

2 Chronicles 08 - Solomon's Years of Conquest; Solomon Takes a Pagan Girlfriend

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

(3) Solomon 's prosperous reign (2 Chr 8:1—9:31)

(A) His kingdom (8:1-18)

(a) Cities (8:1-6)

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2 Chronicles 8

(3) Solomon 's prosperous reign (2 Chr 8:1—9:31) (Cf. 1 Kings 9:10-28)

(A) His kingdom (8:1-18)

(a) Cities (8:1-6)

1 Now it came about at the end of the **twenty years** in which Solomon had built the house of the LORD and his own house,

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1 It took Solomon 20 years to build the LORD's Temple and his own palace.

1 And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the LORD, and his own house,

- "...twenty years" - 24 years after Solomon's reign began (~946 BC)

2 that he built the cities which Hiram had given him, and settled the sons of Israel there.

2 that he built the cities which Hiram had given to him, and settled the sons of Israel there.

2 During this time, he also rebuilt the towns that Hiram had restored to him, and he settled Israelis in them.

2 That the cities which Hiram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there.

- These cities were within the boundaries of the Promised Land, they had never been conquered, so Solomon gave Hiram the right to settle them
— Hiram, however, returned the Galilean cities to Solomon because they were unacceptably poor. Solomon improved them and settled Israelites there (Cf. 1 Kings 9:10-14)

3 Then Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and captured it.

3 Then Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and captured it.

3 After this, Solomon traveled to Hamath-zobah and captured it.

3 And Solomon went to Hamath-zobah, and prevailed against it.

- Verses 3-6 outline additional military campaigns and building projects not mentioned in 1 Kings 9

— This is the only reference in Chronicles of Solomon's military activity; everywhere else his image is that of a peaceful king (1 Chr 22:9)

- He was building storage places for his commercial enterprises and fortifying his borders to secure his kingdom from invasion

4 He built Tadmor in the wilderness and all the storage cities which he had built in Hamath.

4 He built Tadmor in the wilderness and all the storage cities which he had built in Hamath.

4 Then he rebuilt Tadmor in the desert, along with supply centers that he had built in Hamath.

4 And he built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the store cities, which he built in Hamath.

- Cf. 1 Kings 9:10-14: these towns, 20 in all, had originally been given by Solomon to Hiram, but Hiram was displeased with them. The Chronicler was possibly referring to the return of these rejected towns to Solomon who then restored them.

- At that time Solomon began his conquest of foreign states, commencing with the Aramean city of Hamath Zobah, almost 300 miles N of Jerusalem

— He then refortified Tadmor (later known as Palmyra), a desert oasis trading center on the main highway from Mesopotamia, about 150 miles NE of Damascus

5 He also built upper Beth-horon and lower Beth-horon, *which were* fortified cities *with* walls, gates, and bars;

5 He also built upper Beth-horon and lower Beth-horon, fortified cities *with* walls, gates and bars;

5 He also built upper and lower Beth-horon as fortified cities, installing walls, gates, and bars,

5 Also he built Beth-Horon the upper, and Beth-Horon the nether, fenced cities, with walls, gates, and bars;

6 and Baalath and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the cities for his chariots and cities for his horsemen, and everything that it pleased Solomon to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, and all the land under his rule.

6 and Baalath and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the cities for his chariots and cities for his horsemen, and all that it pleased Solomon to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land under his rule.

6 and he rebuilt Baalath and its supply centers that belonged to Solomon, along with all the cities that he utilized to garrison his chariots and cavalry forces. Solomon was pleased also to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in every territory that he controlled.

6 And Baalath, and all the store cities that Solomon had, and all the chariot cities, and the cities of the horsemen, and all that Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and throughout all the land of his dominion.

- Beth Horon was about 10 miles NW of Jerusalem on the border between Judah and the Northern tribes (Joshua 18:13)

- Baalath was in the territory of Dan (Joshua 19:44)

- The other unnamed cities probably include Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer (Cf. 1 Kings 9:15f)

(b) Subjects (8:7-11) (Cf. 1 Kings 9:20-22)

7 All of the people who were left of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of Israel,

7 All of the people who were left of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were not of Israel,

7 All of the survivors who remained living in the land but who were not Israelis (including Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites)

7 As for all the people that were left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which were not of Israel,

8 *that is*, from their descendants who were left after them in the land, whom the sons of Israel had not destroyed, Solomon raised them as forced laborers to this day.

8 *namely*, from their descendants who were left after them in the land whom the sons of Israel had not destroyed, them Solomon raised as forced laborers to this day.

8 were descendants of the nations whom the people of Israel had not eliminated. Solomon put them to work as conscripted laborers, which they continue to do to this day.

8 But of their children, who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel consumed not, them did Solomon make to pay tribute until this day.

- Solomon conscripted his forced labor from among non-Israelite population groups still living in the land
- The Israelites were exempted from such drudgery, serving instead in the army and as labor foremen
- The 250 supervisors were only Israelites whereas the 550 officials in 1 Kings 9:23 probably included Canaanite foremen as well
- In addition to the 250, Solomon had 3,600 other foremen (2 Chr 2:18), a total of 3,850, which equals 3,300 (1 Kings 5:16) plus 550 (1 Kings 9:23)

9 But Solomon did not make slaves from the sons of Israel for his work; for they were men of war, his chief captains and commanders of his chariots and his horsemen.

9 But Solomon did not make slaves for his work from the sons of Israel; they were men of war, his chief captains and commanders of his chariots and his horsemen.

9 However, Solomon never made conscripted laborers from among the Israelis, but they did serve as his army, as his chief captains, and as commanders in charge of his chariots and cavalry.

9 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no servants for his work; but they were men of war, and chief of his captains, and captains of his chariots and horsemen.

10 These were the chief officers of King Solomon, 250 who ruled over the people.

10 These were the chief officers of King Solomon, two hundred and fifty who ruled over the people.

10 King Solomon appointed 250 chief officers to command his army.

10 And these were the chief of king Solomon's officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.

Solomon Takes an Egyptian Wife (Cf. 1 Kings 9:24)

11 Then Solomon brought **Pharaoh's daughter** up from the city of David to the house which he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not live in the house of David king of Israel, because the places where the ark of the LORD has entered are holy."

11 Then Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the city of David to the house which he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy where the ark of the LORD has entered."

11 Later, Solomon moved Pharaoh's daughter from the City of David to the palace that he had constructed to house her, because he reasoned, "My wife isn't going to live in the palace where King David of Israel lived, because wherever the ark of the LORD entered is holy."

11 And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come.

- "...Pharaoh's daughter" - 1 Kings 3:1 mentions the marriage and the fact that Solomon brought her to Jerusalem until he could build a house for her

— Until that palace was built, Solomon lived in David's palace, but did not allow her to do so, because she was a heathen and because the ark of God had once been in David's house.

— He surely knew his marriage to this pagan did not please God (Deut 7:3-4)

— Eventually, his pagan wives caused tragic consequences (1 Kings 11:1-11)

(c) Sacrifices (8:12-13) (Cf. 1 Kings 9:25)

12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD which he had built in front of the porch;

12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD which he had built before the porch;

12 Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the LORD's altar that he had built in front of the porch of the Temple,

12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch,

- A final political achievement by Solomon was the relocation of his wife, the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt (Pharaoh Siamun of Dynasty 21?), from David's old palace on Mount Zion (the City of David; Cf. 1 Kings 3:1; 1 Chr 11:5) to her new palace on the temple mount (Cf. 1 Kings 7:8; 9:24).

— The reason given is that she, an Egyptian, would profane David's palace, which at one time had such close connection with the ark of the covenant.

13 and *he did so* according to the daily rule, offering *them* up according to the commandment of Moses, for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the three annual feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths.

13 and *did so* according to the daily rule, offering *them* up according to the commandment of Moses, for the sabbaths, the new moons and the three annual feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Booths.

13 acting in compliance with the daily rule by offering them in conformity to commands issued by Moses for the Sabbaths, the New Moons, the three annual festivals (the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Tents).

13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year,

even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

- 2 Chronicles does not mention Solomon's introduction of pagan shrines and worship, a point stressed in 1 Kings 11:1-13

(d) Priests and Levites (8:14-16)

14 Now according to the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their service, and the Levites for their duties of praise and ministering before the priests according to the daily rule, and the gatekeepers by their divisions at every gate; for this is what David, the man of God, had commanded.

14 Now according to the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their service, and the Levites for their duties of praise and ministering before the priests according to the daily rule, and the gatekeepers by their divisions at every gate; for David the man of God had so commanded.

14 Following proscriptions laid down by his father David, Solomon appointed divisions of priests for their service as well as descendants of Levi for duties of praise and ministry before the priests consistent with the daily rules. Furthermore, because David, the man of God, had commanded it, Solomon also appointed gatekeepers to serve by divisions at every gate of the Temple.

14 And he appointed, according to the order of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their charges, to praise and minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required: the porters also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded.

15 And they did not deviate from the commandment of the king to the priests and Levites in any matter or regarding the storehouses.

15 And they did not depart from the commandment of the king to the priests and Levites in any manner or concerning the storehouses.

15 They scrupulously adhered to the orders issued by the king to the priests and descendants of Levi in everything, including matters pertaining to operation of the treasuries.

15 And they departed not from the commandment of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasuries.

- V12-15 expands on 1 Kings 9:25, and indicates that Solomon was, in spite of his disobedience in marriage, still faithful to the religious practices required in the temple.

Work on the Temple is Completed

16 So all the work of Solomon was carried out from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was completed.

16 Thus all the work of Solomon was carried out from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was completed.

16 And so Solomon completed all of the work, from the day that the foundation stone of the LORD's Temple was laid until the LORD's Temple was completely finished.

16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was perfected.

(e) Navy (8:17-18) (Cf. 1 Kings 9:26-28)

17 Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and to Eloth on the seashore in the land of Edom.

17 Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and to Eloth on the seashore in the land of Edom.

17 After this, Solomon visited Ezion-geber and Elath at the seashore in the land of Edom.

17 Then went Solomon to Ezion-geber, and to Elath, at the sea side in the land of Edom.

18 And by his servants Hiram sent him ships and servants who knew the sea; and they went with Solomon's servants to Ophir and took from there 450 talents of gold, and brought it to King Solomon.

18 And Hiram by his servants sent him ships and servants who knew the sea; and they went with Solomon's servants to Ophir, and took from there four hundred and fifty talents of gold and brought them to King Solomon.

18 Hiram sent Solomon ships and servants who were expert mariners, and they sailed with Solomon's servants to Ophir, where they brought back 450 talents of gold for Solomon.

18 And Hiram sent him by the hands of his servants ships, and servants that had knowledge of the sea; and they went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and took thence four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

Solomon's Maritime Empire

Much of Solomon's prosperity was due to his maritime industry, an enterprise he was able to undertake with Phoenician help. Operating out of Ezion Geber and Elath, seaports on the eastern arm of the Red Sea (known today as the Gulf of Aqaba or Gulf of Eilat), his and Hiram's sailors sailed to distant points such as the land of Ophir (Cf. 1 Chr 29:4) whence they imported 450 talents of gold (ca. 17 tons, or 34,000 pounds), apparently on one voyage (1 Kings 9:28 has 420 talents, ca. 16 tons. One of the two figures may be due to a copyist confusing the two similar-looking Hebrew letters for 450 and 420.)