

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 King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to Solomon when he heard that he had been anointed king in his father's place. (Hiram had always been an ally of David.)

2 Solomon then sent this message to Hiram:

3 "You know that my father David was unable to build a temple to honor the LORD his God, for he was busy fighting battles on all fronts while the LORD subdued his enemies.

4 But now the LORD my God has made me secure on all fronts; there is no adversary or dangerous threat.

5 So I have decided to build a temple to honor the LORD my God, as the LORD instructed my father David, 'Your son, whom I will put on your throne in your place, is the one who will build a temple to honor me.'

6 So now order some cedars of Lebanon to be cut for me.

My servants will work with your servants.

I will pay your servants whatever you say is appropriate,

for you know that we have no one among us who knows how to cut down trees like the Sidonians."

Hiram Agrees to Help Solomon

7 When Hiram heard Solomon's message, he was very happy.

He said, "The LORD is worthy of praise today because

he has given David a wise son to rule over this great nation."

1 Solomon ordered a temple to be built to honor the LORD, as well as a royal palace for himself.

2 Solomon had 70,000 common laborers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hills, in addition to 3,600 supervisors.

3 Solomon sent a message to King Hiram of Tyre:

"Help me as you did my father David, when you sent him cedar logs for the construction of his palace.

4 Look, I am ready to build a temple to honor the LORD my God

and to dedicate it to him in order to burn fragrant incense before him, to set out the bread that is regularly displayed, and to offer burnt sacrifices each morning and evening, and on Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and at other times appointed by the LORD our God. This is something Israel must do on a permanent basis.

5 I will build a great temple, for our God is greater than all gods. 6 Of course, who can really build a temple for him, since the sky and the highest heavens cannot contain him? Who am I that I should build him a temple! It will really be only a place to offer sacrifices before him.

7 "Now send me a man who is skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, and iron, as well as purple, crimson, and violet colored fabrics, and who knows how to engrave. He will work with my skilled craftsmen here in Jerusalem and Judah, whom my father David provided.

8 Send me cedars, evergreens, and algum trees from Lebanon, for I know your servants are adept at cutting down trees in Lebanon.

My servants will work with your servants

9 to supply me with large quantities of timber, for I am building a great, magnificent temple.

10 Look, I will pay your servants who cut the timber 20,000 kors of ground wheat, 20,000 kors of barley, 120,000 gallons of wine, and 120,000 gallons of olive oil."

11 King Hiram of Tyre sent this letter to Solomon: "Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you their king."

12 Hiram also said, "Worthy of praise is the LORD God of Israel, who made the sky and the earth!

He has given David a wise son who has discernment and insight and will build a temple for the LORD, as well as a royal palace for

<p>8 Hiram then sent this message to Solomon: “I received the message you sent to me. I will give you all the cedars and evergreens you need. 7:13 King Solomon sent for Hiram of Tyre. 14 He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a craftsman in bronze from Tyre. He had the skill and knowledge to make all kinds of works of bronze.</p> <p>He reported to King Solomon and did all the work he was assigned.</p> <p>5:9 My servants will bring the timber down from Lebanon to the sea. I will send it by sea in raft-like bundles to the place you designate. There I will separate the logs and you can carry them away. In exchange you will supply the food I need for my royal court.” 10 So Hiram supplied the cedars and evergreens Solomon needed, 11 and Solomon supplied Hiram annually with 20,000 kors of wheat as provision for his royal court, as well as 20,000 baths of pure olive oil. 12 So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he had promised him. And Hiram and Solomon were at peace and made a treaty.</p> <p>Solomon Organizes the Labor</p> <p>13 King Solomon conscripted work crews from throughout Israel, 30,000 men in all. 14 He sent them to Lebanon in shifts of 10,000 men per month. They worked in Lebanon for one month, and then spent two months at home. Adoniram was supervisor of the work crews. 15 Solomon also had 70,000 common laborers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hills, 16 besides 3,300 officials who supervised the workers.</p> <p>17 By royal order they supplied large valuable stones in order to build the temple’s foundation with chiseled stone. 18 Solomon’s and Hiram’s construction workers, along with men from Byblos, did the chiseling and prepared the wood and stones for the building of the temple.</p>	<p>himself.</p> <p>13 Now I am sending you Hiram Abi, a skilled and capable man, 14 whose mother is a Danite and whose father is a Tyrian. He knows how to work with gold, silver, bronze, iron, stones, and wood, as well as purple, violet, white, and crimson fabrics. He knows how to do all kinds of engraving and understands any design given to him. He will work with your skilled craftsmen and the skilled craftsmen of my lord David your father. 15 Now let my lord send to his servants the wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine he has promised; 16 we will get all the timber you need from Lebanon and bring it in raft-like bundles by sea to Joppa. You can then haul it on up to Jerusalem.”</p> <p>17 Solomon took a census of all the male resident foreigners in the land of Israel, after the census his father David had taken. There were 153,600 in all.</p> <p>18 He designated 70,000 as common laborers, 80,000 as stonecutters in the hills, and 3,600 as supervisors to make sure the people completed the work.</p>
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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 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites left Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, during the month Ziv (the second month), he began building the LORD’s temple.

1 Solomon began building the LORD’s temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. This was the place that David prepared at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

37 In the month Ziv of the fourth year of Solomon's reign the foundation was laid for the LORD's temple.

The Exterior of the Temple

2 The temple King Solomon built for the LORD was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

3 The porch in front of the main hall of the temple was 30 feet long, corresponding to the width of the temple. It was 15 feet wide, extending out from the front of the temple.

4 He made framed windows for the temple.

5 He built an extension all around the walls of the temple's main hall and holy place and constructed side rooms in it.

6 The bottom floor of the extension was seven and a half feet wide, the middle floor nine feet wide, and the third floor ten and a half feet wide. He made ledges on the temple's outer walls so the beams would not have to be inserted into the walls.

7 As the temple was being built, only stones shaped at the quarry were used; the sound of hammers, pickaxes, or any other iron tool was not heard at the temple while it was being built.

8 The entrance to the bottom level of side rooms was on the south side of the temple; stairs went up to the middle floor and then on up to the third floor.

9 He finished building the temple and covered it with rafters and boards made of cedar.

10 He built an extension all around the temple; it was seven and a half feet high and it was attached to the temple by cedar beams.

The Interior of the Temple

15 He constructed the walls inside the temple with cedar planks; he paneled the inside with wood from the floor of the temple to the rafters of the ceiling. He covered the temple floor with boards made from the wood of evergreens.

16 He built a wall 30 feet in from the rear of the temple as a partition for an inner sanctuary that would be the most holy place. He paneled the wall with cedar planks from the floor to the rafters.

17 The main hall in front of the inner sanctuary was 60 feet long.

18 The inside of the temple was all cedar and was adorned with carvings of round ornaments and of flowers in bloom. Everything was cedar; no stones were visible.

The Most Holy Place

19 He prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD could be placed there.

20 The inner sanctuary was 30 feet long,

30 feet wide,
and 30 feet high.

He plated it with gold, as well as the cedar altar.

23 In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubs of olive wood; each stood 15 feet high.

24 Each of the first cherub's wings was seven and a half feet

2 He began building on the second day of the second month of the fourth year of his reign.
3 Solomon laid the foundation for God's temple;

its length (determined according to the old standard of measure) was 90 feet, and its width 30 feet.

4a The porch in front of the main hall was 30 feet long, corresponding to the width of the temple, and its height was 30 feet.

8 He made the most holy place;

its length was 30 feet,
corresponding to the width of the temple,
and its width 30 feet.

He plated it with 600 talents of fine gold.

9 The gold nails weighed 50 shekels; he also plated the upper areas with gold.

10 In the most holy place he made two images of cherubim and plated them with gold.

11 The combined wing span of the cherubs was 30 feet.

long; its entire wingspan was 15 feet.

25 The second cherub also had a wingspan of 15 feet; it was identical to the first in measurements and shape.

26 Each cherub stood 15 feet high.

27 He put the cherubs in the inner sanctuary of the temple. Their wings were spread out. One of the first cherub's wings touched one wall and one of the other cherub's wings touched the opposite wall. The first cherub's other wing touched the second cherub's other wing in the middle of the room.

28 He plated the cherubs with gold.

Gold Plating

21 Solomon plated the inside of the temple with gold. He hung golden chains in front of the inner sanctuary and plated the inner sanctuary with gold.

22 He plated the entire inside of the temple with gold, as well as the altar inside the inner sanctuary.

30 He plated the floor of the temple with gold, inside and out.

Decorative Artistry

29 On all the walls around the temple, inside and out, he carved cherubs, palm trees, and flowers in bloom.

The Temple Doors

31 He made doors of olive wood at the entrance to the inner sanctuary; the pillar on each doorpost was five-sided.

32 On the two doors made of olive wood he carved cherubs, palm trees, and flowers in bloom, and he plated them with gold. He plated the cherubs and the palm trees with hammered gold.

33 In the same way he made doorposts of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall, only with four-sided pillars.

34 He also made two doors out of wood from evergreens; each door had two folding leaves.

35 He carved cherubs, palm trees, and flowers in bloom and plated them with gold, leveled out over the carvings.

The Inner Courtyard

36 He built the inner courtyard with three rows of chiseled stones and a row of cedar beams.

One of the first cherub's wings was seven and one-half feet long and touched one wall of the temple; its other wing was also seven and one-half feet long and touched one of the second cherub's wings.

12 Likewise one of the second cherub's wings was seven and one-half feet long and touched the other wall of the temple; its other wing was also seven and one-half feet long and touched one of the first cherub's wings.

13 The combined wingspan of these cherubim was 30 feet. They stood upright, facing inward.

14 He made the curtain out of violet, purple, crimson, and white fabrics, and embroidered on it decorative cherubim.

4b He plated the inside with pure gold.

5a He paneled the main hall with boards made from evergreen trees and plated it with fine gold,

7a He overlaid the temple's rafters, thresholds, walls and doors with gold;

7b he carved decorative cherubim on the walls.

5b decorated with palm trees and chains.

6 He decorated the temple with precious stones; the gold he used came from Parvaim.

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

1 Kings 2:39–46; 6:11–13

Shimei's Fatal Mistake

2:39 Three years later two of Shimei's servants ran away to King Achish son of Maacah of Gath. Shimei was told, "Look, your servants are in Gath."

40 So Shimei got up, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to find his servants; Shimei went and brought back his servants from Gath.

41 When Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had then returned,

42 the king summoned Shimei and said to him, “You will recall that I made you take an oath by the LORD, and I solemnly warned you, ‘If you ever leave and go anywhere, know for sure that you will certainly die.’ You said to me, ‘The proposal is acceptable; I agree to it.’

43 Why then have you broken the oath you made before the LORD and disobeyed the order I gave you?”

44 Then the king said to Shimei, “You are well aware of the way you mistreated my father David. The LORD will punish you for what you did.

45 But King Solomon will be empowered and David’s dynasty will endure permanently before the LORD.”

46 The king then gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada who went and executed Shimei. So Solomon took firm control of the kingdom.

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

6:11 The LORD said to Solomon:

12 “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my rules, observe my regulations, and obey all my commandments, I will fulfill through you the promise I made to your father David.

13 I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel.”

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