

The Construction of Other Buildings in Solomon's Royal Complex

1 Kings 7

1 Kings 7:1-12 - *"But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house. 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. And it was paneled with cedar above the beams that were on forty-five pillars, fifteen to a row. There were windows with beveled frames in three rows, and window was opposite window in three tiers. And all the doorways and doorposts had rectangular frames; and window was opposite window in three tiers. 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. 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. 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.*

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. The foundation was of costly stones, large stones, some ten cubits and some eight cubits. And above were costly stones, hewn to size, and cedar wood. 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."

Background Notes

1 Kings 7 describes the construction of several other buildings, besides the Temple. Solomon's own palace (v1) and the House of the Forest of Lebanon (v2). This building was four times the size of the Temple, and was probably an armory. Solomon also built the Hall of Pillars or Columns (v6). This hall led to the Hall of Judgment that housed his throne (v7). All these buildings seemed to be interconnected, and were surrounded by a great court, which included the Temple. This was Solomon's Temple/Palace complex.

Doctrinal Points

1. The importance of Solomon's Temple prefigures the importance of the Lord's work.

The Temple certainly was the focal point of attention in the complex of buildings built by Solomon. And there's a lesson here for us here. How important is the Lord's work to us? Where is the Lord's work placed on our priority list?

The “Lord’s work” can include everything - from our daily quiet time to our involvement in Christian service. The importance of Solomon’s Temple prefigures the importance of the Lord’s work.

2. The pillars of Solomon’s temple prefigure the pillars of the Holy Spirit’s temple.

1 Kings 7:13-22 - “Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. 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. And he cast two pillars of bronze, each one eighteen cubits high, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of each. 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. He made a lattice network, with wreaths of chainwork, for the capitals that were on top of the pillars: seven chains for one capital and seven for the other capital. 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.

The capitals that were on top of the pillars in the hall were in the shape of lilies, four cubits. The capitals on the two pillars also had pomegranates above, by the convex surface that was next to the network; and there were two hundred such pomegranates in rows on each of the capitals all around. 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. The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. So the work of the pillars was finished.”

“Hiram” (v13) is not the same man as King “Hiram” of Tyre in 1 Kings 5. Hiram was the master craftsman who made two large bronze pillars that were placed right at the entrance of the Temple. These pillars were named “Jachin” and “Boaz.” Jachin means “He will establish,” and Boaz means “In Him in strength.”

As you know, biblical names have significance. Those pillars certainly testified to the fact that God had established the nation of Israel. His dwelling place was in their midst, and He was their strength.

These two pillars may prefigure the pillars of the Temple of the Holy Spirit today. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says that all believers together, as the Church, are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The Lord Himself, not any human leader, has **established** the Church (Pillar 1). Every living stone is in it. And the Lord Himself, not any human, is our **Strength**. He is the strength of the Church (Pillar 2).

The fact that pomegranates, a fruit, were prominent atop the pillars may also be part of the picture here. God expects to see the fruit of the Spirit prominent in His Temple today. The pillars of Solomon’s Temple prefigure the pillars of the Holy Spirit’s Temple.

3. The glory of Solomon's temple prefigures the glory of Christ's kingdom.

1 Kings 7:23-51 - *"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. 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. 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. 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.*

He also made ten carts of bronze; four cubits was the length of each cart, four cubits its width, and three cubits its height. And this was the design of the carts: They had panels, and the panels were between frames; 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. And there were four supports at the four corners of each cart; its supports were part of the cart itself. 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. 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. Thus he made the ten carts. All of them were of the same mold, one measure, and one shape.

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. 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. 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: 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; 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); the ten carts, and ten lavers on the carts; one Sea, and twelve oxen under the Sea; the pots, the shovels, and the bowls. All these articles that Hiram made for King Solomon for the house of the LORD were of burnished bronze. In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zaretan. And Solomon did not weigh all the articles, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

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; 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; 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.

So all the work that King Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things that 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.”

As we read these verses, we can't help but be impressed with the grandeur of the Temple and its furnishings! Compared to the Tabernacle in the wilderness, there was much more gold in the Temple. In fact, **everything** was more elaborate and glorious in the Temple! Remember - in the Bible, gold often speaks of divine righteousness.

All the glory and grandeur of Solomon's Temple prefigure the glory of Christ's kingdom. Ezekiel 40-48 says that when the Lord returns to this earth and sets up His headquarters in Jerusalem, there will be a new Temple, and the glory of the Lord will return to that Temple. The glory of Solomon's temple prefigures the glory of Christ's kingdom.

Practical Application

Let's use our skills and talents for the Lord!

Look again at the description of Hiram in verse 14: "...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."

Who filled Hiram with "*wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work*"? Obviously, it was the Lord! But **the Lord used Hiram's background as well**. Hiram's father certainly taught him a few things about working with bronze, preparing Hiram to use his skill and talent for the Lord.

What a lesson for us! We all have skills and talents. We've all got backgrounds; we've all learned how to do something. 1 Corinthians 4:7 says, "What do you have that you did not receive?" In His sovereignty, the Lord has planned and programmed our skills, our talents, and our knowledge for His use.

Our responsibility is to use our skills and talents for the Lord. Look around you. There's work to be done. Your abilities are needed! Let's use our skills and talents for the Lord!