

2 Chronicles 02 - Preparations to Build the Temple; Solomon's Letter to Hiram; Hiram's Reply

III. Solomon builds the temple (2 Chr 1:1—9:31)

(2) Solomon's temple (2 Chr 2:1—7:22)

(A) Temple preparation (2:1-18)

2 Chronicles 2

(A) Temple preparation (2:1-18) (Cf. 1 Kings 5:1-18; 7:13-14)

1 Now Solomon decided to build a house for the name of the LORD, and a royal palace for himself.

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1 Now Solomon was determined to build a temple dedicated to the Name of the LORD as well as his own royal palace.

1 And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

2 So Solomon assigned seventy thousand men to carry loads, eighty thousand men to quarry *stone* in the mountains, and 3,600 to supervise them.

2 So Solomon assigned 70,000 men to carry loads and 80,000 men to quarry *stone* in the mountains and 3,600 to supervise them.

2 So Solomon conscripted 70,000 men to do heavy work, 80,000 men to quarry in the hill country, and 3,600 to supervise them.

2 And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.

- He apparently waited four years to begin...

3 Then Solomon sent *word* to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, "As you dealt with my father David and sent him cedars to build him a house to live in, *do it for me*."

3 Then Solomon sent *word* to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, "As you dealt with David my father and sent him cedars to build him a house to dwell in, so do for me."

3 Solomon also sent this message to King Hiram of Tyre:

"Just as you did with my father David, sending him cedars to build him a palace to live in, do the same for me.

3 And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, even so deal with me.

- Solomon's letter to Hiram (v3-10) reveals that he had a sincere desire to glorify God, not as a duty imposed on him by his father David

Hiram, King of Tyre

Hiram entered into an alliance with David, and assisted him in building his palace by sending him able workmen, and cedar trees and fir trees from Lebanon (2 Sam 5:11; 1 Chr 14:1). After the death of David, he entered into a similar alliance with Solomon, and assisted him greatly in building the temple (1 Kings 5:1; 9:11; 2 Chr 2:3). He partnered in Solomon's traffic to the Eastern Seas (1 Kings 9:27; 10:11; 2 Chr 8:18; 9:10).

4 Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, dedicating it to Him, to burn fragrant incense before Him and *to set out* the showbread continually, and to offer burnt offerings morning and evening, on Sabbaths, on new moons, and on the appointed feasts of the LORD our God. This *is to be done* in Israel forever.

4 Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, dedicating it to Him, to burn fragrant incense before Him and *to set out* the showbread continually, and to offer burnt offerings morning and evening, on sabbaths and on new moons and on the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, this *being required* forever in Israel.

4 Look, I'm building a temple dedicated to the name of the LORD my God, to his glory, so we can burn fragrant incense in his presence, display rows of the bread of his presence continuously, and make burnt offerings in the morning, evening, on Sabbath days, during New Moon festivals, and during appointed festivals scheduled by the LORD our God. This is mandated forever in Israel.

4 Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

5 The house which I am about to build *will be* great, for our God is greater than all the gods.

5 The house which I am about to build *will be* great, for greater is our God than all the gods.

5 "The Temple that I'm building will be great, because the greatness of our God surpasses that of all gods.

5 And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.

6 But who is able to build a house for Him, since the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? And who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn *incense* before Him?

6 But who is able to build a house for Him, for the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain Him? So who am I, that I should build a house for Him, except to burn *incense* before Him?

6 But who can build a temple for him, since neither heaven nor the highest of the heavens can contain him? So who am I, that I should build a temple to him, except to burn incense in his presence?

6 But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?

- Solomon's conception of God was appropriate and realistic

7 Now send me a skilled man to work in gold, silver, brass, iron, and in purple, crimson, and violet *fabrics*, one who knows how to make engravings, to *work* with the skilled workers whom I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom my father David provided.

7 Now send me a skilled man to work in gold, silver, brass and iron, and in purple, crimson and violet *fabrics*, and who knows how to make engravings, to *work* with the skilled men whom I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

7 "At any rate, send me an individual who is a skilled craftsman in gold, silver, bronze, and iron, as well as in purple, crimson, and blue materials, who knows how to craft engravings, so he may work with the craftsmen whom I have assembled in Judah and Jerusalem, as provided for by my father David.

7 Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide.

- The Israelites were familiar with agriculture, but not metal working. They needed outside experts for that craft.

8 Send me also cedar, juniper, and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber of Lebanon; and indeed my servants *will work* with your servants,

8 Send me also cedar, cypress and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber of Lebanon; and indeed my servants *will work* with your servants,

8 Also send me cedar, cypress, and algum timber from Lebanon, since I'm aware that your servants know how to cut down timber from Lebanon. My servants will accompany your servants

8 Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants shall be with thy servants,

9 to prepare timber in abundance for me, for the house which I am about to build *will be* great and wonderful.

9 to prepare timber in abundance for me, for the house which I am about to build *will be* great and wonderful.

9 to prepare an abundant amount of timber for me, because the Temple that I'm building is to be great and awesome.

9 Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great.

10 Now behold, I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand kors of crushed wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil."

10 Now behold, I will give to your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, 20,000 kors of crushed wheat and 20,000 kors of barley, and 20,000 baths of wine and 20,000 baths of oil."

10 "Now look! I will pay your servants, the lumberjacks who prepare the timber, 20,000 measures of barley, 20,000 baths of wine, and 20,000 baths of oil."

10 And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

- The hewers of which would receive 20,000 cors (~125,000 bushels) of ground wheat, 20,000 cors of barley, 20,000 baths (~115,000 gallons) of wine, and 20,000 baths of olive oil (2:8-10)

Hiram's Reply

11 Then Hiram, king of Tyre, answered in a letter sent to Solomon: "Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them."

11 Then Hiram, king of Tyre, answered in a letter sent to Solomon: "Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them."

11 In a letter that he sent to Solomon, King Hiram of Tyre wrote, "Because he loves his people, the LORD has placed you as king over them."

11 Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them.

12 Then Hiram continued, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who **made heaven and earth**, who has given King David a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, who will build a house for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

12 Then Hiram continued, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, who will build a house for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

12 Hiram also wrote:

"Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who made the heavens and the earth. He gave King David a wise son, who is acquainted with discretion and understanding, and who is building a temple to the LORD, as well as a royal palace for himself.

12 Hiram said moreover, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

- "...made heaven and earth" - this was a common identification of the true God when pagans spoke of or were told of Him (2 Chr 36:23; Ezra 1:2; 5:11-12; 6:10; 7:12,21,23; Jer 10:11-12; Acts 4:24; 14:15; 17:24-26; Col 1:16-17; Rev 11:1,6)

- Hiram's reply shows that in Solomon's day, Israel was drawing Gentile nations to *Yahweh* — This was part of God's purpose for Israel and was something the ideal Son of David would accomplish (Ex 19:5-6; Haggai 2:7; Zech 8:22-23)

[v11-12 are not in the parallel passage in 1 Kings 5]

13 "Now then, I am sending Hiram-abi, a skilled man, endowed with understanding,

13 "Now I am sending Hiram-abi, a skilled man, endowed with understanding,

13 Now I'm sending along Hiram-abi, a skilled craftsman, who is very creative.

13 And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's,

14 the son of a Danite woman and a Tyrian father, who knows how to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, *and* in purple, violet, linen, and crimson fabrics, and *who knows how* to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which is assigned to him, *to work* with your skilled workers and with those of my lord, your father David.

14 the son of a Danite woman and a Tyrian father, who knows how to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone and wood, *and* in purple, violet, linen and crimson fabrics, and *who knows how* to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which may be assigned to him, *to work* with your skilled men and with those of my lord David your father.

14 He is the son of a mother from the tribe of Dan, and his father is from Tyre. He's skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and timber, as well as in purple, blue, linen, and crimson materials. He is skilled in engravings, and can craft any design to which he may be assigned. He will work with your skilled artisans and with all of your craftsmen who have been assigned by my lord David, your father.

14 The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father.

- The man whom Hiram chose to send to Solomon was Hiram-Abi, a half-Israelite whose mother was from the tribe of Dan

— Yet, according to 1 Kings 7:14, his "mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali"

— This is an example of ethnic and geographic labels being commingled (this will prove significant when we get to 2 Chr 11)

15 Now then, let my lord send his servants wheat and barley, oil and wine, of which he has spoken.

15 Now then, let my lord send to his servants wheat and barley, oil and wine, of which he has spoken.

15 "So then, may my lord send to his servants the wheat, barley, oil, and wine about which he has spoken.

15 Now therefore the wheat, and the barley, the oil, and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send unto his servants:

16 We will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon and bring it to you as rafts by sea to Joppa, so that you may carry it up to Jerusalem."

16 We will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon and bring it to you on rafts by sea to Joppa, so that you may carry it up to Jerusalem."

16 We'll cut down the timber you need from Lebanon and transport it to you on rafts by sea to Joppa, so you can move it to Jerusalem."

16 And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem.

Solomon's Census

17 Solomon counted all the foreigners who *were* in the land of Israel, following the census which his father David had taken; and 153,600 were found.

17 Solomon numbered all the aliens who *were* in the land of Israel, following the census which his father David had taken; and 153,600 were found.

17 Solomon took a census of all the non-Israeli men who lived in the land of Israel, after the census that his father David had taken, and 153,600 were counted.

17 And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred.

18 He appointed seventy thousand of them to carry loads and eighty thousand to quarry *stones* in the mountains, and 3,600 supervisors to make the people work.

18 He appointed 70,000 of them to carry loads and 80,000 to quarry *stones* in the mountains and 3,600 supervisors to make the people work.

18 He conscripted 70,000 of them to do heavy work, 80,000 to quarry in the hill country, and 3,600 men to supervise the people.

18 And he set threescore and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work.