

Reading: 1 Kings 8:10-27

## 1<sup>st</sup> Kings Chapter 7

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- Last week we saw that as Solomon finished building the Temple that it was roughly twice the size of the Tabernacle and that the areas around the Temple had been expanded into different courts and that it had been 7 years in the making.

V: 1-5 Solomon took 13 years to build his house. You might think that building his house was a greater priority than the Temple, which is a possibility but it could also be that the Temple was the greater priority which meant that his own house was on the back burner.

**Matthew 6:33** “... seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- As part of his palace or palace complex he also built a great hall referred to as “The house of the forest of Lebanon”
- 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall – all on large columns made of cedar – from the forest of Lebanon, hence the name.

V: 6-12 There was a big entry porch in the front with columns, he made a special throne room or porch of judgment for the issues of state and for judging the issues of the people.

- He made a house / palace for the daughter of Pharaoh, his wife.
- The foundations and houses themselves were made of large expensive stones some 12 & 15 feet in length – but not as big or costly as the stones used for the Temple.

V: 13-22 Solomon recruits “Hiram of Tyre” (not the same as king Hiram) – ½ Jew ½ Gentile. Like the men that helped Moses build the Tabernacle this man was a gifted craftsman working with brass; “filled with wisdom and understanding...”

- Hiram casts two brass pillars, 27 feet tall, 12 foot diameter or about 6’ across (hollow on the inside) about 3” thick – with “chapters” or “capitals” / caps on top, each 7 ½ feet tall, or 34 ½ feet tall.
- Ornatly decorated with pomegranates and lattice works which are mentioned several times.
- One is named Jachin and the other Boaz, placed at the entrance or porch of the Temple.
  1. Jachin: Yah Established; He shall establish.
  2. Boaz: Lively; “In it is strength.” The kinsmen redeemer and hero of the book of Ruth.

- These pillars were later carried away to Babylon. They didn't hold anything up, they were there as sort of a monument and spoke of the fact that God had established the people in His strength, that they were a people established by God and they stand in His strength.

V: 23-26 Hiram cast the "molten sea" – a very large water container / basin of solid brass, 15 feet in diameter, 7 ½ feet deep, 45 feet in circumference. It held about 17,000 gallons of water.

- Like a large bowl set upon a decorative stand fashioned after 12 oxen, 3 each looking North, South, East, and West, all facing outward with the "molten sea" on their backs.
- Drinking water represented "living water", the water in the laver was the water of cleaning:

**John 15:3** "Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you."

V: 27-37 Hiram makes 10 bases for the "lavenders" or washing basins, for the ceremonial cleansing or washing of the priests and the various sacrifices.

- Ornate 4 wheeled carts made of brass with the basin on top that could be moved around to where they were needed.

V: 38-39 10 lavenders or basins to go onto the carts each holding 340 gallons of water. These were stationed 5 on each side of the Temple.

- They would use them at that location, moving them to the "molten sea" to get more water then be moved back into position.

V: 40-47 Hiram finishes his work, and we have a review of what he accomplished"

- Lavenders, shovels, basins, pillars, all the various implements and tools for the temple sacrifices.
- All made of brass and all cast in the Jordan valley between Succoth and Zarthan in modern Deir Alla. (Map)
- They didn't bother to weigh all the brass, it was just too much.
- In the scriptures brass is symbolic of judgment: Sampson was bound with brass fetters; the altar of sacrifice was made of brass, it speaks of the judgment of God against the sins, the animals being slain for the sins of the people. The lavenders from which they would bathe, made of brass symbolizing the judgment.

- All the things used on the outside were made of brass, but once you entered the Temple everything used was made of Gold. Once you enter into the Temple you're entering into the figure of Heaven. Gold is always the metal that is symbolic of the heavenly scene.

V: 48-51 A summary of all the other vessels and instruments used in the Temple were made of gold.

1. Altar of gold, altar of incense.

**Psalm 141:2** "Let my prayer be set from before thee as incense: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

2. Table of gold, table of shew bread.
3. Candle sticks, pure gold.
4. Gold tongs, bowls, snuffers, basins, spoons, censers of pure gold, hinged for the doors of the Temple.
  - Solomon brought in all the things that his father David had collected, spoils of war silver and gold, all dedicated to the Lord.

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## 1 Kings Chapter 8

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V: 1-4 King Solomon gathers all the elders of Israel with the intent of bringing the Ark of the Covenant out of the Tabernacle and into the Temple.

- They are going to bring the ark of the covenant from the Tabernacle made by David, the original have long since been destroyed, and they're going to place it into the Holy of Hollies.
- After passing through the outer courts and ascending up into the Temple past the brazen altar, past the two pillars on the porch and into the Holy Place.
- In the Holy Place were the 10 tables of show bread, the 10 golden lamp stands, and the altar of incense. Then ascending the stairs that led to the veil which separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Hollies.
- Thru the veil and into the Holy of Hollies in this room covered from floor to ceiling with gold stood two golden cherubim. Their wings touched the outer walls and touched each other in the center of the room. Beneath their wings was the place for the Ark of the Testimony.

- This was a representation of the heavenly scene as the cherubim are described in Ezekiel chapters 1 & 10 and Revelation Chapter 4 as being gathered around the throne of God.
- This takes place in the 7<sup>th</sup> month of Ethanim which is the Canaanite name for what was later called Tishri equating to September / October and the feast of Tabernacles, “booths”

V: 5-9 King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel – this being one of the mandatory feasts in Israel, there may have been close to 1 million men present.

- Sacrificing before the Ark, before the presence of God – sheep and oxen that could not be numbered.
- The priests brought the ark into “his” place, it is above the Ark where the presence of God dwells.
- As the priests placed the Ark between the cherubim, they partially removed the staves so that they extended out to the Holy Place.
- The Ark contained the two tables of stone, the 10 commandments written by the finger of God.
- Where did the jar of manna and Aaron’s rod go? How did they know? They both served as reminders of Israel’s rebellion. The last time anyone looked in to see, 70K men died.
- Both the golden jar of manna and Aaron’s rod that budded were miraculous, but seemingly neither endured; but the Word of God was still there.

**Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.”

V: 10-11 As the Ark is placed in the Holy of Hollies and the priests withdraw, the glory of the Lord fills the Temple so that no one can stay or minister there.

- The Shekinah glory of God.

**2 Chronicles 7:1-3** “<sup>1</sup>Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house. <sup>2</sup>And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord’s house. <sup>3</sup>And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.”

V: 12-21 Solomon declares the works of the Lord, the faithfulness of God.

V: 22-30 Solomon moves from addressing the people to addressing God with his hands raised to heaven in an attitude and posture of prayer.

**2 Chronicles 6:13** “For Solomon had made a brazen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven.”

- Solomon publicly humbled himself before God.

“... *there is no God like thee...*”

**Isaiah 40:18** “To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto Him?”

**Isaiah 46:9** “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like Me,”

- Solomon acknowledges that this Temple as grand and glorious as it is from a human standpoint is totally insufficient to contain God, when the heavens cannot even do that.

“<sup>28</sup>Oh Lord my God...” Personal relationship.

- Solomon asks that even though this place is in-adequate, please hear our prayers, and when you hear our prayers please forgive us.

V: 31-32 Solomon will describe 7 different situations that would bring the people to a place of crying out to God, and in each instance he asks that God would hear their prayers and supplications, and forgive them.

- If any man takes an oath that comes before you, then judge between your servants in righteousness.

V: 33-34 Looking ahead to a future time when the nation is smitten down because of their iniquity and they repent and cry out to you, then hear from heaven and bring them again into the land.

**2 Chronicles 7:14** “<sup>14</sup>If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup>Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. <sup>16</sup>For now have I chosen and sanctified

this house, that My name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.”

V: 35-36 Again, when you judge your people because of their sin, and when they repent – please forgive them, restore them, and teach them.

V: 37-40 If there is famine, pestilence, or plague and your people cry out to you – please hear.

**Psalm 139:23-24** “<sup>23</sup>Search me oh God and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, <sup>24</sup>and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

**Psalm 34:15** “They eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ear are open unto their cry.”

- God alone knows the hearts of men:

**2 Chronicles 6:30** says pretty much the same thing.

**1 Chronicles 28:9** “... for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts...”

V: 41-43 When the strangers, non-Jews hear of thy glory and fame, when they come to pray and seek your face – please hear them.

- This is awesome, Solomon is acknowledging that the Gentiles are called to come and worship the true and living God.

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

V: 44-61 A cry or a prayer to God that He would continue to hear their prayers.

**Romans 3:10** “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:”

**Romans 3:23** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

- If they are carried away captive and repent and cry out to God confessing their wickedness, and pray towards this house – then hear their supplication and forgive.
- Solomon describes what a special and privileged people they are.
- When he was all done praying to God he turned to bless the people and in the process gives glory to God saying:

His Word never fails: “<sup>56</sup>... there hath not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant.”

V: 60 Again including all the people of the earth.... Apparently Solomon wasn't a Calvinist...

V: 61 Admonition: God has spoken to Solomon twice about obedience and now he turns that admonition around to the people and delivers the same to them.

V: 62-65 They offered more sacrifices, peace offerings, and burnt offerings – 22,000 oxen, 120,000 sheep as they dedicated the Temple.

- They sanctified another part of the court and setting up another altar to sacrifice upon because there wasn't room enough on the brazen altar.
- Solomon held a feast, probably part of the peace offerings, or fellowship offering in which the whole family would be partakers. This went on for two weeks.

V: 66 On the 8<sup>th</sup> day, after the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> day, he sent the people away.

- The people “blessed the king going to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the Lord had done for David and for Israel His people.”
- The people were rejoicing, joyful, overflowing with God's goodness.

**Leviticus 26** – If you will take heed to my word and not follow after idols, and walk in My ways, then:

**Leviticus 26:11-12** “<sup>11</sup>And I will set My tabernacle among you: and My soul shall not abhor you. <sup>12</sup>And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be My people.”

- They are seeing and experiencing the power of God – conscious of His presence in their midst and they go home filled with the joy of the Lord in their hearts.