

# 1 KINGS 7:1-51

## "FURNISHING MY FATHER'S HOUSE"



A structure with three levels was built around the walls of the temple. The lower chamber was 7.5 feet (2.3 m) wide, the middle chamber was 9 feet (2.7 m) wide, and the upper chamber was 10.5 feet (3.2 m) wide (1 Kings 6:5-6, 8, 10).

Two ornate wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the inner sanctuary from the nave (1 Kings 6:31-32).

The nave had decorative windows with recessed frames (1 Kings 6:4).

The vestibule was 30 feet (9.1 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep (1 Kings 6:3; cf. 2 Chron. 3:4).

The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "boaz," and the one on the south was called "jachin" (1 Kings 7:21; cf. 2 Chron. 3:17).

Two ornate wooden, folding doors, overlaid with gold, separated the nave from the vestibule (1 Kings 6:33-35).

The inner sanctuary (for Most Holy Place) was a 30-foot (9.1 m) cube (1 Kings 6:15-20; 2 Chron. 3:8-10). Such rooms were often reserved in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubim stood on either side of the ark, each 15 feet (4.6 m) tall with 15-foot (4.6 m) wingspan (1 Kings 6:23-26). The ark of the covenant stood between the two cherubim (1 Kings 8:1-11; cf. 2 Chron. 5:2-14).

The nave (or Holy Place) was 60 feet (18 m) long and 30 feet (9.1 m) wide (1 Kings 6:15, 17-18; cf. 2 Chron. 3:5-7). It contained the golden altar of incense; the golden table for the bread of the Presence; and 10 golden lampstands, five on the north and five on the south (1 Kings 7:14-46; cf. 2 Chron. 4:7).

Ten bronze wheeled stands, each holding a large basin, contained water for rinsing off the animal parts that were used for the burnt offerings (1 Kings 7:27-28; cf. 2 Chron. 4:6).

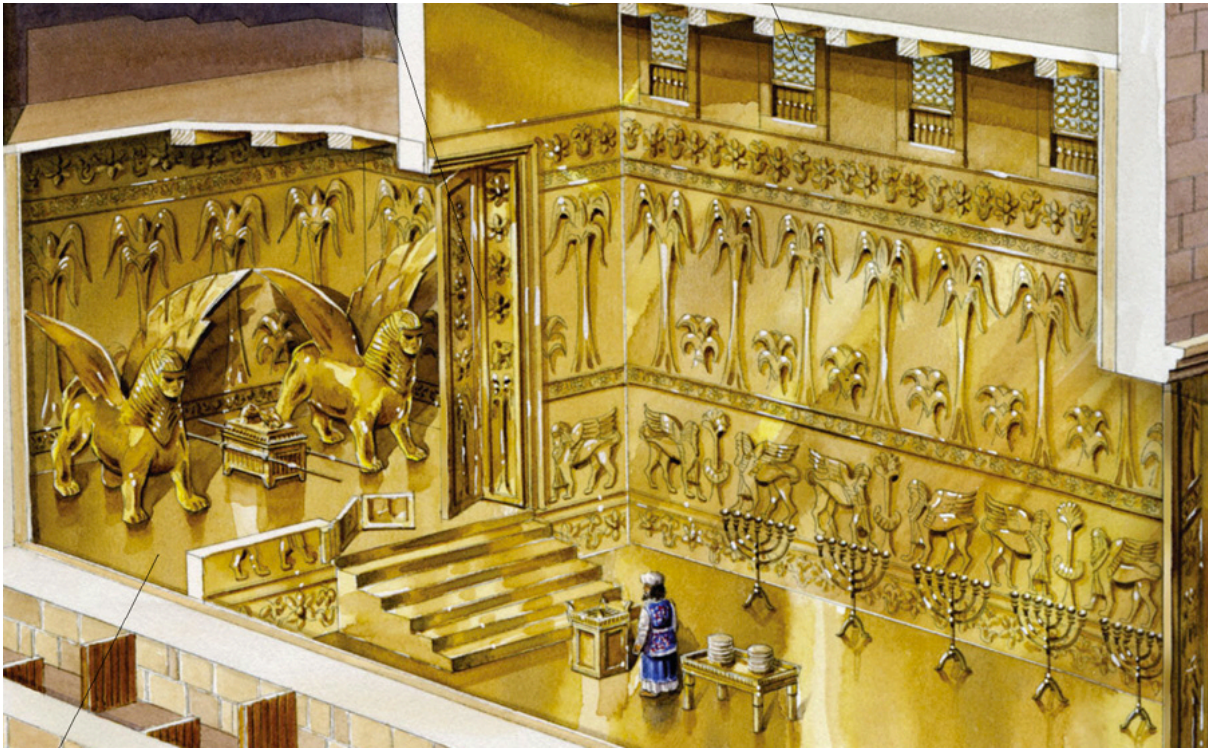
The "sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet (2.3 m) high and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons (44,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by 12 bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kings 7:23-26; cf. 2 Chron. 4:2-5).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet (4.6 m) high and 30 feet (9.1 m) long and wide (cf. 2 Chron. 4:1).

**Temple Architectural Plan**

**SOLOMON'S TEMPLE**

Solomon began to build "the house of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the spring of 967 or 966 B.C. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chron. 3:1-2) and completed it seven years later, in the fall of 960 or 959 (1 Kings 6:38). The temple itself, not including the surrounding chambers on three sides, was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 30 feet (9.1 m) wide, and 45 feet (14 m) high. It stood in the middle of a court with boundary walls.



**1** But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.

- 7 years to build the Temple – 13 years to build his own house.
- The Prophet Haggai warned Judah of misplaced priorities
  - Building for themselves while the sanctuary lay in dis-repair.
  - **Consider your ways!**

**Haggai 1:3–7**

**3** Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,

**4** “Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?”

**5** Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!

**6** “**You have sown much, and bring in little;**

**You eat, but do not have enough;**

**You drink, but you are not filled with drink;**

**You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;**

**And he who earns wages,**

**Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.”**

**7** Thus says the LORD of hosts: “**Consider your ways!**

**Matthew 6:33** But seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**2** He also built **the House of the Forest of Lebanon**; its length was one hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits, with four rows of cedar pillars, and cedar beams on the pillars.

**3** And it was paneled with cedar above the beams that were on forty-five pillars, fifteen to a row.

4 There were windows with beveled frames in three rows, and window was opposite window in three tiers.

5 And all the doorways and doorposts had rectangular frames; and window was opposite window in three tiers.



- No stated purpose for this building given

- **Why build it? – Because he could!**

- **The floor space was 11,250 square feet, more than four times the 2,700 square feet of the temple floor (cf. 6:2).**<sup>1</sup>

- Bridge to nowhere

- Hall that leads to nowhere

- An extreme expense for no purpose other than decoration?

- **Large Gold shields – 600 shekels each**

- **Smaller shields – 300 shekels each**

- **Throne of Ivory – over laid with Gold**

- Gold Lion at each armrest

- Gold Lion at each step leading to the throne

- 12 Lions all together

- **Every drinking vessel made of pure gold**

**2 Chronicles 9:15–20**

**15** And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of hammered gold went into each shield.

**16** He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas L. Constable, "1 Kings," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 500–502.

17 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

18 The throne had six steps, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests.

19 Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

20 All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.

- **Hezekiah loved his wealth he inherited from David and Solomon.**

**Isaiah 39:2-7**

2 And Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

3 Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, “What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?” So Hezekiah said, “They came to me from a far country, from Babylon.”

4 And he said, “What have they seen in your house?” So Hezekiah answered, “They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them.”

5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

6 **Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,’ says the LORD.**

7 ‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’ ”

**Lucy and My fire in Corcoran, CA, 1980:**

- Everything we owned
- My little 1960 Porsche Roadster – would be worth over \$200k today
- All our clothes
- Our piano
  - **All burnt to the ground**

- All for the purpose of putting things in order:

**Psalm 27:4-5**

4 **One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek:** That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

6 He also made **the Hall of Pillars**: its length was fifty cubits, and its width thirty cubits; and in front of them was a portico with pillars, and a canopy was in front of them.

7 Then he made a hall for the throne, **the Hall of Judgment**, where he might judge; and it was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling.

**8** And the house where he dwelt had another court inside the hall, of like workmanship. Solomon also made **a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter**, whom he had taken as wife.  
**9** All these were of costly stones cut to size, trimmed with saws, inside and out, from the foundation to the eaves, and also on the outside to the great court.  
**10** The foundation was of costly stones, large stones, some ten cubits and some eight cubits.  
**11** And above were costly stones, hewn to size, and cedar wood.  
**12** The great court was enclosed with three rows of hewn stones and a row of cedar beams. So were the inner court of the house of the LORD and the vestibule of the temple.

- Hall of the Cedar Forest of Lebanon
- Hall of Pillars
- Hall of Judgment
- Hall of the Pagan Wife
  - Where's Abishag's house?
  - More favored than Abishag?
    - No mention of building a special house and certainly could not have built every (1000 wives and concubines) a special house.

## AND – it all burned to the ground!

### **2 Kings 21:13–14**

**13** And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.  
**14** So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies,

### **Luke 19:43–44**

**43** For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,  
**44** and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

**13** Now King Solomon sent and brought **Huram from Tyre**.

- **Huram** (a variant spelling of the Heb. Hiram) should not be confused with Hiram, the king of Tyre (5:1).<sup>2</sup>

**14** He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.

**15** And he cast two pillars of bronze, each one eighteen cubits high, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of each.

**16** Then he made two capitals of cast bronze, to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits.

**17** He made a lattice network, with wreaths of chainwork, for the capitals which were on top of the pillars: seven chains for one capital and seven for the other capital.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas L. Constable, “1 Kings,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 502.

**18** So he made the pillars, and two rows of pomegranates above the network all around to cover the capitals that were on top; and thus he did for the other capital.

**19** The capitals which were on top of the pillars in the hall were in the shape of lilies, four cubits.

**20** The capitals on the two pillars also had pomegranates above, by the convex surface which was next to the network; and there were two hundred such pomegranates in rows on each of the capitals all around.

**21** Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple;

**he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz.**

**22** The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. So the work of the pillars was finished.

- **Jakin**, the name of the **south** pillar, means “He [Yahweh] establishes,” and **Boaz**, the name of the **north** pillar, means “In Him [Yahweh] is strength.”<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Thomas L. Constable, “1 Kings,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 502.

**23** And he made **the Sea** of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

**24** Below its brim were ornamental buds encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The ornamental buds were cast in two rows when it was cast.

**25** **It stood on twelve oxen**: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward.

**26** It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained two thousand baths.

- 15 foot diameter
- 7 ½ feet tall
  - Holding approx. 17,500 gallons of water
- **2 Chronicles 4:5** It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths.
- A huge basin sitting on the backs of 12 Bronze Bulls



**27** He also made ten carts of bronze; four cubits was the length of each cart, four cubits its width, and three cubits its height.

**28** And this was the design of the carts: They had panels, and the panels were between frames;

**29** on the panels that were between the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. And on the frames was a pedestal on top. Below the lions and oxen were wreaths of plaited work.

**30** Every cart had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and its four feet had supports. Under the laver were supports of cast bronze beside each wreath.

**31** Its opening inside the crown at the top was one cubit in diameter; and the opening was round, shaped like a pedestal, one and a half cubits in outside diameter; and also on the opening were engravings, but the panels were square, not round.

**32** Under the panels were the four wheels, and the axles of the wheels were joined to the cart. The height of a wheel was one and a half cubits.

**33** The workmanship of the wheels was like the workmanship of a chariot wheel; their axle pins, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all of cast bronze.

**34** And there were four supports at the four corners of each cart; its supports were part of the cart itself.

**35** On the top of the cart, at the height of half a cubit, it was perfectly round. And on the top of the cart, its flanges and its panels were of the same casting.

**36** On the plates of its flanges and on its panels he engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, wherever there was a clear space on each, with wreaths all around.

**37** Thus he made the ten carts. All of them were of the same mold, one measure, and one shape.

**38** Then he made **ten lavers of bronze**; each laver contained forty baths, and each laver was four cubits. On each of the ten carts was a laver.

**39** And he put five carts on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house. He set the Sea on the right side of the house, toward the southeast.

- These carts were apparently for butchering animals around the courtyard
  - 6 feet square is size
  - Holding about 230 gallons of water
- Almost a ton of weight including the cart of bronze!
  - 5 stationed on the south side of the Temple
  - 5 stationed on the north side



**40** Hiram made the lavers and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing all the work that he was to do for King Solomon for the house of the LORD:

**41** the two pillars, the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the pillars;

**42** four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the pillars);

**43** the ten carts, and ten lavers on the carts;

**44** one Sea, and twelve oxen under the Sea;



**45** the pots, the shovels, and the bowls. All these articles which Hiram made for King Solomon for the house of the LORD were of burnished bronze.

**46** In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zaretan.

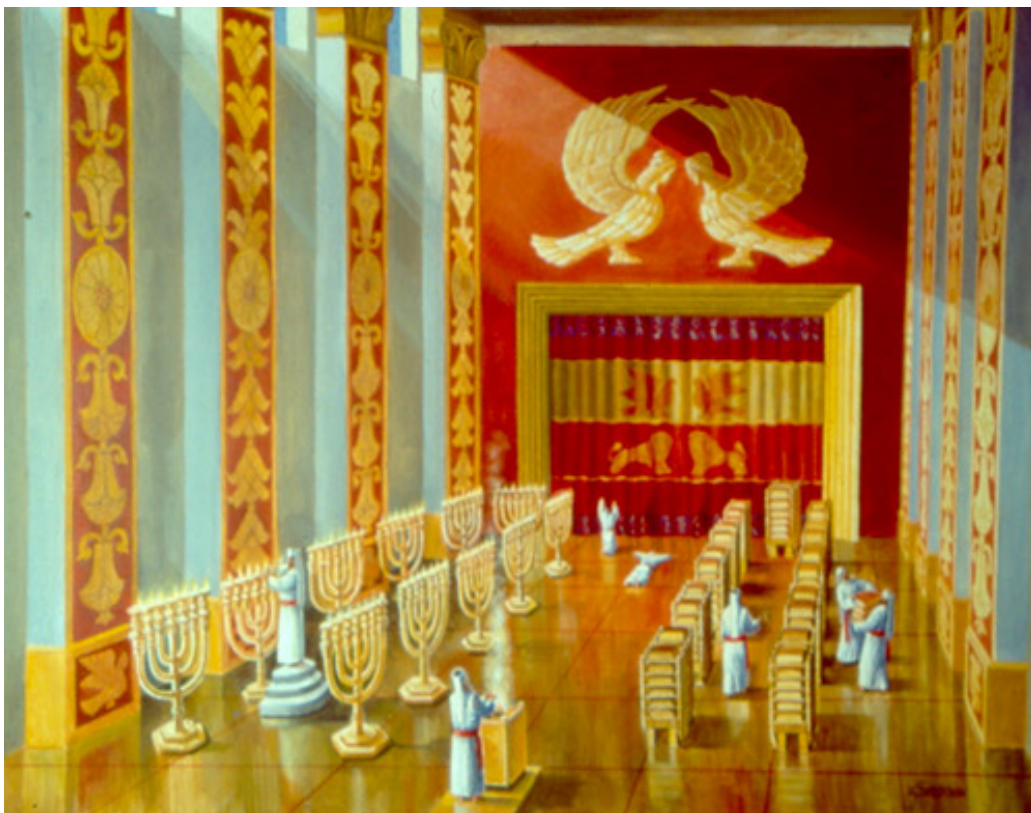
**47** And Solomon did not weigh all the articles, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

- It seemed that Bronze was so abundant that they didn't even bother to weigh or estimate how much was used.

**48** Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold on which was the showbread;

**49** the lampstands of pure gold, five on the right side and five on the left in front of the inner sanctuary, with the flowers and the lamps and the wick-trimmers of gold;

**50** the basins, the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner room (the Most Holy Place) and for the doors of the main hall of the temple.



**51** So all the work that King Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and the furnishings. He put them in the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

- Whereas the tabernacle had one lampstand, the temple had 10 **lampstands** in the holy place (**the main hall**). Other items were all of **gold** as well, including even the door **sockets**.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Thomas L. Constable, "1 Kings," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 503.

- **David had weighed what he had prepared for the Temple:**  
**1 Chronicles 22:14** Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD **one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver**, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them.
- **1 Talent of gold = 60 pounds of Gold!**
  - Gold: 16 ounces to a pound X 60 pounds X 100,000 X \$1,200 = **1 trillion, 152 million dollars of gold**
  - Silver: 16 ounces X 60 pounds X 1,000,000 X \$17 = **16 billion, 320 million dollars of silver**