

# 2 Chronicles 03 - Solomon Builds the Temple; Temple Furnishings; Two Pillars

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

(2) Solomon's temple (2 Chr 2:1—7:22)

(B) Temple construction (2 Chr 3:1—4:22)

## 2 Chronicles 3

(B) Temple construction (2 Chr 3:1—4:22) (Cf. 1 Kings 6:1-38; 7:15-22)

**1** Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on **Mount Moriah**, where *the LORD* had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

**1** Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where *the LORD* had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

**1** So Solomon began construction of the LORD's Temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah where the LORD had appeared to his father David, that is, where David had prepared Ornan the Jebusite's threshing floor.

**1** Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

- "...Mount Moriah" - this site recalls God's provision of a substitute sacrifice for Isaac (Gen 22:2,14). The temple would later stand there, and the high priest would offer a substitute sacrifice for Israel on the Day of Atonement each year.

**2** He began to build on the second *day* in the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

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**2** He began construction on the second day of the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

**2** And he began to build in the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign.

- He waited four years to begin. According to some chronological calculations this would be April-May 966 BC. The project took 7 years, 6 months to complete: Oct-Nov 959 BC (1 Kings 6:37-38).

— The author of 1 and 2 Kings added the interesting fact that this was 480 years after the Exodus, an event which would then be dated at 1446 BC (1 Kings 6:1).

### **Dimensions and Materials of the Temple (Cf. 1 Kings 6:14-38)**

#### **Foundation**

3 Now these are the foundations which Solomon laid for building the house of God. The length in cubits, according to the old standard, was sixty cubits, and the width, twenty cubits.

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3 These are the foundations that Solomon set in place for God's Temple. The length in terms of the former standard measurements: 60 cubits; its width: 20 cubits.

3 Now these are the things wherein Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure was threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.

#### **Porch**

4 The porch which was in front of *the house* was as long as the width of the house, twenty cubits, and the height twenty; and inside he overlaid it with pure gold.

4 The porch which was in front of the house was as long as the width of the house, twenty cubits, and the height 120; and inside he overlaid it with pure gold.

4 A portico extended in front of the Temple for its entire width of 20 cubits, and was 120 cubits high. Inside he had it overlaid with pure gold.

4 And the porch that was in the front of the house, the length of it was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the height was an hundred and twenty: and he overlaid it within with pure gold.

#### **Holy Place (Main Room)**

5 He overlaid the main room with juniper wood and overlaid it with fine gold; and he ornamented it with palm trees and chains.

5 He overlaid the main room with cypress wood and overlaid it with fine gold, and ornamented it with palm trees and chains.

5 The main room of the Temple was trimmed with a wainscoting composed of cypress wood, overlaid with fine gold ornamented with palm trees and chains.

5 And the greater house he cieled with fir tree, which he overlaid with fine gold, and set thereon palm trees and chains.

6 Further, he overlaid the house with precious stones; and the gold was gold from Parvaim.

6 Further, he adorned the house with precious stones; and the gold was gold from Parvaim.

6 The Temple was adorned with precious stones, including gold from the Orient.

6 And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold was gold of Parvaim.

7 He also overlaid the house with gold—the beams, the thresholds, and its walls and doors; and he carved cherubim on the walls.

7 He also overlaid the house with gold—the beams, the thresholds and its walls and its doors; and he carved cherubim on the walls.

7 The Temple was overlaid with gold, including the beams, thresholds, walls, and doors. Cherubim were engraved on the walls.

7 He overlaid also the house, the beams, the posts, and the walls thereof, and the doors thereof, with gold; and graved cherubims on the walls.

### **Holy of Holies**

8 Then he made the room of the Most Holy Place: its length across the width of the house *was* twenty cubits, and its width *was* twenty cubits; and he overlaid it with fine gold, *amounting* to six hundred talents.

8 Now he made the room of the holy of holies: its length across the width of the house *was* twenty cubits, and its width *was* twenty cubits; and he overlaid it with fine gold, *amounting* to 600 talents.

8 With respect to the Most Holy Place in the Temple, its length across the width of the Temple was 20 cubits, and its width extended 20 cubits.

### **Materials of the Temple**

Solomon overlaid it with 600 talents of pure gold.

8 And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents.

- 600 talents of gold = 46,000 lbs (23 tons); this gold was used just to overlay the Holy of Holies

9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. He also overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

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9 The gold nails weighed 50 shekels. He also overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

9 And the weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold.

### **Temple Furnishings (Cf. 1 Kings 7:13-51)**

10 Then he made two sculptured cherubim in the room of the Most Holy Place and overlaid them with gold.

10 Then he made two sculptured cherubim in the room of the holy of holies and overlaid them with gold.

10 He crafted two cherubim from wood, overlaid them with gold, and placed them in the Most Holy Place in the Temple.

10 And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold.

11 The wingspan of the cherubim *was* twenty cubits; the wing of one, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and *its* other wing, of five cubits, touched the wing of the other cherub.

11 The wingspan of the cherubim *was* twenty cubits; the wing of one, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and *its* other wing, of five cubits, touched the wing of the other cherub.

11 The wingspan of the cherubim was 20 cubits; the wing of one, five cubits long, touched the wall of the Temple, and its other wing, five cubits long, touched the wing of the other cherub.

11 And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.

12 The wing of the other cherub, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house; and *its* other wing, of five cubits, was attached to the wing of the first cherub.

12 The wing of the other cherub, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house; and *its* other wing of five cubits was attached to the wing of the first cherub.

12 The wing of the other cherub, five cubits long, touched the opposite wall of the Temple and its other wing, five cubits long, touched the wing of the first cherub.

12 And one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was five cubits also, joining to the wing of the other cherub.

13 The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits, and they stood on their feet facing the *main* room.

13 The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits, and they stood on their feet facing the *main* room.

13 The wings of these cherubim extended for 20 cubits as they stood on their feet and faced the front of the Temple.

13 The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces were inward.

- The cherubim evidently stood against the back (west) wall of the temple and faced east toward the Ark

14 He made the **veil** of violet, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and he worked cherubim into it.

14 He made the veil of violet, purple, crimson and fine linen, and he worked cherubim on it.

14 He constructed the veil from blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, embroidering cherubim on it.

14 And he made the vail of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon.

- "...veil" - separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies; also present in the Tabernacle (Ex 26:31-35)

**15** He also made two pillars for the front of the house, thirty-five cubits high, and the capital on the top of each was five cubits.

**15** He also made two pillars for the front of the house, thirty-five cubits high, and the capital on the top of each was five cubits.

**15** He also made two pillars 35 cubits high for the front of the Temple, topped by a capital that was five cubits high.

**15** Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits high, and the chapter that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.

- The pillars were freestanding objects that served as visual aids designed to emphasize God's faithfulness and strength in establishing Israel (Cf. 1 Kings 7:21; 2 Chr 7:16)

— They were probably 18 rather than 35 cubits high (1 Kings 7:15)

— One explanation of this alleged discrepancy is suggested by the NIV which supplies the word "together" in 2 Chr 3:15. The thought is that when the heights of the two pillars are added together they total 35 cubits. This is a close (though not exact) harmonization because two pillars of 18 cubits each total 36, not 35.

— Another solution suggests that the Hebrew figures for 18 and 35 are so similar that a scribe copying v15 could easily have read 35 when the text actually said 18

— Architecturally it seems more reasonable that the pillars would be in line with or less than the height of the temple, not towering far above it. The temple height was 30 cubits (45ft,

Cf. 6:2), so each pillar may have been 18 cubits (27ft) not 35 cubits (52-1/2ft) (Cf. 2 Chr 3:15-17; Jer 52:21-23)

— Other sources suggest that the pillars flanking the entrance to the court were 52ft high, with the crown or capital measuring 7-1/2ft. They appear to have been for ornamentation only. Around the top each had decorative chains from which pomegranates were suspended.

16 He made chains in the inner sanctuary and placed *them* on the tops of the pillars; and he made a hundred pomegranates and placed *them* on the chains.

16 He made chains in the inner sanctuary and placed *them* on the tops of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates and placed *them* on the chains.

16 He crafted chains for the inner sanctuary and placed them on top of the pillars, attaching 100 pomegranates to each of the chains.

16 And he made chains, as in the oracle, and put them on the heads of the pillars; and made an hundred pomegranates, and put them on the chains.

17 He erected the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right and the other on the left, and named the one on the right **Jachin** and the one on the left **Boaz**.

17 He erected the pillars in front of the temple, one on the right and the other on the left, and named the one on the right Jachin and the one on the left Boaz.

17 He set up the pillars at the front of the Temple, one on the south side of the entrance and the other on the north side of the entrance. He named the south pillar Jachin and the north pillar Boaz.

17 And he reared up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

- "...Jachin" - means "He shall establish"

- "...Boaz" - means "In it is strength"

— These pillars served as visual aids designed to emphasize God's faithfulness and strength in establishing Israel (Cf. 1 Kings 7:21; 2 Chr 7:16)