

June 2 Answers

- 1) Construction of the temple. In front of the temple were two bronze pillars about 34½ feet high, 18 feet in circumference, and 3 inches thick. They were called Jachin and Boaz. Jachin meant “God will **establish**,” and Boaz meant “In God is **strength**.” They stood at the doors of the temple to **remind** the people that God had promised to establish David’s dynasty, and that God had the power to perform what He had promised (cf. Rom 4:21). The craftsmen who labored on the temple, particularly Hiram, put an immense amount of **creativity** and **detail** into their work. A simple tank might have sufficed for the water needs of the priests, but Hiram crafted a beautiful bronze basin so large they called it “the **Sea**” (1 Kgs 7:23; Jer 52:17). Did it stand on a plain platform? No—it was supported by twelve **oxen**, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. This teaches us that we should put our whole **heart** and might into our service for God. He is worthy of the most beautiful, majestic, detailed work that our skills and talents can achieve. Indeed, Solomon built a temple so wondrous that when it was gone, people **wept** when they remembered its glory (Ezra 3:12). Kings and Chronicles both make a point of saying that Solomon completed **all** the work that was required to build the temple. Are we diligent to **finish** the tasks God has given us, or do we find ourselves starting well and then never following through?