

1 Kings 06 - Building the Temple

I. United kingdom under Solomon (1 Kings 1:1—11:43)

(3) Solomon builds the Temple (1 Kings 5:1—8:66)

(B) Solomon constructs the Temple from the 4th to the 11th year of his reign (1 Kings 6:1—7:51)

(a) Solomon oversees the building of the Temple (6:1-38)

(i) Solomon builds the inner Temple (6:1-10)

(ii) The Lord's presence in the Temple will be tied to covenantal obedience (6:11-13)

(iii) Solomon builds the Temple's superstructure and courtyard (6:14-38)

1 Kings 6

(B) Solomon constructs the Temple from the 4th to the 11th year of his reign (1 Kings 6:1—7:51) (Cf. 2 Chr 3:2)

(a) Solomon oversees the building of the Temple (6:1-38)

(i) Solomon builds the inner Temple (6:1-10)

1 Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in **the fourth year of Solomon's reign** over Israel, in the month of Ziv, that is, the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

1 Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

1 During the month of Ziv, which was the second month of the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, 480 years after the Israelis left the land of Egypt, Solomon began to build the LORD's Temple.

1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

- This verse is one of the most important verses in the OT chronologically because it enables one to fix certain dates in Israel's history

— The dates of Solomon's reign have been quite definitely established through references in ancient writings: 971-931 BC [Josephus, *Against Apion*, 1:17,18]. Even the most liberal scholars agree with this time period.

- "...the fourth year of Solomon's reign" - Solomon began to build the temple in 966 BC

-- So if you take 966 BC and go back 480 years, you arrive at the date of the Exodus: 1446 BC

-- The Mosaic Law was given to Moses at Mount Sinai about a year later: 1445 BC (Cf. Gal 3:17)

- Why did the writer of Kings tie the building of the temple to the Exodus?

— Evidently because the building of the temple would give Israel an opportunity as never before in her history to realize the purpose for which God had formed and freed the nation: to draw all people to Himself

The chronological figures given in the Book of Judges add up to a total of 410 years. However, when balanced out between the co-judgeships, plus the 40 years of the Wilderness Wanderings, 25 years for Joshua, 40 years for Eli, 40 years for both Samuel and Saul, 40 years for David, and 4 years for Solomon, the adjusted figure would be 480.

Period of Israel's History/Ruler		# Years
From the Exodus and the Wilderness Wanderings		40
The Conquest		7
From the Division of the Land to the Conquest by Cushan		10
The Oppression by Cushan		8
Othniel and Rest		40
Oppression by Moab		18
Ehud and Rest		80
Oppression by Jabin		20
Barak and Rest		40
Oppression by Midian		7
Gideon and Rest		40
The Rule of Abimelech		3
Tola		23
Jair		22
TWO SIDES OF THE JORDAN RIVER*		
THE WEST—The Philistines	THE EAST	59
(1) Loss of the Ark	(1) Ammonite oppression	
(2) Samson's deeds and Samuel	(2) Jephthah	
(3) Defeat of the Philistines; rule of Samuel	(3) Ibzan	

	(4) Elon	
	(5) Abdon	
The Reign of Saul		20
David in Hebron		7
David in Jerusalem		33
Solomon until the Temple is begun		3
Total # of years (compare with 1 Kings 6:1)		480

* Judges 10:7 implies that Jephthah and Samson ruled contemporaneously on the two different sides of the Jordan River, with Jephthah on the east side and Samson on the west side.

The chronology of Israel's beginning until the Temple was built was as follows:

- From the oppression of Cushan to the death of Jair was 301 years
- The Philistine oppression lasted 40 years
- The judgeship of Samuel and the reign of Saul together were 39 years
- David's reign was 40 years
- Solomon's reign until the building of the Temple was three years
- The wilderness wandering was 40 years
- There were seven years between the entrance and the division of the Land
- There was 10 years from the division to the oppression of Cushan

Total: 480 years, which matches with 1 Kings 6:1

2 And the house which King Solomon built for the LORD *was* sixty cubits *in* its length, and twenty *cubits in* its width, and its height *was* thirty cubits.

2 As for the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length *was* sixty cubits and its width twenty *cubits* and its height thirty cubits.

2 The Temple for the LORD that Solomon was building was 60 cubits long and 20 cubits wide.

2 And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

- The temple was exactly twice the size of Moses' tabernacle

The Cubit

The cubit is about 18 inches, the standard for measures of length among the Hebrews.

They derived it from the Babylonians, but a similar measure was used in Egypt. The length of the cubit is variously estimated, since there seems to have been a double standard in

both countries, and because we have no undisputed example of the cubit remaining to the present time.

The original cubit was the length of the forearm, from the elbow to the end of the middle finger, as is implied from the derivation of the word in Hebrew (*ammah*) and in Latin (*cubitum*). It seems to be referred to also in Deut 3:11: "after the cubit of a man." This was too indefinite for a scientific standard; the Babylonians early adopted a more accurate method of measurement which passed to the nations of the West. However, they had a double standard, the so-called royal cubit and the ordinary one. From the remains of buildings in Assyria and Babylonia, the royal cubit is made out to be about 20.6 inches, and a cubit of similar length was used in Egypt and must have been known to the Hebrews. This was probably the cubit mentioned by Ezek 40:5 and perhaps that of Solomon's temple, "cubits after the first measure" (2 Chr 3:3); i.e., the ancient cubit.

The ordinary cubit of commerce was shorter, and has been variously estimated at between 16 and 18 or more inches, but the evidence of the Siloam inscription and of the tombs in Palestine seems to indicate 17.6 inches as the average length. This was the cubit of six palms, while the longer one was of seven (Ezek 40:5). So the temple was about 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high; (the porch (v3) added an additional 30 feet). It was not that large: only 2,700 square feet of floor space. But it was strikingly beautiful in appearance because of its white limestone, cedar, and gold exterior.

3 The porch in front of the main room of the house *was* twenty cubits in length, corresponding to the width of the house, *and* its width along the front of the house *was* ten cubits.

3 The porch in front of the nave of the house *was* twenty cubits in length, corresponding to the width of the house, *and* its depth along the front of the house *was* ten cubits.

3 A portico extended in front of the Temple for 20 cubits outward, corresponding to the width of the Temple. Along the front of the Temple its depth was ten cubits.

3 And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

- It had a large open front porch (portico) that added 30 more feet to its length, and may be of significance theologically as a fundamental model, since it is a significant variation from the model of the Tabernacle

4 Also for the house he made windows with *artistic* frames.

4 Also for the house he made windows with *artistic* frames.

4 Solomon also constructed windows in the Temple with specially designed frames.

4 And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.

5 Against the wall of the house he built **stories** encompassing the walls of the house around both the main room and the **inner sanctuary**; so he made side chambers all around.

5 Against the wall of the house he built stories encompassing the walls of the house around both the nave and the inner sanctuary; thus he made side chambers all around.

5 Against the wall of the Temple he built a series of rooms that encompassed the exterior of the Temple walls around the inner sanctuary. He built these side chambers all around the building.

5 And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:

- "...stories" - *yatsuwa'*, these are best understood as side rooms, or cells, which were reserved for the priests and their personal belongings

- "...inner sanctuary" - *debiyr*, the Holy of Holies, the innermost room of the temple or tabernacle (Cf. v16)

6 The lowest story *was* five cubits wide, the middle *was* six cubits wide, and the third *was* seven cubits wide; for on the outside he made offsets *in the wall* of the house all around so that *the beams* would not be inserted into the walls of the house.

6 The lowest story *was* five cubits wide, and the middle *was* six cubits wide, and the third *was* seven cubits wide; for on the outside he made offsets *in the wall* of the house all around in order that *the beams* would not be inserted in the walls of the house.

6 The lower structures were five cubits wide, the middle structures were six cubits wide and the third structures were seven cubits wide. Offsets were placed all around the Temple so that beams would not protrude through the walls of the Temple.

6 The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

- The temple's main hall and the inner sanctuary were the holy place and the most holy place, respectively

- This triple-deck wooden structure around the building was built against the outer sides and perhaps the back of the temple. This structure was probably about 25-30 feet high and was divided into three stories of side rooms each of which was 7-1/2ft high on the inside. These "chambers of wood" were used by the priests for storage and service.

- The rooms were smallest (7-1/2ft wide) on the first floor which also contained hallways and stairways (Cf. v8), larger on the second floor (9ft wide) with some space also given to

halls and stairs, and largest on the third floor (10-1/2ft wide).

— The offset ledges were apparently the supports for the upper floor which were built into the walls of this surrounding structure. The measurements are probably inside dimensions.

7 The house, while it was being built, was built of stone finished at the quarry, and neither hammer, nor axe, nor any iron tool was heard in the house while it was being built.

7 The house, while it was being built, was built of stone prepared at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any iron tool heard in the house while it was being built.

7 The Temple was constructed of stone precut at the quarry so that no hammer, axe, or any other iron implement would be heard in the Temple while it was being built.

7 And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

- Apparently Solomon felt that the noise of construction was not appropriate for this temple in view of its purpose, so he had all the building materials cut and fitted at the quarry so that they could be assembled quietly on the site

8 The doorway for the lowest side chamber *was* on the right side of the house; and they would go up by a winding staircase to the middle *story*, and from the middle to the third.

8 The doorway for the lowest side chamber *was* on the right side of the house; and they would go up by winding stairs to the middle *story*, and from the middle to the third.

8 A passageway to the side chamber was constructed on the south side of the Temple by which people could ascend winding stairs to the middle story, then from there to the third story.

8 The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third.

9 So he built the house and finished it; and he covered the house with beams and planks of cedar.

9 So he built the house and finished it; and he covered the house with beams and planks of cedar.

9 After Solomon built the Temple and finished it, he covered the Temple with beams and planks made of cedar.

9 So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.

10 He also built the stories against the whole house, *each* five cubits high; and they were attached to the house with timbers of cedar.

10 He also built the stories against the whole house, each five cubits high; and they were fastened to the house with timbers of cedar.

10 He constructed this structure to adjoin the entire Temple, five cubits high, and fastened it to the Temple with cedar timbers.

10 And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

- The temple faced east, but the entrance to the surrounding structure (v5) was on the south

- The side rooms on all floors were connected by internal staircases and passageways

- Though no beams of this side structure were "inserted into the temple walls" (v6), the inner walls of the side rooms were attached to the temple by cedar beams (v10).

(ii) The Lord's presence in the Temple will be tied to covenantal obedience (6:11-13)

11 Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,

11 Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon saying,

11 Then this message from the LORD came to Solomon:

11 And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,

12 "As for this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will fulfill My word with you which I spoke to David your father.

12 "Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My ordinances and keep all My commandments by walking in them, then I will carry out My word with you which I spoke to David your father.

12 "Concerning this Temple that you're building, if you live your life according to my statutes, carry out my ordinances, and keep all of my commands, and live according to them, then I will do what I promised to your father David.

12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:

- Before David died, he strongly encouraged Solomon to obey God fully so that he would "never fail to have a success on the throne of Israel" (2:2-4)

- "The promise" given David to which God referred was that He would "establish the throne of [David's] kingdom forever" (2 Sam 7:13)

- Now, as work began on the temple's interior, God encouraged and warned Solomon with similar words

— This was a conditional promise based on Solomon's obedience to the Mosaic Covenant. God promised to establish Solomon's kingdom forever (i.e. it would remain intact, 2 Sam 7:13) if Solomon would obey Him. God would also continue to dwell among the Israelites and not forsake them.

— Later Solomon's disobedience resulted in the division of the kingdom after his death; because the nation forsook the covenant, God ceased to dwell among the people and forsook them temporarily into captivity

13 And I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not abandon My people Israel."

13 I will dwell among the sons of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

13 I will reside among the Israelis and will never abandon my people Israel."

13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

- God also promised that if Solomon obeyed the Lord, his nation would enjoy God's fellowship and protection; however, Israel experienced this only partially because of Solomon's later apostasy

Solomon's highest responsibility was to follow God and obey Him fully. God gave Solomon a unique privilege—to build the temple to express His loving presence with Israel. But God did not ask Solomon to choose between service and loving obedience. God linked the nation's fate to Solomon's obedience. A beautiful temple could not protect Israel from their king's disobedience. In our lives, no spiritual gift or God-given work can substitute for a life of faith and humble obedience (1 Sam 15:22-23). No holy place or fervent worship can replace a genuine relationship with God.

(iii) Solomon builds the Temple's superstructure and courtyard (6:14-38) (Cf. 2 Chr 3:3-17)

14 So Solomon built the house and finished it.

14 So Solomon built the house and finished it.

14 So Solomon kept on building the Temple and finished it.

14 So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

15 He built the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar; from the floor of the house to the ceiling he paneled *the walls* on the inside with wood, and he paneled the floor of the house with boards of juniper.

15 Then he built the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar; from the floor of the house to the ceiling he overlaid *the walls* on the inside with wood, and he overlaid the floor of the house with boards of cypress.

15 Then he built the inside walls of the Temple, lining them from floor to ceiling with cedar boards, and overlaying the Temple floor with boards made of cypress wood.

15 And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling: and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir.

- The entire interior of the temple was covered with cedar boards (on the walls) and with pine (or cypress) boards (on the floor), all overlaid with gold (v22,30)

16 He also built twenty cubits on the rear part of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the ceiling; he built *them* for it on the inside as an inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place.

16 He built twenty cubits on the rear part of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the ceiling; he built *them* for it on the inside as an inner sanctuary, *even* as the most holy place.

16 He lined 20 cubits of the rear part of the Temple from floor to ceiling with cedar boards specially constructed for the inside to serve as the Most Holy Place.

16 And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place.

17 The house, that is, the main room in front of *the inner sanctuary*, was forty cubits long.

17 The house, that is, the nave in front of *the inner sanctuary*, was forty cubits long.

17 The rest of the main nave in the front was 40 cubits long.

17 And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long.

- The main hall in front of the inner sanctuary (the "Holy of Holies") was the holy place. The main hall was twice the length of the most holy place.

18 There was cedar inside the house, carved *in the shape* of gourds and open flowers; everything was cedar, there was no stone visible.

18 There was cedar on the house within, carved *in the shape* of gourds and open flowers; all was cedar, there was no stone seen.

18 Cedar carvings in the form of gourds and blooming flowers covered the entire interior of the Temple so that no stone could be seen.

18 And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen.

19 Then he prepared an **inner sanctuary** inside the house in order to place there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

19 Then he prepared an inner sanctuary within the house in order to place there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

19 Solomon also prepared an inner sanctuary within the Temple where the LORD's Ark of the Covenant was placed.

19 And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

- "...inner sanctuary" - *debiyr*, the holy of holies, the innermost room of the temple or tabernacle (Cf. v16)

— It was a 30-foot cube, all overlaid with gold, and contained the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat

20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits in length, twenty cubits in width, and twenty cubits in height; and he overlaid it with pure gold. He also paneled the altar with cedar.

20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits in length, twenty cubits in width, and twenty cubits in height, and he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the altar with cedar.

20 The inner sanctuary was 20 cubits long, 20 cubits wide, and 20 cubits high, and overlaid with pure gold. The altar was also overlaid with cedar.

20 And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar.

- The Most Holy Place formed a cube, its perfect dimensions reflected God's perfection—a copy of God's heavenly throne room (Heb 9:23-24)

21 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold. And he extended chains of gold across the front of the inner sanctuary, and he overlaid it with gold.

21 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold. And he drew chains of gold across the front of the inner sanctuary, and he overlaid it with gold.

21 Solomon overlaid the inside of the Temple with pure gold, fastened gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold.

21 So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold.

22 He overlaid the entire house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the entire altar which was by the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.

22 He overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar which was by the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.

22 He finished the Temple by overlaying it entirely with gold, including overlaying with gold the whole altar that was by the inner sanctuary.

22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold.

- The altar (v22) is the incense altar located in the holy place, in front of the Holiest of Holies

— Solomon's incense altar was made of cedar and overlaid with gold; it was also called "the golden altar" (7:48)

— This verse repeats part of what was stated in v14-21

23 And in the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

23 Also in the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

23 Inside the inner sanctuary Solomon placed two cherubim crafted from olive wood, each ten cubits high.

23 And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high.

- The cherubim were figures of angels carved out of olive wood

— Since there were cherubim attached to the mercy seat, these were two additional freestanding cherubim

24 The one wing of the *first* cherub *was* five cubits, and the other wing of the *first* cherub *was* five cubits; from the end of one wing to the end of the other wing *were* ten cubits.

24 Five cubits *was* the one wing of the cherub and five cubits the other wing of the cherub; from the end of one wing to the end of the other wing *were* ten cubits.

24 Each wing of one cherub was five cubits long, and each wing of the other cherub was five cubits long, so that the distance from the end of one wing to the end of the other wing was ten cubits.

24 And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits.

25 The second cherub *was* ten cubits; both of the cherubim were of the same measurement and the same form.

25 The other cherub *was* ten cubits; both the cherubim were of the same measure and the same form.

25 Each cherub was ten cubits high, and both were of the same size and shape,

25 And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size.

26 The height of the one cherub *was* ten cubits, and so *was that of* the other cherub.

26 The height of the one cherub *was* ten cubits, and so *was* the other cherub.

26 the height of one cherub being ten cubits, as was the height of the other.

26 The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub.

27 He placed the cherubim in the midst of the inner house, and the wings of the cherubim spread out so that the wing of the one was touching the *one* wall, and the wing of the other cherub was touching the other wall. And their wings were touching end to end in the center of the house.

27 He placed the cherubim in the midst of the inner house, and the wings of the cherubim were spread out, so that the wing of the one was touching the *one* wall, and the wing of the other cherub was touching the other wall. So their wings were touching each other in the center of the house.

27 Solomon placed the cherubim in the middle of the inner sanctuary, with their wings spread in such a way that the wing of one was touching the one wall and the opposite wing of the other cherub was touching the opposite wall. Furthermore, their wings in the center of the wall were touching each other wing-to-wing.

27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house.

28 He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.

28 He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.

28 Each cherub was overlaid with gold.

28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold.

29 Then he carved all the surrounding walls of the house with engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, for the inner and outer *sanctuaries*.

29 Then he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, inner and outer *sanctuaries*.

29 Solomon also inlaid all the inner walls of the Temple—both the inner and outer sanctuaries—with carved engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and blooming flowers.

29 And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without.

30 And he overlaid the floor of the house with gold, for the inner and outer *sanctuaries*.

30 He overlaid the floor of the house with gold, inner and outer *sanctuaries*.

30 He also overlaid the floor of the Temple with gold in both the inner and outer sanctuaries.

30 And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

31 And for the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood, the lintel, *and* five-sided doorposts.

31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood, the lintel *and* five-sided doorposts.

31 Solomon also provided doors, lintels, and five-sided doorposts for the entrance to the inner sanctuary.

31 And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall.

- The doors leading from the holy place may have been framed with five-sided jambs (frames). Some commentators believe they were sliding doors.

32 *So he made* two doors of olive wood, and he carved on them carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he overlaid the cherubim and the palm trees with gold.

32 *So he made* two doors of olive wood, and he carved on them carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he spread the gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

32 He installed two doors made of olive wood, inlaying them with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and blooming flowers, and overlaying them with gold. Then he added more gold to cover the cherubim and palm trees.

32 The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees.

33 So too he made for the entrance of the main room four-sided doorposts of olive wood,

33 So also he made for the entrance of the nave four-sided doorposts of olive wood

33 Solomon also provided four-sided doorposts made of cypress wood for the entrance to the outer sanctuary,

33 So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall.

34 and two doors of juniper wood; the two leaves of the one door turned on pivots, and the two leaves of the other door turned on pivots.

34 and two doors of cypress wood; the two leaves of the one door turned on pivots, and the two leaves of the other door turned on pivots.

34 along with two doors of cypress wood, one door of which had two leaves that turned on hinges, as did the other door, which also had two leaves that turned on hinges.

34 And the two doors were of fir tree: the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding.

- The doors leading from the porch into the main hall (the holy place) were made of pine (v34). They hung on four-sided jambs and were bi-fold, each having two leaves hinged together that folded open against each other and turned on sockets or pivot points.

35 He carved *on it* cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers; and he overlaid *them* with gold plated on the carved work.

35 He carved *on it* cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers; and he overlaid *them* with gold evenly applied on the engraved work.

35 Solomon also inlaid the doors with cherubim, palm trees, and blooming flowers. He overlaid them with gold that was carefully applied on the engraved work.

35 And he carved thereon cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work.

36 And he built the inner courtyard with three rows of cut stone and a row of cedar beams.

36 He built the inner court with three rows of cut stone and a row of cedar beams.

36 He constructed the inner court with three rows of precut stone and a row of cedar beams.

36 And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams.

- The inner courtyard was an open plaza surrounding the temple. There was also an outer courtyard not mentioned here (Cf. 2 Chr 4:9), which was somewhat lower in elevation than the inner courtyard (Cf. "upper courtyard" in Jer 36:10)

— This inner courtyard (also called the "courtyard of the priests," 2 Chr 4:9) was separated from the outer (great) court by the wall described here

— This wall consisted of three courses (rows) of dressed (cut) stone (limestone) and one course (row) of cedar beams

— The size of the inner courtyard is not given, but if the dimensions of the courtyards of the temple are proportionate to those of the tabernacle courtyard, as the dimensions of the temple and tabernacle structures are, the inner courtyard was about 150 feet wide and 400 feet long

37 In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.

37 In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.

37 The foundation for the LORD's Temple was laid in the month of Ziv during the fourth year of Solomon's reign,

37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Ziv:

38 And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, that is, the eighth month, the house was finished in all its parts and in accordance with all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

38 In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished throughout all its parts and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

38 and the Temple was completely finished according to its plans and specifications in the eighth month of the eleventh year of Solomon's reign, that is, during the month of Bul. It took about seven years to build.

38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

- Seven years were spent building the temple, from the 4th year of Solomon's reign (966 BC; Cf. comments on 6:1) to his 11th year (959 BC).

— More precisely, this was seven and one-half years. Ziv is April-May and Bul, the eighth month, is October-November.

Application

(1) As Solomon prepared to build God's temple, he stepped into work God had designed for him before his birth (2 Sam 7:12-13)

(2) Solomon backed up the truth he spoke to Hiram with fairness in his business dealings