

1 Kings 7: Palace & Temple Furnishings

Going Back—All the Way to the Garden of Eden

1. Some commentators draw parallels between the Garden of Eden and Solomon’s Temple. Read **Genesis 2:8-10** and **Genesis 3:22-24** and begin filling in the chart.

Characteristic	Garden of Eden (Genesis)	The Temple (1 Kings)
Relationship with God	(before the Fall)	(how is it restored)
Fruitfulness	(2:9)	Symbols of:
Water	(2:10)	
Direction	(3:24)	
Guardian	(3:24)	
Relationship to Tree of Life	(3:22)	

Solomon Builds His Palace (verses 1-12)

2. What are the various structures that Solomon built for the palace complex?

3. Various commentators compared the temple and palace with regards to size, building time, materials, etc. Some had a positive spin; others had a negative spin. What are your thoughts?

4. Solomon’s wife (Pharaoh’s daughter) had her own dwelling place. See **2 Chronicles 8:11** for a possible reason.

Plans for the Temple and the Making of the Bronze Altar

5. God gave Moses the plans for making the tabernacle. How did Solomon know how to build the temple and its furnishings (see **1 Chronicles 28:11-19**)?

6. One item made for the temple is not listed in 1 Kings 7. What was this item (see **2 Chronicles 4:1**)?

Hiram (Hiram) and the Building of the Bronze Pillars (verses 13-22)

7. What do we learn about Hiram (Hiram) in verses 13-14?

8. Hiram made two massive bronze pillars for the entrance of the temple. The pillars, along with their capitals, were over 34 feet tall and 18 feet around! What were some of the decorations, according to verses 17-20?

9. One commentator compared these pillars to the guards placed at the Garden of Eden. Others made the following comparisons:
 - a. See **Exodus 13:21-22** (when the people of Israel were traveling in the desert):

 - b. See **Revelation 3:12**:

10. What were the names of the pillars and what were their meanings?

The Bronze Sea and the Basins (verses 23-40a)

11. In the Old Testament, the “sea” is sometimes a reference to chaos or the Gentile world (which is, in this case, brought to order by the bronze container). What possible symbolism is there to the 12 oxen holding up the Bronze Sea?

12. See **2 Chronicles 4:6**. What was the purpose of
 - a. The Bronze Sea (which held about 12,000 gallons of water)

 - b. The 10 movable basins (each held about 240 gallons of water)

13. The priests needed to wash themselves before serving God and being in fellowship with Him. As the priests approached the temple, they would walk between these 10 basins of water. What events do these images bring to mind?

Hiram Finishes His Work (verses 40b-47)

14. Verses 45-47 give some additional details about the bronze work. What are some of these new details?

The Gold Furnishings (verses 48-51)

15. A number of furnishings and vessels used inside the temple are now listed. Why do you think that gold was used?

16. Go back and complete the chart on page 1. **See Revelation 2:7.**

Solomon's Temple was built—and then rebuilt—several times. And each time, it was eventually destroyed. The Concordia Commentary reminds us: “the king and people did not attain saving righteousness by the construction work or by the possession of the magnificent finished structure... Instead, righteousness was received through faith alone in the God whose temple it was and in the Messiah he would send. That faith was manifested through faithful living in accord with his Word. Provan [says]: the glory that is the Solomonic temple is gradually deconstructed in the midst of gross disobedience... In the Bible the beauty of temples is never any guarantee that God will not leave them or bring judgment upon them.

Resources:

- NIV and ESV Study Bibles
- LifeLight—1 and 2 Kings: Enrichment Magazine (CPH)
- 1 & 2 Kings—God's Word for Today (CPH)
- Concordia Commentary: 1 Kings 7-11 by Walter A Maier III
- “40 Minutes in the Old Testament” podcast with Chad Bird and Daniel Emery Price

Genesis 2:8-10 ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.

Genesis 3:22-24 ²² Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

2 Chronicles 8:11 Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the city of David to the house that he had built for her, for he said, “My wife shall not live in the house of David king of Israel, for the places to which the ark of the Lord has come are holy.”

1 Chronicles 28:11-19 ¹¹ Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat; ¹² and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the Lord, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts; ¹³ for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the Lord; for all the vessels for the service in the house of the Lord, ¹⁴ the weight of gold for all golden vessels for each service, the weight of silver vessels for each service, ¹⁵ the weight of the golden lampstands and their lamps, the weight of gold for each lampstand and its lamps, the weight of silver for a lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand in the service, ¹⁶ the weight of gold for each table for the showbread, the silver for the silver tables, ¹⁷ and pure gold for the forks, the basins and the cups; for the golden bowls and the weight of each; for the silver bowls and the weight of each; ¹⁸ for the altar of incense made of refined gold, and its weight; also his plan for the golden chariot of the cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the Lord. ¹⁹ “All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the Lord, all the work to be done according to the plan.”

2 Chronicles 4:1 He made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high.

Exodus 13:21-22 ²¹ And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Revelation 3:12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

2 Chronicles 4:6 He also made ten basins in which to wash, and set five on the south side, and five on the north side. In these they were to rinse off what was used for the burnt offering, and the sea was for the priests to wash in.

Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiF-wObznds>