

## 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Chapter 5

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**Psalm 132:3-5** “<sup>3</sup>Surely I will not come into the tabernacle of my house, nor go up into my bed; <sup>4</sup>I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids, <sup>5</sup>until I find out a place for the Lord, an habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.”

- Solomon will fulfill his father’s dream, he’ll build the Temple of God, which was a passionate desire for David.

**Psalm 27:4** “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

- David wanted to be with the Lord, he wanted to be where the Lord was!
- The Lord knew David’s heart but David was busy fighting wars and expanding and defending the borders of the kingdom of Israel.
- Solomon, the man of peace was God’s choice to build the Temple, and his father prepared him for the task and encouraged him.
- David had plans drawn up and gathered the materials for making the Temple.
- David had taken the spoils of war and set them aside for the building of the Temple.

**1 Chronicles 22:14** “Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the Lord an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto.”

This amounts to:                   3,750 tons of gold.  
  37,500 tons of silver.  
  Un-measurable amounts of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

- David presents this to Solomon (**1 Chronicles 29:1-5**)
- Then David adds his own personal treasure and invites the leaders of the nation to do likewise (**1 Chronicles 29:1-10**) and the final totals end up being:

4,050 tons of gold, over 38,000 tons of silver, and many thousands of tons of bronze, precious stones, wood, and iron.

- There is a lot more to this story contained in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, particularly regarding the furnishings in the Temple, which we’ll cover when we get there.

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V: 1 God had given David favor with Hiram, king of Tyre – and that same favor now extended to Solomon his son, they had a good relationship.

- Hiram had sent congratulations to Solomon on being anointed king over Israel.

V: 2-4 Solomon explains to Hiram how that his father David couldn't build the Temple because of the wars, and the shed blood upon David's hands but that this privilege now fell to him.

- Solomon uses the phrase “**the Lord my God**” – meaning it was personal, not the Lord of my father David, or the Lord generally but “the Lord my God”, this speaks of a personal relationship.
- The Lord has given me rest or peace on every side. Solomon is also acknowledging that it is God who has given this peace.

**Proverbs 16:7** “When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

V: 5 Solomon is purposing in his heart to be obedient to the Word of God, that he would be the one to build the temple.

**Daniel 1:8** “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...”

- This was not a casual event. Solomon intends, purposes that God's word be fulfilled.
- Solomon in his communication with Hiram makes it clear that he's not building a monument to his great father, but that he is building a Temple for his great God and for His name's sake.

V: 6 Solomon proposes a deal with Hiram, I'll send workers, supplying part of the required labor, and I will compensate your workers for cedar trees, and for fir trees to build the Temple; the Sidonians being known for their skill as lumber jacks.

**Psalms 127:1** “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it...”

V: 7-12 This was all very pleasing to Hiram who rejoiced greatly.

- Hiram a Gentile, a pagan – blessed the Lord Jehovah – the witness of David and Solomon had an impact upon this pagan king.

- The plan was to cut the logs and take them to the sea, to bind them into rafts and float them down to Joppa, then transport them overland to Jerusalem – about 35-40 miles inland. (Map)
- In exchange Solomon would provide food for Hiram's household, 20,000 measures of wheat = 220,000 bushels of wheat, and twenty measures or 1,700 gallons of olive oil.
- The Lord gave Solomon wisdom as He had promised; and the two kings made an agreement, and there was peace between them.

V: 13-14 Solomon raised a levy within Israel; 30 thousand men were drafted into the labor force. 10 thousand men in three shifts that rotated being sent to Lebanon to help obtain the trees. One month on shift, then two months of rest.

- Adoniram was over the levy.

V: 15-18 Solomon drafted another 70 thousand laborers + 80 thousand stone cutters, and 3,300 men to be overseers or supervisors. Most of these workers were non-resident aliens – non Jews.

- As they transported these very large trees, from Joppa to Jerusalem, it was an arduous difficult task.
- They didn't have saw mills in those days, these logs were cut and finished by hand. You have strong men using saws, other men making and sharpening the saws and various tools and equipment.
- Then there is the support crews, feeding the workers and all of the other tasks involved in taking care of a work force of this size.
- In all Solomon drafted 183,300 labors to help construct the temple.
- David's census of the able bodies men revealed that there were about 1,300,00 able bodied men in Israel at that time, 14% of the total work force are involved in making the Temple.
- Thus they began to lay large and expensive stones for the foundation of the Temple. Big stones = big money, little stones = little money.
- Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders cutting the trees and hewing the stones meaning that the gentiles were involved in building the Temple.

**Isaiah 56:7** “Even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.”

Speaking of Jews and Gentiles:

**Ephesians 2:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. <sup>19</sup>Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;”

Describing God's heart:

**1 Timothy 2:4** “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

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## 1 Kings Chapter 6

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V: 1 At that time they were dating their calendar from the Exodus, from the time that they left Egypt. We date our calendar from the birth of Christ.

- In those days, to date something they would date it from a specific point of their history. Their coming out of Egypt was really the birth of the nation.
- So 480 years after the nation was birthed or the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Solomon's reign, 966 BC, Solomon began to build the Temple in the month of “Zif” or the 2<sup>nd</sup> month – April / May.

V: 2-4 A cubit was the average length of a man's forearm from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger, or a standard measurement of about 18 inches.

- The actual Temple dimensions, not including the other buildings that were added on and the courtyard:

Length: 90 feet  
Width: 30 feet.  
Height: 45 feet.

(Diagram)

- The Temple was roughly twice as big in every way than the Tabernacle: The Tabernacle was relatively simple, the Temple will be very ornate.
- Solomon adds a porch across the front entrance 30 feet wide, 15 feet deep.
- There are narrow lights or windows to give light to the Holy Place, the Holy of Hollies is lit by the presence of God.
- The Tabernacle was illuminated by the single candlestick / Menorah and the glory of the Lord. The Temple had windows built in, just in case – planning on failure, in case the glory of God would not be present.

- V: 5-6 Describes the chambers and rooms build around the temple where the priests stayed and where they stored various things related to Temple worship.
- The walls varied in thickness from 4 ½ to 9 feet thick.
  - The oracle is the Holy of Hollies.
  - There were three tiers of chambers or rooms around the Temple; the “nethermost” or lowest chambers were 5 cubits wide (7 ½ feet wide), then the next level up six cubits wide or 9 feet, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> level 7 cubits / 10 ½ feet wide.
- V: 7 These workers were real craftsmen and architects. All the stones and timbers were fashioned away from the temple site and put in place. The stones were quarried with flat edges and surfaces, they were made to be interlocking so that there was no need for mortar, and they fit exactly right, the seems were so tight that you couldn’t put a piece of paper between them.
- At the site of the Temple you didn’t hear the sound of chisels or axes, or tools.
  - Between the Damascus gate and Herod’s gate is the entrance to Solomon’s quarries, the place where much of the stone for the Temple was quarried. It’s a huge cavernous space from which the stone was hewn and taken. Today the Muslims have made it into a mosque, attempting to erase any evidence of the Jewish history related to the Temple mount.
  - There is an interesting story about the building of the Temple. As they quarried these stones, they numbered them, and placed them in order according to the plans. One day the builders received a quarried stone without a number that didn’t seem to fit anywhere, which they eventually set aside and kept building.
  - It took 7 years to build the Temple, and as they set this stone aside weeds grew up all around it, obscuring it. As they came to the completion of the Temple the chief corner stone was missing. The builders sent a message back to the quarry asking for the chief corner stone, we’re ready for it. The quarry workers responded that it had already been sent it, but the builders said we don’t have it. The quarry insisted that they’d already sent it so they started searching, finally they found it in the shrubs around the Temple site.
  - The stone that the builders had rejected and cast aside was in fact the chief cornerstone, they just didn’t know it at the time.
  - So the prophecy in **Psalm 118** concerning Jesus, that deals with that incident:  
**Psalm 118:22-23** “<sup>22</sup>The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. <sup>23</sup>This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.”
  - In the NT the Apostle Peter pick up on this as a reference to Jesus Christ:

**1 Peter 2:4-8** “<sup>4</sup>To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, <sup>5</sup>ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. <sup>7</sup>Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, <sup>8</sup>and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”

- Paul speaks to this as well:

**Ephesians 2:20** “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”

V: 8-10 The winding staircase: If you go to Jerusalem today, you can go under the Damascus gate, and into the guard house. In the guard house there is an interesting winding staircase which takes you up to the top of the present day Damascus gate. It's the same staircase that was used in Jesus' day. It takes up about 8-10 square feet and they just wind on up.

- So this staircase that connected the different levels. They finished the house / Temple and covered it with beams and boards of cedar and fir, building the chambers around and against it.

V: 11 “And the word of the Lord came to Solomon...”

- God speaks to His servants.
- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that God speaks to Solomon about obedience.

V: 12 “if” – conditional

1. Walk in My statues.
2. Execute My judgments. (leadership, justice)
3. Keep all my commandments.

Keep My Word

V: 12-13 If you keep My Word, then I will perform My Word, just as I promised your father David. And I will dwell among you My people and not forsake you.

- Later on in Chronicles we read concerning king Asa:

**2 Chronicles 15:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>And the spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Obed: <sup>2</sup>And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, hear ye me, Asa,

and all Judah and Benjamin; the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you.”

V: 14-38 Solomon built the house and finished it.

- And now we go back and look at some of the details of construction.

V: 15-18 The inside of the Temple, the quarried stones were covered with cedar and fir so that you didn't see any stone.

- It was carved with ornate flowers and decorations.

V: 19-22 The Oracle / Holy of Hollies was prepared to receive the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD.

- The dimensions were 20 cubits or 30 feet cubed – all overlaid with pure gold.
- 2 Chronicles 3:10 describes the veil / curtain that separated the Holy place from the Holy of Hollies.
- The altar was covered with pure gold, the entire Temple was covered completely in pure gold.

V: 23-28 The cherubims each 15 feet tall with a 15 foot wing span. Together their wings touched opposite walls and the other wings touched each other.

- And they were covered in pure gold.

V: 29-30 Ornate decorations, cherubims, palm trees, flowers – walls and floors covered in Gold.

- Even the iron nails used in the Holy of Hollies were plated in gold.

V: 31-35 Doors of olive wood, decorated the same way, and covered in Gold.

V: 36 The inner court built to separate it from the out court. Concentric rings, limiting access as you got closer to the Holy of Hollies.

**Jeremiah 36:10** “... in the higher / upper court, at the entry of the new gate of the Lord's house...”

- The outer court was lower, then you ascended to the upper court, then up to the Temple itself.

- All these elaborate decorations, all this gold, must have been incredible to see, but the common man never got to see it.
- The people didn't meet in the Temple, like we meet in church.
- Only the priests were allowed in the inner court, only a select few priest were allowed into the Holy Place to conduct the service of the Lord, and only the High Priest was allowed once a year to enter into the Holy of Hollies – most Jews never got to see these things.

V: 37-38 Started in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Solomon's reign, completed in the 11<sup>th</sup> year of his reign, taking seven years to complete in the month of "Bul" (Jan / Feb)

- The Brazen altar, laver / molten sea, tables of show bread, golden lamp stands, utensils.
- This Temple as compared to the Tabernacle was bigger, over the top ornate – yet the Tabernacle used pure gold in places where the Temple used wood covered in gold.
- We tend to make things more complicated.

**John 4:24** "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth."

**2 Corinthians 11:3** "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."