inner sanctuary and placed *them* on the tops of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates and placed *them* on the chains.

20 *There were capitals on the two pillars, even above and close to the rounded projection which was beside the network; and the pomegranates numbered two hundred in rows around both capitals.*

21 Thus he set up the pillars at the porch of the nave;

and he set up the right pillar and named it Jachin, and he set up the left pillar and named it Boaz.

22 On the top of the pillars was lily design. So the work of the pillars was finished.

### **The Bronze Altar**

#### **The Bronze Basin—“The Sea”**

23 Now he made the sea of cast *metal* ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height was five cubits, and thirty cubits in circumference.

24 Under its brim gourds went around encircling it ten to a cubit, completely surrounding the sea; the gourds were in two rows, cast with the rest.

25 It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east; and the sea *was set* on top of them, and all their rear parts *turned* inward.

26 It was a handbreadth thick, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, *as* a lily blossom; it could hold two thousand baths.

#### **The Ten Movable Bronze Basins**

27 Then he made the ten stands of bronze; the length of each stand was four cubits and its width four cubits and its height three cubits.

28 This was the design of the stands: they had borders, even borders between the frames, 29 and on the borders which were between the frames *were* lions, oxen and cherubim; and on the frames there *was* a pedestal above, and beneath the lions and oxen *were* wreaths of hanging work.

30 Now each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles, and its four feet had supports; beneath

17 He erected the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right and the other on the left, and named the one on the right Jachin and the one on the left Boaz.

4:1 Then he made a bronze altar, twenty cubits in length and twenty cubits in width and ten cubits in height.

2 Also he made the cast *metal* sea, ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height *was* five cubits and its circumference thirty cubits.

3 Now figures like oxen *were* under it *and* all around it, ten cubits, entirely encircling the sea. The oxen *were* in two rows, cast in one piece.

4 It stood on twelve oxen, three facing the north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east; and the sea *was set* on top of them and all their hindquarters turned inwards.

5 It was a handbreadth thick, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, *like* a lily blossom; it could hold 3,000 baths.

the basin *were* cast supports with wreaths at each side.

31 Its opening inside the crown at the top *was* a cubit, and its opening *was* round like the design of a pedestal, a cubit and a half; and also on its opening *there were* engravings, and their borders were square, not round.

32 The four wheels *were* underneath the borders, and the axles of the wheels *were* on the stand. And the height of a wheel *was* a cubit and a half.

33 The workmanship of the wheels *was* like the workmanship of a chariot wheel. Their axles, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs *were* all cast.

34 Now *there were* four supports at the four corners of each stand; its supports *were* part of the stand itself.

35 On the top of the stand *there was* a circular form half a cubit high, and on the top of the stand its stays and its borders *were* part of it.

36 He engraved on the plates of its stays and on its borders, cherubim, lions and palm trees, according to the clear space on each, with wreaths *all* around.

37 He made the ten stands like this: all of them had one casting, one measure and one form.

38 He made ten basins of bronze, one basin held forty baths; each basin *was* four cubits, *and* on each of the ten stands *was* one basin.

39a Then he set the stands, five on the right side of the house and five on the left side of the house;

### **The Golden Lampstands, Tables and Bowls**

### **The Courtyard**

39b and he set the sea *of cast metal* on the right side of the house eastward toward the south.

### **Miscellaneous Instruments**

40 Now Hiram made the basins and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing all the work

6 He also made ten basins in which to wash,

and he set five on the right side and five on the left to rinse things for the burnt offering; but the sea *was* for the priests to wash in.

7 Then he made the ten golden lampstands in the way prescribed for them and he set them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left.

8 He also made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left. And he made one hundred golden bowls.

9 Then he made the court of the priests and the great court and doors for the court, and overlaid their doors with bronze.

10 He set the sea on the right side *of the house* toward the southeast.

11 Hiram also made the pails, the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing the work

which he performed for King Solomon *in* the house of the LORD:

### **A Summary of Hiram's Craftsmanship**

41 the two pillars and the *two* bowls of the capitals which *were* on the top of the two pillars, and the two networks to cover the two bowls of the capitals which *were* on the top of the pillars;  
 42 and the four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, two rows of pomegranates for each network to cover the two bowls of the capitals which *were* on the tops of the pillars;  
 43 and the ten stands with the ten basins on the stands;  
 44 and the one sea and the twelve oxen under the sea;  
 45 and the pails and the shovels and the bowls; even all these utensils which Hiram made for King Solomon *in* the house of the LORD *were* of polished bronze.  
 46 In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan.  
 47 Solomon left all the utensils *unweighed*, because *they were* too many; the weight of the bronze could not be ascertained.

### **The Final Furnishings**

48 Solomon made all the furniture which *was in* the house of the LORD: the golden altar and the golden table on which *was* the bread of the Presence;  
 49 and the lampstands, five on the right side and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary, of pure gold;  
  
 and the flowers and the lamps and the tongs, of gold;  
 50 and the cups and the snuffers and the bowls and the spoons and the firepans, of pure gold; and the hinges both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, *and* for the doors of the house, *that is*, of the nave, of gold.  
 51 Thus all the work that King Solomon performed *in* the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things dedicated by his father David, the silver and the gold and the utensils, *and* he put them in the treasuries

which he performed for King Solomon in the house of God:

12 the two pillars, the bowls and the two capitals on top of the pillars, and the two networks to cover the two bowls of the capitals which *were* on top of the pillars,  
 13 and the four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, two rows of pomegranates for each network to cover the two bowls of the capitals which *were* on the pillars.  
 14 He also made the stands and he made the basins on the stands,  
 15 *and* the one sea with the twelve oxen under it.  
 16 The pails, the shovels, the forks and all its utensils, Hiram-abi made of polished bronze for King Solomon for the house of the LORD.  
 17 On the plain of the Jordan the king cast them in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredah.  
 18 Thus Solomon made all these utensils in great quantities, for the weight of the bronze could not be found out.

19 Solomon also made all the things that *were* in the house of God: even the golden altar, the tables with the bread of the Presence on them,  
 20 the lampstands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in front of the inner sanctuary in the way prescribed;  
 21 the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs of gold, of purest gold;

22 and the snuffers, the bowls, the spoons and the firepans of pure gold; and the entrance of the house, its inner doors for the holy of holies and the doors of the house, *that is*, of the nave, of gold.  
 5:1 Thus all the work that Solomon performed for the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, even the silver and the gold and all the utensils, *and* put *them* in the treasuries

of the house of the LORD.	of the house of God.
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**Solomon Finishes Building the Temple (Bul [November] 961 BC)**

1 Kings 6:14, 38

14 So Solomon built the house and finished it.

38 In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished throughout all its parts and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

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