

## Solomon Asks Hiram for Help with Building the Temple (c. 968t BC)

1 Kings 5; 7:13–14

2 Chronicles 2

### Solomon Sends Hiram a Message

5:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend of David.

2 Then Solomon sent *word* to Hiram, saying,

3 “You know that David my father was unable to build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.

4 But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune.

5 Behold, I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to David my father, saying, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he will build the house for My name.’

6 Now therefore, command that they cut for me cedars from Lebanon,

and my servants will be with your servants;

and I will give you wages for your servants

according to all that you say,

for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.”

### Hiram Agrees to Help Solomon

7 When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly

and said, “Blessed be the LORD today,

1 Now Solomon decided to build a house for the name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

2 So Solomon assigned 70,000 men to carry loads and 80,000 men to quarry *stone* in the mountains and 3,600 to supervise them.

3 Then Solomon sent *word* to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying,

“As you dealt with David my father and sent him cedars to build him a house to dwell in, so do for me.

4 Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God,

dedicating it to Him, to burn fragrant incense before Him and to *set out* the showbread continually, and to offer burnt offerings morning and evening, on sabbaths and on new moons and on the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, this *being required* forever in Israel.

5 The house which I am about to build *will be* great, for greater is our God than all the gods.

6 But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn *incense* before Him?

7 Now send me a skilled man to work in gold, silver, brass and iron, and in purple, crimson and violet *fabrics*, and who knows how to make engravings, to *work* with the skilled men whom I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

8 Send me also cedar, cypress and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber of Lebanon;

and indeed my servants *will work* with your servants,

9 to prepare timber in abundance for me, for the house which I am about to build *will be* great and wonderful.

10 Now behold, I will give to your servants,

the woodsmen who cut the timber,

20,000 kors of crushed wheat and 20,000 kors of barley, and 20,000 baths of wine and 20,000 baths of oil.”

11 Then Hiram, king of Tyre, answered in a letter sent to Solomon: “Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them.”

12 Then Hiram continued, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of

who has given to David a wise son over this great people.”

8 So Hiram sent *word* to Solomon, saying, “I have heard *the message* which you have sent me; I will do what you desire concerning the cedar and cypress timber.

7:13 Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre.

14 He was a widow’s son from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze; and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill for doing any work in bronze.

So he came to King Solomon and performed all his work.

5:9 My servants will bring *them* down from Lebanon to the sea; and I will make them into rafts *to go* by sea to the place where you direct me, and I will have them broken up there, and you shall carry *them* away.

Then you shall accomplish my desire by giving food to my household.”

10 So Hiram gave Solomon as much as he desired of the cedar and cypress timber.

11 Solomon then gave Hiram 20,000 kors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors of beaten oil; thus Solomon would give Hiram year by year.

12 The LORD gave wisdom to Solomon, just as He promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a covenant.

### **Solomon Organizes the Labor**

13 Now King Solomon levied forced laborers from all Israel; and the forced laborers numbered 30,000 men.

14 He sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in relays; they were in Lebanon a month *and* two months at home. And Adoniram *was* over the forced laborers.

15 Now Solomon had 70,000 transporters, and 80,000 hewers *of stone* in the mountains,

16 besides Solomon’s 3,300 chief deputies who *were* over the project

*and* who ruled over the people who were doing the work.

17 Then the king commanded, and they quarried great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with cut stones.

18 So Solomon’s builders and Hiram’s builders and the Gebalites cut them, and prepared the timbers and the stones to build the house.

Israel, who has made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, who will build a house for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

13 “Now I am sending

Huram-abi, a skilled man, endowed with understanding,

14 the son of a Danite woman

and a Tyrian father,

who knows how to work in

gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone and wood, *and* in purple, violet, linen and crimson fabrics, and *who knows how* to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which may be assigned to him, *to work* with your skilled men and with those of my lord David your father.

15 Now then, let my lord send to his servants wheat and barley, oil and wine, of which he has spoken.

16 We will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon and bring it to you on rafts by sea to Joppa,

so that you may carry it up to Jerusalem.”

17 Solomon numbered all the aliens who *were* in the land of Israel, following the census which his father David had taken; and 153,600 were found.

18 He appointed 70,000 of them to carry loads and 80,000 to quarry *stones* in the mountains and 3,600 supervisors

to make the people work.

## The Construction of the Temple (April 18/19, 967 BC)

1 Kings 6:1–10, 15–37

2 Chronicles 3:1–14

### Timing and Location

1 Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

37 In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.

### The Exterior of the Temple

2 As for the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length *was* sixty cubits and its width twenty *cubits* and its height thirty cubits.

3 The porch in front of the nave of the house *was* twenty cubits in length, corresponding to the width of the house, *and* its depth along the front of the house *was* ten cubits.

4 Also for the house he made windows with *artistic* frames.

5 Against the wall of the house he built stories encompassing the walls of the house around both the nave and the inner sanctuary; thus he made side chambers all around.

6 The lowest story *was* five cubits wide, and the middle *was* six cubits wide, and the third *was* seven cubits wide; for on the outside he made offsets *in the wall* of the house all around in order that *the beams* would not be inserted in the walls of the house.

7 The house, while it was being built, was built of stone prepared at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any iron tool heard in the house while it was being built.

8 The doorway for the lowest side chamber *was* on the right side of the house; and they would go up by winding stairs to the middle *story*, and from the middle to the third.

9 So he built the house and finished it; and he covered the house with beams and planks of cedar.

10 He also built the stories against the whole house, each five cubits high; and they were fastened to the house with timbers of cedar.

### The Interior of the Temple

15 Then he built the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar; from the floor of the house to the ceiling he overlaid *the walls* on the inside with wood, and he overlaid the floor of the house with boards of cypress.

16 He built twenty cubits on the rear part of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the ceiling; he built *them* for it on the inside as an inner sanctuary, *even* as the most holy place.

17 The house, that is, the nave in front of *the inner sanctuary*, *was* forty cubits *long*.

18 There *was* cedar on the house within, carved *in the shape* of gourds and open flowers; all *was* cedar, there *was* no stone seen.

1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where *the LORD* had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

2 He began to build on the second *day* in the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

3 Now these are the foundations which Solomon laid for building the house of God. The length in cubits, according to the old standard *was* sixty cubits, and the width twenty cubits.

4a The porch which was in front of the house was as long as the width of the house, twenty cubits,

and the height 120;

**The Most Holy Place**

19 Then he prepared an inner sanctuary within the house in order to place there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

20 The inner sanctuary *was* twenty cubits in length, twenty cubits in width, and twenty cubits in height, and he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the altar with cedar.

23 Also in the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

24 Five cubits *was* the one wing of the cherub and five cubits the other wing of the cherub; from the end of one wing to the end of the other wing *were* ten cubits.

25 The other cherub *was* ten cubits; both the cherubim were of the same measure and the same form.

26 The height of the one cherub *was* ten cubits, and so *was* the other cherub.

27 He placed the cherubim in the midst of the inner house, and the wings of the cherubim were spread out, so that the wing of the one was touching the *one* wall, and the wing of the other cherub was touching the other wall. So their wings were touching each other in the center of the house.

28 He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.

**Gold Plating**

21 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold. And he drew chains of gold across the front of the inner sanctuary, and he overlaid it with gold.

22 He overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished.

Also the whole altar which was by the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.

30 He overlaid the floor of the house with gold, inner and outer *sanctuaries*.

**Decorative Artistry**

29 Then he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, inner and outer *sanctuaries*.

**The Temple Doors**

31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood, the lintel *and* five-sided doorposts.

32 So *he made* two doors of olive wood, and he carved on them carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he spread the gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

33 So also he made for the entrance of the nave four-sided doorposts of olive wood

34 and two doors of cypress wood; the two leaves of the one

8 Now he made the room of the holy of holies:

its length across the width of the house *was* twenty cubits, and its width *was* twenty cubits;

and he overlaid it with fine gold, *amounting* to 600 talents.

9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold.

He also overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

10 Then he made two sculptured cherubim in the room of the holy of holies and overlaid them with gold.

11 The wingspan of the cherubim *was* twenty cubits; the wing of one, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and *its* other wing, of five cubits, touched the wing of the other cherub.

12 The wing of the other cherub, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house; and *its* other wing of five cubits was attached to the wing of the first cherub.

13 The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits, and they stood on their feet facing the *main* room.

14 He made the veil of violet, purple, crimson and fine linen, and he worked cherubim on it.

4b and inside he overlaid it with pure gold.

5a He overlaid the main room with cypress wood and overlaid it with fine gold,

7 He also overlaid the house with gold—the beams, the thresholds and its walls and its doors;

and he carved cherubim on the walls.

5b and ornamented it with palm trees and chains.

6 Further, he adorned the house with precious stones; and the gold was gold from Parvaim.

door turned on pivots, and the two leaves of the other door turned on pivots.  
 35 He carved *on it* cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers; and he overlaid *them* with gold evenly applied on the engraved work.

#### **The Inner Courtyard**

36 He built the inner court with three rows of cut stone and a row of cedar beams.

### **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."

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