

Read the Bible in A Year: Chronological

Psalm 50, 73-83

1 Chronicles 29:23-25; 2 Chronicles 1:1-7:10;

1 Kings 2:13-2:13-3:14; 5:1-18; 7:1-8:66

Readings for May 17-23, 2020

At this point in Israel's history, many accounts are recorded in 1 and 2 Kings and in 1 and 2 Chronicles. In this packet, passages from 1 or 2 Chronicles will be in regular type and those from 1 or 2 Kings will be in italic type. There will also be readings from Psalms that were written in these points in Israel's history. These psalms will be center aligned and in a different font to set them apart. This all allows you to see how these stories are repeated and how they all work together to give a more complete history...

We begin with a series of Psalms attributed to Asaph, a prominent Levite singer and seer in King David's court. He is described in Chronicles as the chief of the Levites appointed to minister before the Ark of the Lord.

Psalm 50- A Psalm of Asaph

The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.
From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth.
Our God comes
and will not be silent;
a fire devours before him,
and around him a tempest rages.
He summons the heavens above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:
"Gather to me this consecrated people,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice."
And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,
for he is a God of justice.
"Listen, my people, and I will speak;
I will testify against you, Israel:
I am God, your God.
I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices
or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me.
I have no need of a bull from your stall
or of goats from your pens,
for every animal of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know every bird in the mountains,
and the insects in the fields are mine.
If I were hungry I would not tell you,

for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
“Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,
and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”
But to the wicked person, God says:
“What right have you to recite my laws
or take my covenant on your lips?
You hate my instruction
and cast my words behind you.
When you see a thief, you join with him;
you throw in your lot with adulterers.
You use your mouth for evil
and harness your tongue to deceit.
You sit and testify against your brother
and slander your own mother’s son.
When you did these things and I kept silent,
you thought I was exactly like you.
But I now arraign you
and set my accusations before you.
“Consider this, you who forget God,
or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you:
Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me,
and to the blameless I will show my salvation.”

Psalm 73- A Psalm of Asaph.

Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.

They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.
Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.
From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.
They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.
Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.

Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.
They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"

This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.

If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.
When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply
till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.

Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.
How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!
They are like a dream when one awakes;
when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.

When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,
I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.

Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.
You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.

Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.

Psalm 74 -A Psalm of Asaph

O God, why have you rejected us forever?
Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of your pasture?
Remember the nation you purchased long ago,
the people of your inheritance, whom you redeemed—
Mount Zion, where you dwelt.
Turn your steps toward these everlasting ruins,
all this destruction the enemy has brought on the sanctuary.

Your foes roared in the place where you met with us;
they set up their standards as signs.
They behaved like men wielding axes
to cut through a thicket of trees.
They smashed all the carved paneling
with their axes and hatchets.
They burned your sanctuary to the ground;
they defiled the dwelling place of your Name.
They said in their hearts, “We will crush them completely!”
They burned every place where God was worshiped in the land.

We are given no signs from God;
no prophets are left,
and none of us knows how long this will be.
How long will the enemy mock you, God?
Will the foe revile your name forever?
Why do you hold back your hand, your right hand?
Take it from the folds of your garment and destroy them!

But God is my King from long ago;
he brings salvation on the earth.

It was you who split open the sea by your power;
you broke the heads of the monster in the waters.
It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan
and gave it as food to the creatures of the desert.
It was you who opened up springs and streams;
you dried up the ever-flowing rivers.
The day is yours, and yours also the night;
you established the sun and moon.
It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth;
you made both summer and winter.

Remember how the enemy has mocked you, LORD,
how foolish people have reviled your name.
Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts;
do not forget the lives of your afflicted people forever.
Have regard for your covenant,
because haunts of violence fill the dark places of the land.
Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace;
may the poor and needy praise your name.
Rise up, O God, and defend your cause;
remember how fools mock you all day long.
Do not ignore the clamor of your adversaries,
the uproar of your enemies, which rises continually.

Psalm 75 A Psalm of Aspah. A Song.

We praise you, God,
we praise you, for your Name is near;
people tell of your wonderful deeds.

You say, "I choose the appointed time;
it is I who judge with equity.
When the earth and all its people quake,
it is I who hold its pillars firm.
To the arrogant I say, 'Boast no more,'
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horns.
Do not lift your horns against heaven;
do not speak so defiantly.'"

No one from the east or the west
or from the desert can exalt themselves.
It is God who judges:
He brings one down, he exalts another.
In the hand of the LORD is a cup
full of foaming wine mixed with spices;
he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth
drink it down to its very dregs.

As for me, I will declare this forever;
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob,
who says, "I will cut off the horns of all the wicked,
but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up."

Psalm 76 A Psalm of Asaph. A Song

God is renowned in Judah;
in Israel his name is great.
His tent is in Salem,
his dwelling place in Zion.
There he broke the flashing arrows,
the shields and the swords, the weapons of war.

You are radiant with light,
more majestic than mountains rich with game.
The valiant lie plundered,
they sleep their last sleep;
not one of the warriors
can lift his hands.
At your rebuke, God of Jacob,
both horse and chariot lie still.

It is you alone who are to be feared.
Who can stand before you when you are angry?

From heaven you pronounced judgment,
and the land feared and was quiet—
when you, God, rose up to judge,
to save all the afflicted of the land.
Surely your wrath against mankind brings you praise,
and the survivors of your wrath are restrained.

Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them;
let all the neighboring lands
bring gifts to the One to be feared.
He breaks the spirit of rulers;
he is feared by the kings of the earth.

Psalm 77- A Psalm of Asaph

I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.
When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;
at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.

I remembered you, God, and I groaned;
I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.
You kept my eyes from closing;
I was too troubled to speak.
I thought about the former days,
the years of long ago;
I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:

“Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?
Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?
Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”

Then I thought, “To this I will appeal:
the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.
I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
I will consider all your works
and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”

Your ways, God, are holy.
What god is as great as our God?
You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.
With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

The waters saw you, God,
the waters saw you and writhed;
the very depths were convulsed.
The clouds poured down water,
the heavens resounded with thunder;
your arrows flashed back and forth.
Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,
your lightning lit up the world;
the earth trembled and quaked.
Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.

You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Psalm 78- A Psalm of Asaph

My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.

Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.
They would not be like their ancestors—
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.

The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,
turned back on the day of battle;
they did not keep God's covenant
and refused to live by his law.
They forgot what he had done,
the wonders he had shown them.

He did miracles in the sight of their ancestors
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.
He divided the sea and led them through;
he made the water stand up like a wall.
He guided them with the cloud by day
and with light from the fire all night.
He split the rocks in the wilderness
and gave them water as abundant as the seas;
he brought streams out of a rocky crag
and made water flow down like rivers.

But they continued to sin against him,
rebellious in the wilderness against the Most High.
They willfully put God to the test
by demanding the food they craved.
They spoke against God;
they said, "Can God really
spread a table in the wilderness?
True, he struck the rock,
and water gushed out,
streams flowed abundantly,
but can he also give us bread?
Can he supply meat for his people?"

When the LORD heard them, he was furious;
his fire broke out against Jacob,
and his wrath rose against Israel,
for they did not believe in God
or trust in his deliverance.
Yet he gave a command to the skies above
and opened the doors of the heavens;
he rained down manna for the people to eat,
he gave them the grain of heaven.
Human beings ate the bread of angels;
he sent them all the food they could eat.
He let loose the east wind from the heavens
and by his power made the south wind blow.
He rained meat down on them like dust,
birds like sand on the seashore.
He made them come down inside their camp,
all around their tents.
They ate till they were gorged—
he had given them what they craved.

But before they turned from what they craved,
even while the food was still in their mouths,
God's anger rose against them;
he put to death the sturdiest among them,
cutting down the young men of Israel.

In spite of all this, they kept on sinning;
in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.

So he ended their days in futility
and their years in terror.
Whenever God slew them, they would seek him;
they eagerly turned to him again.
They remembered that God was their Rock,
that God Most High was their Redeemer.
But then they would flatter him with their mouths,
lying to him with their tongues;
their hearts were not loyal to him,
they were not faithful to his covenant.
Yet he was merciful;
he forgave their iniquities
and did not destroy them.
Time after time he restrained his anger
and did not stir up his full wrath.
He remembered that they were but flesh,
a passing breeze that does not return.

How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness
and grieved him in the wasteland!
Again and again they put God to the test;
they vexed the Holy One of Israel.
They did not remember his power—
the day he redeemed them from the oppressor,
the day he displayed his signs in Egypt,
his wonders in the region of Zoan.
He turned their river into blood;
they could not drink from their streams.
He sent swarms of flies that devoured them,
and frogs that devastated them.
He gave their crops to the grasshopper,
their produce to the locust.
He destroyed their vines with hail
and their sycamore-figs with sleet.
He gave over their cattle to the hail,
their livestock to bolts of lightning.
He unleashed against them his hot anger,
his wrath, indignation and hostility—
a band of destroying angels.
He prepared a path for his anger;
he did not spare them from death
but gave them over to the plague.
He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt,
the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.
But he brought his people out like a flock;
he led them like sheep through the wilderness.
He guided them safely, so they were unafraid;
but the sea engulfed their enemies.
And so he brought them to the border of his holy land,
to the hill country his right hand had taken.
He drove out nations before them

and allotted their lands to them as an inheritance;
he settled the tribes of Israel in their homes.

But they put God to the test
and rebelled against the Most High;
they did not keep his statutes.
Like their ancestors they were disloyal and faithless,
as unreliable as a faulty bow.
They angered him with their high places;
they aroused his jealousy with their idols.
When God heard them, he was furious;
he rejected Israel completely.
He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh,
the tent he had set up among humans.
He sent the ark of his might into captivity,
his splendor into the hands of the enemy.
He gave his people over to the sword;
he was furious with his inheritance.
Fire consumed their young men,
and their young women had no wedding songs;
their priests were put to the sword,
and their widows could not weep.

Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
as a warrior wakes from the stupor of wine.
He beat back his enemies;
he put them to everlasting shame.
Then he rejected the tents of Joseph,
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;
but he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loved.
He built his sanctuary like the heights,
like the earth that he established forever.
He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheep pens;
from tending the sheep he brought him
to be the shepherd of his people Jacob,
of Israel his inheritance.
And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;
with skillful hands he led them.

Psalm 79- A Psalm of Asaph

O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple,
they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.
They have left the dead bodies of your servants
as food for the birds of the sky,
the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.
They have poured out blood like water

all around Jerusalem,
and there is no one to bury the dead.
We are objects of contempt to our neighbors,
of scorn and derision to those around us.

How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever?
How long will your jealousy burn like fire?
Pour out your wrath on the nations
that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms
that do not call on your name;
for they have devoured Jacob
and devastated his homeland.

Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;
may your mercy come quickly to meet us,
for we are in desperate need.
Help us, God our Savior,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
for your name's sake.
Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"

Before our eyes, make known among the nations
that you avenge the outpoured blood of your servants.
May the groans of the prisoners come before you;
with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die.
Pay back into the laps of our neighbors seven times
the contempt they have hurled at you, Lord.
Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will praise you forever;
from generation to generation
we will proclaim your praise.

Psalm 80 a Psalm of Aspah

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.

Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

How long, LORD God Almighty,
will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.

Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it,
and it took root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.

Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
Boars from the forest ravage it,
and insects from the fields feed on it.
Return to us, God Almighty!
Look down from heaven and see!
Watch over this vine,
the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.

Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.
Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

Psalm 8- A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

Sing for joy to God our strength;
shout aloud to the God of Jacob!
Begin the music, strike the timbrel,
play the melodious harp and lyre.

Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,
and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;
this is a decree for Israel,
an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

When God went out against Egypt,
he established it as a statute for Joseph.

I heard an unknown voice say:

“I removed the burden from their shoulders;
their hands were set free from the basket.
In your distress you called and I rescued you,
I answered you out of a thundercloud;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.
Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—
if you would only listen to me, Israel!
You shall have no foreign god among you;
you shall not worship any god other than me.
I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

“But my people would not listen to me;
Israel would not submit to me.
So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own devices.

“If my people would only listen to me,
if Israel would only follow my ways,
how quickly I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!
Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.
But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

Psalm 82- A Psalm of Asaph.

God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the “gods”:

“How long will you defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?
Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

“The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

“I said, ‘You are “gods”;
you are all sons of the Most High.’
But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler.”

Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.

Psalm 83: A Psalm of Asaph. A Song.

O God, do not remain silent;
do not turn a deaf ear,
do not stand aloof, O God.
See how your enemies growl,
how your foes rear their heads.
With cunning they conspire against your people;
they plot against those you cherish.
“Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation,
so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”

With one mind they plot together;
they form an alliance against you—
the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
of Moab and the Hagrites,
Byblos, Ammon and Amalek,
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
Even Assyria has joined them
to reinforce Lot’s descendants.

Do to them as you did to Midian,
as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,
who perished at Endor
and became like dung on the ground.
Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
who said, “Let us take possession
of the pasturelands of God.”

Make them like tumbleweed, my God,
like chaff before the wind.
As fire consumes the forest
or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,
so pursue them with your tempest
and terrify them with your storm.
Cover their faces with shame, LORD,
so that they will seek your name.

May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;
may they perish in disgrace.
Let them know that you, whose name is the LORD—
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.

We return now the history of Israel, as Solomon begins his reign as king following the death of his father, David.

So Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of his father David. He prospered and all Israel obeyed him. All the officers and warriors, as well as all of King David's sons, pledged their submission to King Solomon. The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him royal splendor such as no king over Israel ever had before. Now Solomon the son of David strengthened himself over his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and made *Solomon* exceedingly great.

Then Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, "Do you come in peace?" And he said, "I come peaceably." Then he said, "I have something to say to you." And she said, "Speak." He said, "You know that the kingdom was mine and that all Israel viewed me as the king. However, the kingdom has become my brother's, for it was given to him by the LORD. And now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me." She said to him, "Keep speaking." And he said, "Please speak to Solomon the king, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife." Bathsheba said, "Very well, I will speak to the king on your behalf."

So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. The king rose up to meet her and bowed to her. Then he sat down on his throne and had a seat placed at his right hand for her to sit upon. Then she said, "I desire one small petition of you. Please do not deny me." And the king said to her, "Ask, my mother, for I will not refuse you." She said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given as a wife to Adonijah your brother."

King Solomon answered his mother, "Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my elder brother. Ask not only for him, but also for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruiah." Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "May God do so to me and more also if this word does not cost Adonijah his life. Now therefore as the LORD lives, who has established me and set me on the throne of David my father and who has made me a house as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day." So King Solomon dispatched Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he executed him.

The king said to Abiathar the priest, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for you are worthy of death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you bore the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father and because you shared in all the hardships my father endured." So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD that He had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh. Then word came to Joab, for Joab had followed Adonijah, though he did not support Absalom. And Joab fled to the tabernacle of the LORD and caught hold of the horns of the altar. King Solomon was told that Joab had fled to the tabernacle of the LORD and was by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go and execute him." So Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the LORD and said to him, "Thus says the king, 'Come forth.'" And he said, "No, I will die here." And Benaiah told the king all Joab said.

The king said to him, "Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him, and thus take away from me and my father's house the guilt for the blood Joab shed without cause. The LORD shall return his blood upon his own head, for he attacked two men more righteous and better than he—Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah—and killed them with the sword when my father David was unaware. Therefore their blood shall return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his seed forever, but upon David and upon his seed and upon his house and upon his throne shall the peace of the LORD rest forever." So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and attacked and killed him, and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness. The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in place of Joab and put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

The king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, "Build a house for yourself in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and never leave the city. For on the day you go out and pass over the Kidron Valley, know for certain that you will surely die. Your blood shall be on your own head." Shimei said to the king, "What you say is good. As my lord the king has said, so will your servant do." And Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days. It came about that at the end of three years, two servants of Shimei ran away to Achish son of Maakah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, "Your servants are in Gath." Shimei arose, saddled his donkey, and went to Gath to Achish to look for his servants. And Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath. Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned. The king sent and called for Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD and warned you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and walk abroad anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'What you say is good; I will obey.' Why then have you not kept the oath of the LORD and the commandment that I gave you?" The king also said to Shimei, "You know all the wickedness in your heart and what you did to David my father. Therefore the LORD shall return your wickedness on your own head. But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever." So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, who went out and attacked him so that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He married Pharaoh's daughter and brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace, the house of the LORD, and the wall around Jerusalem. The people were sacrificing at the high places, because no house had yet been built for the name of the LORD. Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, though he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place, and he offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to all the leaders in all Israel, the heads of fathers' houses. Then they all went, Solomon and all the assembly that was with him, to the high place that was at Gibeon, because the tent of meeting with God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness, was there. However, David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. And the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was set before the tabernacle of the LORD. And Solomon and the assembly sought it out to seek the LORD. And Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was before the tent of meeting, and he offered up a thousand burnt offerings on it.



While he was in Gibeon, the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night, and He said, "Ask what you want from Me." Solomon answered, "You have shown great mercy to your servant David my father, because he walked before You in faithfulness, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward You. And You have shown him great kindness in giving him a son to sit on his throne this day. Now, O LORD, my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, and I am still a little child and do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, so numerous that they cannot be numbered or counted. Give Your servant therefore an

understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge among so great a people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for yourself wisdom so that you may have discernment in judging, I now do according to your words. I have given you a wise

and an understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you in the past, and there shall never arise another like you. I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no kings will compare to you all of your days. If you will walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and My commandments as your father David did, then I will lengthen your days.” Solomon awoke and found it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings and made a feast for all of his servants.

That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask what I might give to you.” Then Solomon said to God, “You have given a great mercy to David my father and have made me king in his place. Now, LORD God, may Your word to David my father be confirmed, for You have made me king over a people numerous as the dust of the earth. Now give wisdom and knowledge to me so that I might know how to go before this people, for who can judge this great people of Yours?” Then God responded to Solomon, “Because this was in your heart and you did not ask for possessions, wealth, and honor, or even the life of those who hate you, nor have you asked for many days of life, but you have asked Me for wisdom and knowledge that you might govern My people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are now given to you. Possessions, wealth, and honor I will also give to you; such has not been given to kings before you nor those who will follow after you.” So Solomon came from the high place at Gibeon, before the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem, and he reigned over Israel.



At that time, two women who were prostitutes came and stood before the king. The first woman said, “O my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I bore a child with her in the house. Three days after I gave birth, she also had a child, and we were together. There was no one else with us in the house, only the two of us were in the house. Then this woman’s child died during the night because she rolled over on it. She got up at midnight and took my son from beside me while your servant slept and laid him at her bosom and laid her dead child at my bosom. When I rose in the morning to feed my child, it was dead.

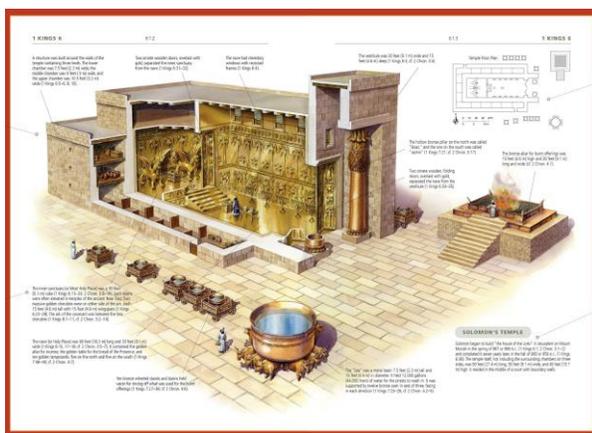
But when I looked closely in the morning light, I recognized that it was not my son whom I bore.” The other woman said, “No, the living is my son, and the dead is your son.” And she said, “No, the dead is your son, and the living is my son.” Thus they spoke before the king. Then the king said, “One says, ‘This is my son who lives, and your son is the dead,’ and the other says, ‘No, but your son is dead, and my son is the living.’” So the king said, “Bring me a sword.” And they brought a sword before the king. The king said, “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.” Then the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son, and she said, “O my lord, give her the living child, and do not kill it.” But the other said, “Let it be neither mine nor yours and divide it.” Then the king answered and said, “Give her the living child, and do not slay it. She is its mother.” All Israel heard of the king’s judgment, and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute sound judgment.



Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, for he had heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, and Hiram had always loved David. ² And Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, “You know how David my father was unable to build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars all around him, until the LORD put his enemies under his feet. But now the LORD my God has given me peace on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So know that I plan to build a house to honor the name of the LORD my God, just as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne after you, shall build a house to honor My name. Now therefore command that cedar trees from Lebanon be cut down for me, and my servants shall be with your servants, and I will pay your servants whatever you command, for you know that there are none among my people who can cut timber like the Sidonians.’”

When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, “Blessed be the LORD this day, who has given David a wise son over this great people.” Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, “I have considered the things which you contacted me about, and I will do all you asked concerning timber of cedar and fir. My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea, and I will send them by sea in floats to the place that you shall name and will cause them to be discharged into your care there, and in return you will meet my wishes by giving food for my household.” So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees as he desired. Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat for his household and twenty baths of pure oil. This is what Solomon gave to Hiram each year. The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He promised, and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon as they made a treaty together.

King Solomon drafted men from all Israel, totaling thirty thousand men. He sent them to Lebanon in turns, ten thousand a month, with each spending a month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram administered the labor force. Solomon had seventy thousand porters and eighty thousand stonecutters in the mountains, not counting the chief of Solomon’s officers who were over the work, three thousand three hundred, who ruled over the people who did the work. At the king’s command, they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. Solomon’s builders and Hiram’s builders, along with the stonemasons, cut them and prepared timber and stones to build the house.



Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself. He conscripted 70,000 men as carriers and 80,000 as stonecutters in the hills and 3,600 as foremen over them. Solomon sent this message to Hiram king of Tyre: "Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in. Now I am about to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God and to dedicate it to him for burning fragrant incense before him, for setting out the consecrated bread regularly, and for making burnt offerings every morning and evening and on the Sabbaths, at the New Moons and at the appointed festivals of the LORD our God. This is a lasting ordinance for Israel. The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods. But who is able to build a temple for him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him, except as a place to burn sacrifices before him? Send me, therefore, a man skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, and in purple, crimson and blue yarn, and experienced in the art of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem with my skilled workers, whom my father David provided. Send me also cedar, juniper and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants are skilled in cutting timber there. My servants will work with yours to provide me with plenty of lumber, because the temple I build must be large and magnificent. I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand cors of ground wheat, twenty thousand cors of barley, twenty thousand baths[□] of wine and twenty thousand baths of olive oil."

Hiram king of Tyre replied by letter to Solomon: "Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you their king." And Hiram added: "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the LORD and a palace for himself. I am sending you Hiram-Abi, a man of great skill, whose mother was from Dan and whose father was from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, and with purple and blue and crimson yarn and fine linen. He is experienced in all kinds of engraving and can execute any design given to him. He will work with your skilled workers and with those of my lord, David your father. Now let my lord send his servants the wheat and barley and the olive oil and wine he promised, and we will cut all the logs from Lebanon that you need and will float them as rafts by sea down to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem."

Solomon took a census of all the foreigners residing in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600. He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working.

In the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Ziv (which is the second month), he began to build the house of the LORD. The house which King Solomon built for the LORD had a length of sixty cubits, a width of twenty cubits, and a height of thirty cubits. The porch in front of the temple was twenty cubits in length, the same as the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house. He made beveled windows for the house. He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running around the walls of the house, both of the temple and of the inner sanctuary, and he made side chambers all around. The lowest story was five cubits broad, the middle one was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad. For around the outside of the house, he made offsets on the wall so that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house. The house was built of stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built. The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house, and it had winding stairs into the middle chamber and out of the middle into the third. So he built the house and finished it and covered it with

beams and boards of cedar. Then he built chambers against the whole house, five cubits high, and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying, "Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes and execute My judgments and keep all My commandments and walk in them, then I will carry out My word with you, which I spoke to David your father, and I will dwell among the people of Israel and will not forsake My people Israel."

So Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where He appeared to David his father, at the place that David established on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. He began to build in the second month on the second day during the fourth year of his reign.

These are the foundation *measurements* that Solomon used for building the house of God. The cubit length in the former standard measure was sixty cubits and the width twenty cubits. The porch vestibule that was in front of *the nave hall* had its length, like the width of the house, as twenty cubits, and its height was one hundred and twenty cubits, and he overlaid the inside with pure gold. And he paneled the great house with cypress trees and then covered it with fine gold. Then he decorated it with palm trees and chain work. And he overlaid the house with precious stones for decoration, and the gold was from Parvaim. And he covered the house—its beams, thresholds, walls, and doors—with gold, and he engraved cherubim on the walls.

Then he made the dwelling of the Most Holy Place. Its length was as the width of twenty cubits, and its width also twenty cubits; and he covered it with fine gold, six hundred talents^[8] worth. And the weight in gold for the nails was fifty shekels. And he covered the upper chamber in gold. Then in the dwelling of the Most Holy Place, he made two cherubim that were cast metal and overlaid them with gold. And the wings of the cherubim were the length of twenty cubits. The wing of one cherub was five cubits, reaching the wall of the house, and the wing of the other was five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub. And the wing of this cherub was five cubits, reaching to the other wall of the house, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the first cherub. So the wings of these cherubim spread out were twenty cubits; they were upright on their feet facing inward toward the house. Then he made the curtain of violet, purple, crimson, and blue thread, and he wove cherubim into it.

So Solomon built the house and finished it. He built the interior walls of the house with boards of cedar. From the floor of the house to the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. He lined twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls, with boards of cedar, and he even lined them within, even the inner sanctuary and the Most Holy Place. The house, that is, the nave in front of the inner sanctuary, was forty cubits long. The cedar of the house within had carvings of gourds and open flowers. All was cedar. There was no stone seen.

He prepared the inner sanctuary in the inner part of the house in order to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD. The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the altar of cedar. So Solomon overlaid the interior of the house with pure gold, and he made a partition with gold chains in front of the inner sanctuary, and he overlaid it with gold. He overlaid the whole house with gold as well as the whole altar that was by the inner sanctuary.

Within the inner sanctuary, he made two cherubim from olive wood, each ten cubits high. One wing of the cherub was five cubits, and the other wing was also five cubits. From the furthest part of the one wing to the furthest part of the other was ten cubits. The other cherub was ten cubits. Both the cherubim were the same shape and size. The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was that of the other cherub. He set the cherubim within the inner sanctuary, and they stretched forth the wings of the

cherubim, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall, and their wings touched one another in the middle of the house. He overlaid the cherubim with gold. He carved all the walls of the house with carved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers both inside and out. He overlaid the floor of the house with gold, both inside and out.

For the entrance to the inner sanctuary, he made doors of olive wood; the lintel and doorposts were five-sided. The two doors were also made of olive wood. He carved on them cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubim and upon the palm trees. So also he made for the entrance to the nave four-sided posts of olive wood. The two doors were made from fir tree, with two leaves of each door folding. He carved on them cherubim and palm trees and open flowers and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work. He built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone and a row of cedar beams.

In the fourth year, in the month Ziv, the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, and in the eleventh year, in the month Bul (which is the eighth month), the house was completely finished. All the details and plans were met. So he took seven years to build it.

Now King Solomon sent and called Hiram out of Tyre. He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre who worked in bronze, and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill to make all sorts of items in bronze. So he came to King Solomon and performed all his work. He cast two pillars of bronze eighteen cubits high each and twelve cubits in circumference. He made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits. He made lattices of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals on top of the pillars: seven for one capital and seven for the other. Likewise he made pomegranates in two rows around the one latticework to cover the capital that was on the top of the pillar, and he did the same for the other capital. The capitals that were on top of the pillars in the porch were four cubits high and in the shape of lilies. The capitals on top of the two pillars also had pomegranates above, by the convex surface which was next to the latticework. There were two hundred pomegranates in rows encircling each capital. He set up the pillars in the porch of the temple. He set up the right pillar and called it Jakin, and he set up the left pillar and called it Boaz. The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. This completed the work on the pillars.

He made a cast metal sea, ten cubits from one side to the other. It was round and had a height of five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits encircled it. Under the brim all the way around there were gourds, ten in a cubit. When it was cast, the gourds were placed in two rows going all the way around it. It stood on top of twelve oxen with three facing north, three facing toward the west, three facing toward the south, and three facing toward the east. The sea was set on them, and their hindquarters were turned inward. It was a hand-breadth thick, and the brim was made similar to the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It could hold two thousand baths.

He made ten stands out of bronze, each measuring four cubits long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high. The work of the stands looked like this: They had panels, and the panels were set in the frames. And on the panels that were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the frames both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled work. Every stand had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and at the four corners were supports for a basin. The supports were cast with wreaths at the side of each. Its opening was within a crown that projected upward one cubit. Its opening was round, like the work of a pedestal, a cubit and a half deep. At its opening there were engravings, and its panels were four-sided, not round. Underneath the panels were four wheels, and the axles of the wheels were joined to the stand, and the height of a wheel was a cubit and a half. The wheels worked like chariot wheels in that their axles and rims and spokes and hubs were all cast metal. There were four

supports for the four corners of each stand, and the supports were part of one piece with the stand itself. On the top of the stand, there was a round band half a cubit high, and on the top of the stand its stays and its panels were of one piece with it. On the surface of its stays and on its panels, he engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, according to the space of each, with wreaths all around. In this way he made the ten stands, with them all having the same shape, measure, and size.

Then he made ten basins of bronze, with each basin able to hold forty baths, each being four cubits. Upon every one of the ten stands sat one basin. He put five stands 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 also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins.

So Hiram finished all the work in making items for King Solomon for use in the house of the LORD: the two pillars, the two bowls of the capitals that were on the top of the two pillars, the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were upon the top of the pillars; and the four hundred pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars; the ten stands and ten basins on the stands; ⁴⁴ one sea and twelve oxen under the sea; the pots, the shovels, and the basins. All these vessels that Hiram made for King Solomon for the house of the LORD were of burnished bronze. In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Sukkoth and Zarethan. Solomon left all the vessels unweighed because there were so many. The weight of the bronze was also never measured. Solomon made all the vessels that were needed for the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, the table of gold on which was showbread, the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side and five on the left before the inner sanctuary; the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of gold; the cups, snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, fire pans, of pure gold; the sockets for the doors of the innermost part of the house, the Most Holy Place, and for the doors of the nave of the temple, of gold.

All the work that King Solomon made for the house of the LORD was completed. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated—the silver, the gold, and the cups—and he put them among the treasures of the house of the LORD.

King Solomon made two pillars in front of the house thirty-five cubits high, with a five cubit capital on the top of the pillar. Then he made ornamental chain work, like in the Most Holy Place, and set it on the top of the pillars. Then he designed a hundred pomegranates and set them on the chain work. He then raised the pillars in front of the temple, with one on the right *to the south* and the other on the left *to the north*, and the pillar to the south he called Jakin, and the pillar to the north he called Boaz.

Then he made a bronze altar that was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and ten cubits high. And he made a cast metal sea *as a water basin*. It was round and ten cubits from edge to edge, five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. Figures like oxen were underneath it, going all the way around the sea basin, ten cubits on each side. There were two rows of oxen that were poured as cast metal. It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and their back sides were facing inward. The thickness *of the sea* was a palm, and its brim was like the brim of a cup, as the flower of a lily. It held three thousand baths securely. Then he made ten water basins, and he set five on the southern right side and five on the northern left side to rinse off in them the instruments of the burnt offering. And the sea basin was for the priests to wash in.

And he made ten lampstands of gold according to the specifications, and he set them in the temple, five on the southern, right side and five on the northern, left side. Then he made ten tables and put them in the temple, five on the southern, right side and five on the northern, left side; and he made a hundred

basins of gold. Then he made the court of the priests and the great enclosure and the doors for the enclosure, and he overlaid the doors with bronze. And he set the sea basin at the southeast side, opposite the southern side of *the house*. And Hiram made the pots, shovels, and bowls.

So Hiram completed the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of God: the two pillars, the bowls, and the two capitals on the top of the pillars; and the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the top of the pillars; and the four hundred pomegranates for the two pieces of grating, with two rows of pomegranates for each screen grate that covered the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars. And he made the supporting stands and the basins on top of the stands, and the sea basin and the twelve oxen underneath it; the pots, shovels, utensils, and all the vessels from polished bronze, Hiram-Abi made for King Solomon for the house of the LORD. The king cast these *vessels* in the district of the Jordan in earthen foundries between Sukkoth and Zeredatha. And Solomon made all of these items in a great abundance such that they did not consider the weight of the bronze. So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of God: the gold altar and the tables displaying the showbread, and the finely hammered lampstands with their lamps to burn before the Most Holy Place as prescribed; the golden flower-shaped ornaments, lamps, and tongs, of purest gold; the snuffers, basins, ladles, and fire pans, of pure gold. As for the entrance to the temple: the inner doors to the Most Holy Place and the doors of the nave of the temple were of gold.

Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings in the treasury of the house of God.



Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, so that they could ensure that the ark of the covenant of the LORD would be brought out of the City of David in Zion. All the men of Israel assembled themselves before King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. All the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. The priests and Levites brought up the ark of the LORD, the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy implements that were in the tabernacle. King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled before him stood together in front of the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be told or numbered. The priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and the poles from above. The poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen out in the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside, and they are there to this day. There was nothing in the ark except for the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel after they had come out of the land of Egypt.

And when the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes and the leaders of the houses of the fathers among the sons of Israel to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the

City of David, which is Zion. And all the men of Israel were assembled before the king at the feast, which is the seventh month. All the elders of Israel came, and the Levites carried the ark. Then they brought up the ark, and the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent. So the Levitical priests brought them up. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

The priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place—to the inner sanctuary of the temple, into the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. Then the cherubim wings were spread out over the place of the ark so that the cherubim covered the ark and its poles. The poles were extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark were seen in front of the Most Holy Place, but they were not seen outside; and they are still there to this day. In the ark there was nothing except the two tablets that Moses had given at Mount Horeb where the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel when they went out from Egypt.

When the priests came out from the Most Holy Place—for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without keeping separate divisions— and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, with their sons and relatives, all clothed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood to the east of the altar, and with them one hundred and twenty priests who were sounding with trumpets, it happened, when the trumpet players and singers made one sound to praise and give thanks to the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and all the instruments of music and praised the LORD saying, “For He is good and His mercy endures forever,” that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud. And the priests were not able to stand in order to serve because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.



Then Solomon spoke, saying, “The LORD said that He would dwell in the thick darkness. I have surely built You a house to dwell in, a settled place for You to abide in forever.” Then the king turned around and blessed all the congregation of Israel (and all the congregation of Israel stood), and he said, “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has with His hand fulfilled His word, saying, ‘Since the day that I brought forth My people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city from any tribe of Israel to build a house where My name might be praised, but I chose David to be over My people Israel.’ My father David had it in mind to build a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. The LORD said to my father David, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you had good intentions. Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your son who will come out of your loins, he shall build the house for My name.’ The LORD has fulfilled His word that He spoke, and I have been elevated to the position of my father David, to sit on the throne of Israel as the LORD promised, and have built a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. I have set a place there for the ark, which houses the covenant of the LORD which He made with our fathers when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that He would dwell in the dark cloud. But I have built for You an exalted house, even a habitation where You can continually dwell.” Then the king turned his face around, and he blessed the entire assembly of Israel while all the assembly of Israel was standing before him. And he said: “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel who spoke with David my father and fulfilled *His promise* saying, ‘Since the day that I brought out My people from the land of Egypt, I did not choose any city from among the tribes of Israel to build a house for My name to dwell there, nor did I select a man to be the leader over My people Israel; but I have chosen Jerusalem for My name to dwell there, and I have selected David to be over My people Israel.’ And it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. But the LORD said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in

your heart to build a house for My name, you did well because of what was in your heart; only you will not be the one to build the house. For your son, who will be born to you, he will build a house for My name.' The LORD has fulfilled the word that He spoke. For I have risen up in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD spoke, and I will build the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. And there I have set the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that He made with the children of Israel."

Then Solomon stood in front of the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel and spread his hands toward heaven. and he said, "LORD God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below who keeps covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts, who have kept what You promised Your servant David my father. You spoke also with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day. Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You will not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, so long as your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.' Now, O God of Israel, let Your word, I pray, be fulfilled, which You spoke to Your servant David my father. But will God indeed dwell on the earth? See, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less can this house that I have built? Yet give consideration to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God; listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today, that Your eyes may be upon this house night and day, even toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may listen to the prayer which Your servant shall make toward this place. Please listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. May You hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive. If any man sins against his neighbor, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath comes before Your altar in this house, then may You hear in heaven and act and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous, giving him according to his righteousness. When Your people Israel are defeated by their enemies, because they have sinned against You, and they turn back to You and call upon Your name and pray and make supplication to You in this house, then may You hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel and bring them again to the land which You gave to their fathers. When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against You, if they pray toward this place and call upon Your name and turn from their sin when You afflict them, then may You hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk and give rain upon Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance. When there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or grasshopper; if their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague, whatever sickness there is; whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house; then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and render to everyone according to all his ways, whose hearts You know—for only You know the hearts of the sons of men— so that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land that You gave to our fathers. Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel and comes from a far country for Your name's sake (for they will hear of Your great name and of Your strong hand and of Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, may You hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and do all that the foreigner asks of You, so all people of the earth will know Your name, to fear You as Your people Israel do, and that they may know that this house, which I have built, is called by Your name. If Your people go out to battle against their enemy wherever You send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen and toward the house that I have built for Your name, then may You hear their prayer and supplication in heaven and maintain their cause. If they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin), and You get angry with them and hand them over to

the enemy so that they are carried away as captives to the land of the enemy, far or near, yet when they come to their senses while in the land where they were carried captives and repent and make supplication to You, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and have committed wickedness,' and so return to You with all their hearts and with all their souls in the land of their enemies, who carried them away as captives, and pray to You toward their land, which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name, then may You hear their prayers and supplications in heaven, Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all their transgressions which they committed against You and grant them compassion before those who carried them away as captives, so they will have compassion on them. For they are Your people and Your inheritance whom You brought forth out of Egypt from the midst of the furnace of iron. Let Your eyes be open to the supplication of Your servant and to the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them regarding all for which they call upon You. For You did call them out from among all the people of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You spoke by the hand of Moses Your servant when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD."

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD before all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands. For Solomon made a bronze platform and set it in the midst of the enclosure. It was five cubits in length, five cubits in width, and three cubits in height. And he stood on it and knelt down before all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven. And he said: "O LORD God of Israel, there is no God like You in the heavens or on the earth, who keeps covenants and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their heart. You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father. You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled *it* with Your hand, as *it is* this day. And now, O LORD God of Israel, keep what You promised Your servant David my father saying, 'You will not lack a man sitting on the throne of Israel before Me, if only your sons take heed to their way to walk in My law as you have walked before Me.' And now, O LORD God of Israel, may Your word be confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant David. For will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? The heavens, even the highest heavens, are not able to contain You, much less this house that I have built. But respond to the prayer of Your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and prayer of Your servant who prays before You, that Your eyes might be open toward this house both day and night, to the place that You have said that You will set Your name, in order to hear the prayer of Your servant for this place. And listen to the pleas of Your servant and Your people Israel when they pray toward this place. And may You respond from heaven, the place of Your dwelling, so that You hear and forgive. If a man sins against his companion, and the *companion* swears and puts him under a curse, and the *wronged man* comes with an oath before Your altar at this temple, then You will hear from heaven, and You will act and judge Your servants, to repay the guilty one by bringing his way on his own head; and to vindicate the innocent one by rendering to him according to his righteous behavior. If Your people Israel are struck before enemies because they have sinned against You, and they return and confess Your name and pray and seek Your favor in this house, then You will hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and You will bring them back to the land that You gave them and their fathers. When the sky is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and confess Your name and turn from their sin when You afflict them, then You will hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel because You will teach them the good path in which they will walk, and You will send rain on the land that You have given to Your people as a possession. When there is famine in the land or when there is pestilence, blight, mildew, winged locust, or grasshopper, or when enemies besiege them in the land up to their city gates, in whatever plague or sickness, whatever prayer or plea that is made by any man or by all your people Israel, when each man knows his own affliction and his own sorrow, and stretches out his hands toward this house, then You will hear from heaven, the place of the habitation of Your dwelling, and forgive, and

You will render to each according to his conduct, for You know their hearts (for You alone know the heart of people), so that they may fear You and walk in Your ways all the days that they live on the land that You have given to our fathers. When foreigners are not from Your people Israel and come from a distant land, because of Your great name, mighty hand, and outstretched arm, and they come and pray toward this house, then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, and act on everything for which the foreigner calls on You, that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel; and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name. When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, in the way that You send them, and when they pray to You toward this city that You have chosen and the house that I have built for Your name, then hear from heaven their prayer and plea and act for their cause. When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin) and You are angry against them and give them to their enemies, and they are taken captive to a land, whether distant or near, and they turn their hearts in the land that they have been taken captive, and they repent and seek Your favor in the land of captivity saying, 'We have sinned, done wrong, and acted wickedly,' and if they turn in repentance to You with all their heart and all their soul in the land of their captivity that they were taken to, and pray toward the land that You have given to their fathers, and toward the city that You have chosen, and toward the house that I have built for Your name, then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, their prayer and supplication, and maintain their cause, and forgive the people who have sinned against You. Now, O my God, may Your eyes be open and Your ears attentive to the prayer *that I offer* in this place. Now rise up, O LORD God, to Your resting place, both You and the ark of Your strength. And let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed in salvation and Your loyal ones rejoice in goodness. O LORD God, do not turn Your face from Your anointed. Remember the mercies of Your servant David."

Now when Solomon finished praying this prayer and making supplication to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. He stood up and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, "Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to His people Israel according to all that He promised. Not one word of His promises which He gave by the hand of Moses His servant has failed. The LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. Let Him neither leave us nor forsake us, that He may incline our hearts to Him, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments, statutes, and judgments, which He commanded our fathers. And let these my words, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be close to the LORD our God day and night, that He will maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel at all times as the situation demands, so that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God and that there is none else. Let your hearts, therefore, be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day."

The king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD. Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, twenty-two thousand oxen and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD. The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the LORD, for there he offered burnt offerings and meat offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too little to receive the burnt offerings and meat offerings and the fat of the peace offerings.

At that time, Solomon held a feast for all Israel, a great congregation, from the entry of Lebo Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and another seven days, a total of fourteen days. On the eighth day he sent the people away, and they blessed the king and went to their tents rejoicing in their hearts for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David His servant and for Israel His people.

And when Solomon finished praying, fire came down from the heavens and consumed the burnt offering and sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests were not able to enter into the house of the LORD, for the glory of the LORD filled the LORD'S house. And all the sons of Israel saw when the fire came down and the glory of the LORD came on the temple, and they bowed their faces low to the ground on the pavement, and they worshipped confessing, "The LORD is good, and His mercy endures forever." Then the king and all the people were making sacrifices before the LORD. King Solomon sacrificed twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. The priests stood at their positions, with the Levites and all their instruments of music for the LORD that King David had made to praise the LORD—for His mercy endures forever—when David gave praise by their ministry, and the priests sounded trumpets opposite the *Levites*, and all Israel stood. And Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the LORD because there he made burnt offerings and the fat of peace offerings (because the bronze altar that Solomon made was surely not able to contain the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and fat offerings). And at the appointed time, Solomon made a feast for seven days, and all Israel—as a very great assembly—was with him, from the entrance of *Lebo Hamath in the north* to the *Brook of Egypt in the south*. Then on the eighth day they made a solemn assembly because they had made a consecration of the altar for seven days and then the feast for seven days more. Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month *Solomon* sent the people away to their homes. They were joyful and good of heart because of what the LORD had done for David, Solomon, and His people Israel.



Solomon was building his own house for thirteen years, and he finished all his house. He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon. Its length was a hundred cubits, and its width was fifty cubits, and its height was thirty cubits, built on four rows of cedar pillars with cedar beams upon the pillars. It was covered with cedar over the top of the beams, which sat upon forty-five pillars, fifteen in a row. There were window frames in three rows and window opposite window in three tiers. All the doors and posts were rectangular with the openings facing each other in three tiers. He made a porch of pillars with a length of fifty cubits and a breadth of thirty cubits. There was a porch in front with pillars, and a canopy in front of them. Then he made a porch for the throne, from which he would judge, and called it the Hall of Judgment. It was covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other. His own house where he lived, in the other court back of the hall, was similar in style. Solomon also made a house like this for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken as a wife.

All these were built with costly stones, cut to size and sawed with saws on the inside and outside, from the foundation up to the coping, throughout the outside toward the great court. The foundation was of large, costly stones, stones of ten and eight cubits in size. Above were costly stones cut to size, along with

cedars. The great court was enclosed with three rows of hewed stones and a row of cedar beams. So were the inner court of the house of the LORD and the porch of the house.