

## Sunday Evening Message Series

### *1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings*

October 8, 2023

Title – *Construction of the Temple*

Text – 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6

#### Introduction (v. 1)

The Construction of the Temple is also found in 2 Chronicles 3.

The date is approximately 966 or 967 BC. The month “Zif” (later name was Iyyar), which is the second month and corresponds to April – May. You will notice that this is 480 years after they came out of Egypt.

The temple is a wonderful picture of the grace of God and how God can work all things together for good. He can even take our worse sins and do something with them.

What were the two worse sins that David committed? Numbering the people and his adultery with Bathsheba.

Solomon became the product of David’s relationship with Bathsheba, and the Temple Mount, Mount Moriah, was what David had to buy from Araunah the Jebusite in order to build the altar and offer a sacrifice so that the Lord would be intreated and stay his hand from destroying the people of Israel (2 Samuel 24).

#### I. The Dimensions of the Temple (vs. 2 – 10)

A cubit is said to be the length of a man’s arm from the tip of his fingers to his elbow. The average estimation is that a cubit is eighteen inches.

V. 2 - The Temple then was ninety feet long by thirty feet wide, and forty-five feet high.

Solomon’s Temple was a lot smaller than what most of us picture in our minds. It is exactly the dimensions of the Jersey Shore Baptist Church building, though it was much higher.

However, even though it was small, it was very beautiful and extremely valuable, as we shall see in the coming verses.

V. 3 – The porch at the entrance to the temple was thirty feet wide by fifteen feet deep and served as a vestibule.

V. 4 – High up near the roof there were narrow windows that could be opened, closed, or partially opened. These windows provided light, but also allowed the vapors from the incense altar to escape.

V. 5 – oracle – also vs. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23. And 31 – refers to the inner sanctuary – the Holy of Holies.

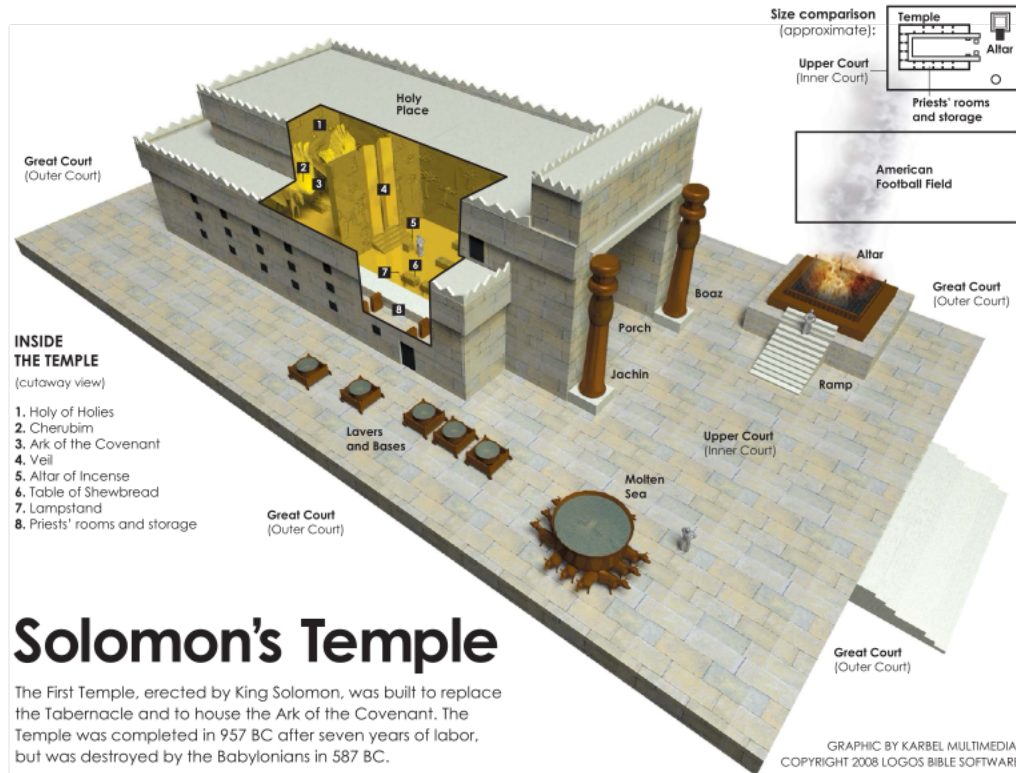
V. 7 – the stones were all cut outside of the area of the temple so that there would not be any noise of the tools on the Temple mount.

V. 9 – the stone walls of the temple were lined with cedar wood.

Vs. 5 – 10 – There were chambers or small rooms on the outside walls of the temple, and they were three stories high. Each story was one cubit wider than the one below it. The bottom chamber was 7.5 feet wide; the second chamber was 9 feet wide; the top floor was 10 ½ feet wide. There was a winding staircase connecting the floors.

These rooms were used for storage as well as to house priests.

See Temple diagram and Size Comparison Diagram.



## II. God's Declaration to Solomon (vv. 11 – 13)

You will notice here that God makes a promise to Solomon, but it is a conditional promise. Some of God's promises are unconditional, and some are based upon the performance of the person being promised. God promises Solomon and Israel that if they remained faithful to God and continued to follow His commandments, then He would not forsake them.

God made a similar promise to Israel when they were about to enter the land of Canaan after their four hundred years of bondage in Egypt and their forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

Turn to Deuteronomy 28.

This is the second time that God spoke to Solomon. The first was when Solomon received wisdom back in chapter three. God will appear to Solomon again and warn him about turning away from God's will (Turn to 1 Kings 9:1 – 9).

### **III. The Details of the Temple (vv. 14 – 36)**

V. 15 – the floor for the Temple was covered with fir, or cypress wood.

Vs. 16 – 17 – The Holy of Holies was thirty feet square; the Holy place was sixty feet by thirty feet.

Vs. 18 – The cedar boards that covered the wall had decorations carved into them. No stone could be seen.

Vs. 19 – 22 – The whole building including the ark of the covenant was overlaid with pure gold. The ark was the same as the one built by Bezeleel under the direction of Moses (See Exodus 25:10 – 22; 37:1 – 9).

Vs. 23 – 28 – The cherubim were different from the ones within the Tabernacle. The mercy seat may have been the same as it was in the Tabernacle, but in addition to the cherubim that were on the mercy seat, there were two fifteen feet high cherubim that stood inside the oracle, or Holy of Holies. These cherubim were not made of pure gold but rather were made of olive wood, which was overlaid with gold. Their wings that reach out to touch one another were also fifteen feet long.

Vs. 31 – 35 – There were doors that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies which were made of olive wood, and there were also doors to the entrance to the Holy Place, which were made of fir wood. There was also a veil or curtain that must have overlaid the door separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

*"14 And he made the veil of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon." (2 Chronicles 3:14)*

### **Conclusion (vv. 37 – 38)**

It took seven years to build the Temple.

Notice 1 Kings 7:1. It took thirteen years to build Solomon's house, which means that it must have been much more elaborate than the Temple.

IV. 38 – Bul – corresponded to October – November.

There are a lot of details that we do not have yet, but

# Temple Size Comparisons

