

# I Kings 5 & 6: The Building of the Temple

## Part 1: David's Contribution

### 1. Why Not David?

#### God's Promise to David

**2 Samuel 7:12-13, 15** When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before you.

David did make contributions toward the building of the temple before the actual construction.

#### a. The location

**1 Chronicles 21:18** Now the angel of the Lord had commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and raise an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan (Araunah?) the Jebusite.

### 2. What happened just before the angel appeared? (1 Chronicles 21:1-17)

**1 Chronicles 22:1** Then David said "Here shall be the house of the Lord God and here the altar of burnt offerings for Israel.

We'll have a historical note about the significance of the site at the end of this class.

#### b. Materials for construction

**1 Chronicles 22:2-5** David commanded to gather together the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God. David also provided great quantities of iron for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps, as well as bronze in quantities beyond weighing, and cedar timbers without number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought great quantities of cedar to David. For David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it." So David provided materials in great quantity before his death.

#### c. A loyal ally

**2 Samuel 5:11** And Hiram, king of Tyre, sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house.

## Part 2: Solomon's Contribution

Read 1 Kings 5:1-2.

**Read 2 Chronicles 2:3-6.** And Solomon sent word to Hiram the king of Tyre: "As you dealt with David my father and sent him cedar to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me. Behold I am about to build a house for the name of the Lord my God and dedicate it to him for the burning of incense of sweet spices before him, and for the regular arrangement of the showbread, and for burnt offerings morning and evening, on Sabbaths and the new moons and the appointed feasts of the Lord our God, as ordained forever for Israel. The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods. But who is able to build him a house, since heaven, even the highest heaven, cannot contain him? Who am I to build a house for him, except as a place to make offerings before him?"

Solomon's letter to Hiram continues.

Read 1 Kings 5:3-6,

3. Why was Tyre's location an advantage for this contract?

The terms of the agreement between Solomon and Hiram are outlined next.

Read 1 Kings 5:7-12.

4. How was Hiram compensated for the cedar?

Other workers and materials were needed, of course. The next section described how Solomon provided those.

Read 1 Kings 5:13-18.

5. Verse 13 mentions that Solomon "drafted forced labor." Why might "forced labor" become a concern for the kings after Solomon?

## Part 3: Solomon Builds the Temple

Note: measurements for the parts of the temple are given in cubits. A cubit is equivalent to about 18 inches. Here's a translation of the measurements of the temple.

60 cubits = 90 feet; 20 cubits = 30 feet; 30 cubits = 45 feet; 10 cubits = 15 feet; 5 cubits = 7.5 feet; six cubits = 9 feet; 7 cubits = 10.5 feet

### External Features

Read 1 Kings 6:1-10.

6. What are the dimensions of the temple (in feet)?  
Length -          Width -          Height -          Dimensions of vestibule -

What is the vestibule?

7. How many stories did the temple have?
8. What was the structure (or platform) against the wall of the house?
9. As we read the descriptions of the temple, try to compare them with the plans for the tabernacle which Moses constructed in the wilderness. Any similarities or differences so far?

**Read 1 Kings 6:11-13.**

10. As Solomon's laborers erected the temple, God "came to Solomon." How did God's covenant blessing of Israel relate to the faithfulness of her kings?

**Internal features**

**Read 1 Kings 6:14-22.**

11. What was the purpose of the inner sanctuary? Did the tabernacle have a similar area?

**Read 1 Kings 6:23-28.**

12. What were the dimensions (height and wing span) of each of the two cherubim in the inner sanctuary?
13. These figures, as well as the walls of the sanctuary and the altar, were made of wood. Was any of the wood visible? What was the appearance of the sanctuary and its contents?
14. The function of the inner sanctuary (also called The Most Holy Place) has not yet been described. What sort of activity most likely happened there?

**Read 1 Kings 6:29-36.**

15. This section describes the part of the second floor of the temple that was outside of the Most Holy Place. What is your reaction to the description?
16. What is the purpose of the nave?
17. How was the Most Holy Place separated from the rest of the temple? How is this different from the separation in the later temple – and in the earlier tabernacle?

**Read 1 Kings 6:37-38.**

Finally, the temple was completed.

**Historical Note:**

Today, the Dome of the Rock, a Muslim mosque, sits atop the Temple Mount. Historically, the location of Solomon's temple uniquely ties the centralized worship fostered under Solomon to both the ancient patriarch Abraham and to Jesus Christ. 2 Chronicles 3:1 notes, "Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared to David his father." You may recall that, centuries earlier, Abraham took Isaac to "the land of Moriah" to offer him as a sacrifice there. (Genesis 11:1-4). In future years, God would offer the ultimate sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, nearby at Golgotha. (God's Word for Today, 1 and 2 Kings, published by CPH)