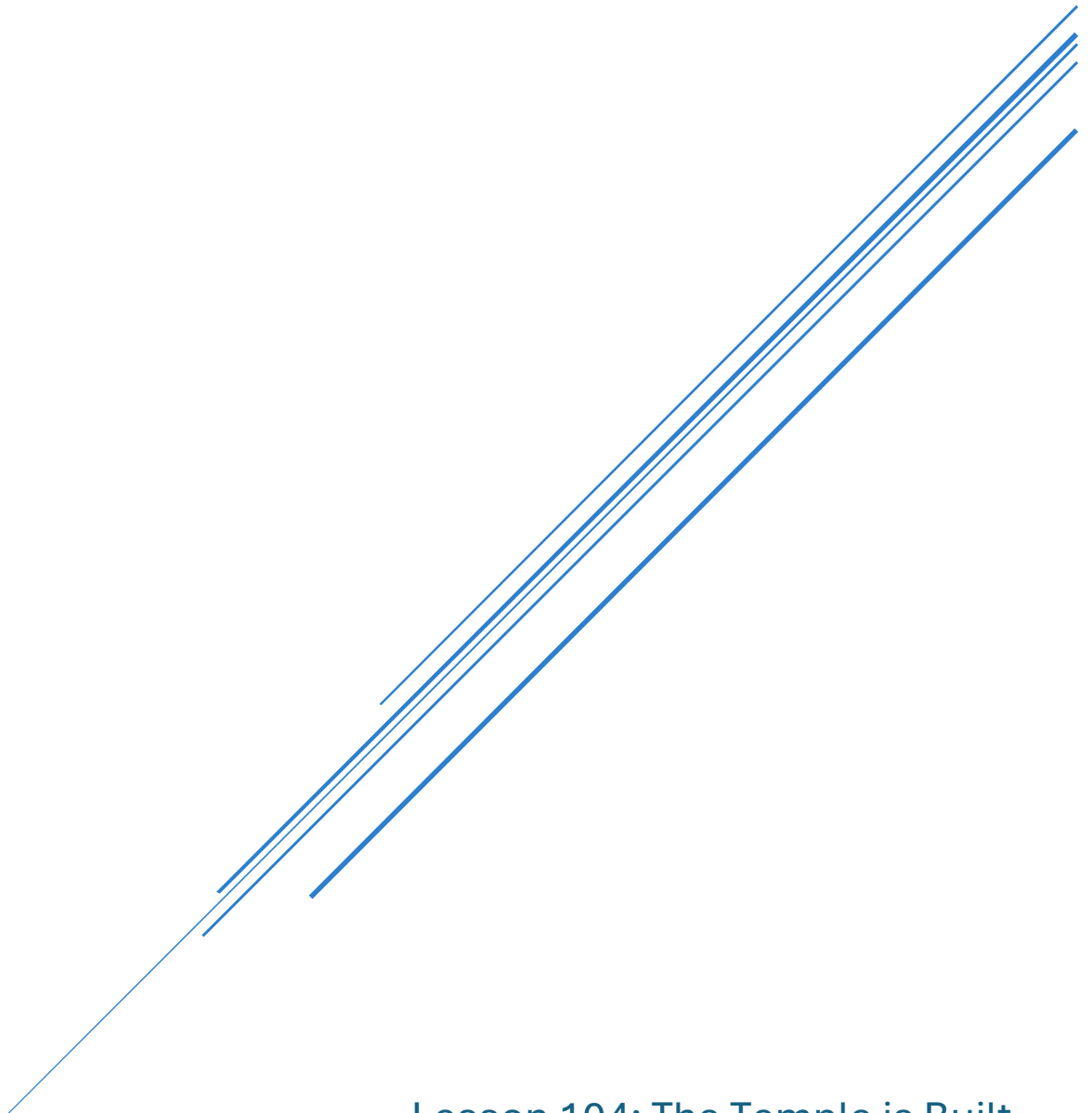


# THE KINGDOM, THE BIBLE, & US

Understanding God's story, Jesus' importance, & our place in God's kingdom plan



Lesson 104: The Temple is Built  
Dustin Burdin-FBC Webb City

# David's Preparations for the Temple

## 1 Chronicles 22:1-5

After David's sinful census, God punished many in Israel with a plague. Amid the plague, God commanded David to build an altar on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (21:18). David prepared sacrifices on this altar and God answered with fire out of Heaven on the altar (21:26). After this, David declared that land and altar would be the future sight of the House of God (the Temple).

Beginning in 1 Chronicles 22, David set out preparations for his son Solomon to build the Temple. He ordered the resident aliens (foreigners) in Israel to take part in the labor efforts. He used much of his spoils of war for the materials of iron and bronze needed. It says he used more bronze than could be weighed (v. 3). Timbers were also collected beyond number from the Sidonians and people from Tyre.

David told Solomon that he was too young and inexperienced at that point to complete the Temple project. However, David made sure preparations were ready so when the time was right, Solomon could finish the work (v. 5).

# David's Charge to Solomon Concerning the Temple

## 1 Chronicles 22:6-19

David gave Solomon a command that he must carry out the work to build the Lord's house. David recounts beginning in verse 7 how he had intentions to do so, but the Lord prevented him because he was a man of war. God prophesied that David's son, Solomon, would have rest in the land so that he could build the Temple. In fact, God said in verse 9 that his name would be Solomon because of the peace God would give him. Solomon the name in Hebrew comes from the Hebrew word Shalom, which means peace.

David told Solomon he need to be careful to follow the commands of God and that God would ensure his ways prosper. David also pointed out in verse 14 that he had prepared 100,000 talents of gold and 1 million talents of silver. A talent was thought to be about 75 pounds. If that is true, then David prepared 7.5 million pounds of gold and 75 million pounds of silver. Many scholars believe David was using hyperbole to speak of the exuberance the Temple will have. David prepared all the building materials and the workers for the job. Solomon should have no excuse why he can't get the job done.

David next charged the leaders of Israel that they must do their duty to see to it the Temple is completed, then be sure to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple along with the holy furniture.

## David's Address to Israel about the Temple

### 1 Chronicles 28

David holds a royal court with all his chief officials, elders, tribe leaders, and essentially anyone involved in leadership and administration of the Jewish government. He first addresses the gathered crowd. In verse 2 David recounts to them how it was his desire to build a permanent home for the Ark and a place to be God's footstool as it were. He made all the preparations, but God said David could not be the one to build God's house. David was a man of warfare and only a man of peace could build God's house. David furthermore shares that out of all his sons, which he had many, the Lord chose Solomon to be the next king. Solomon is to be the one to finish David's work and build God's Temple.

Beginning in verse 9, David addresses Solomon again directly. This time it is public. It is a type of public ordination service where David calls upon Solomon to complete the Temple project and does so before a gathered crowd of witnesses. It is interesting that in verse 11 it says David handed to Solomon the plans for the Temple. These would have been a type of architectural drafts that show Solomon and the laborers what David had envisioned for the structure and its features.

### The Temple Plans

Let's look at the highlights of the plans for the Temple. "Then David gave to his son Solomon the plan of the porch of the temple, its buildings, its storehouses, its upper rooms, its inner rooms, and the room for the atoning cover" (1 Chronicles 28:11). The Temple will have a porch, several buildings that make up the massive Temple compound, storage areas, and multiple stories. It will also have the "inner rooms" and the "room for the atoning cover." The room for the atoning cover is the holy of holies, the most inner room where the Ark of the Covenant will be placed.

These plans are very similar in principle to the Tabernacle plans. Except that the Temple will be as if it is a Tabernacle in the very center with massive extra structures built around it on all sides.

Verse 12 David goes on to say there are plans for courtyards, more surrounding rooms, more storehouses for various types of holy furniture. Then, there will be rooms and provisional areas for the priests to carry out their work.

Next, there will be furniture utensils for use in the Temple by the priests. There will be utensils of gold and silver. David calls by name that there will be the golden lampstand like there was in the Tabernacle. There will be the table of Showbread as well as silver and golden bowls. There will be the altar of incense made of gold.

David said where he got these plans. “‘All this,’ said David, ‘the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern’” (1 Chronicles 28:19).

Why do you think David held this public ceremony in addition to his private instructions to Solomon about the Temple?

In verses 20-21, David charges Solomon again to faithfully follow God’s ways. Solomon is to be strong and courageous because if he acts in obedience, God will ensure his success. The Levites and every skilled worker stood at the ready to support Solomon to complete the task.

## Free Will Offerings for the Temple

### **1 Chronicles 29:1-9**

David explains once again to the crowd that Solomon is young, inexperienced, and needs their support. The Temple is for God, not mankind, so they must rally around Solomon to complete this work. David gave a person offering from his treasures and wealth. Additionally, David called upon any person who is willing to give what they may to this project. Several gave many resources to the Temple project.

“Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the Lord wholeheartedly, and King David also rejoiced greatly” (1 Chronicles 29:9).

## Solomon Builds the Temple

### **1 Kings 5**

Now the story shifts to 1 Kings and we pick up with Solomon carrying on the next steps to the plan for the Temple.

## Solomon's Alliance with Hiram

### 1 Kings 5:1-12

Solomon displays his wisdom once again by solidifying an alliance with Hiram, the king of Tyre. Hiram sent messengers to Solomon after he heard that Solomon had been appointed king in the place of David. Solomon took this opportunity to request the historical alliance carry on.

Solomon sent word to Hiram and asked that just as Hiram and David were friends, Solomon would like to carry on the friendship. Solomon took the opportunity to ask of Hiram that his people assist in providing the lumber for the Temple project. Solomon agreed to pay whatever wages Hiram asked for.

Verse 7 says Hiram greatly rejoiced at this request and told Solomon that surely the Lord had given David a wise son. Hiram said they will certainly provide the cedar and juniper timber for the Temple. They will cut down the timbers from Lebanon and carry them by sea to a port in Israel that Solomon designates. Then Solomon's workers can take them from there. Hiram asked for food as the wages. Solomon paid Hiram the food wages on a yearly basis.

The author points out in verse 12, "And the Lord gave wisdom to Solomon, just as He promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a covenant." God was keeping His promise to Solomon.

## Solomon's Labor Force

### 1 Kings 5:13-18

The bulk of the labor force came from David's workers he rounded up before his death. The term forced labor may sound harsh, but these were mostly made up of the Canaanite people that Israel put into subjugation instead of driving them out of the Promised Land. These would not have been Jews that other Jews forced into labor. These were the foreigners in the land that Israel had allowed to remain among them at their will. Back in Joshua's day they often made these people the water drawers and carriers for the Jews. Now Solomon uses them for the labor of the Temple project.

The numbers of workers on the Temple project are immense. 30,000 of the forced laborers. These were sent in shifts of 10,000 per month and they worked in Lebanon for one month and then 2 months at home. There were 70,000 porters, 80,000 stonemasons, and Solomon put 3,300 supervisors in charge.

## Construction Begins

### **1 Kings 6:1**

Verse 1 is significant in this story. The narrator draws attention to the fact that this is a monumental milestone in Israel's history. "Now it came about in the four hundred and eightieth year after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, that is, the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord."

The building of the Temple is a massive milestone for Israel as God's people because as the author tracks the years from Egypt, he points out that God has made good on His promises for hundreds of years. Israel left as freed slaves, wandered in the wilderness like nomads. The Tabernacle was the symbol of God's presence among His people, but it was a tent-like structure meant to be portable. This signified that God's people had not yet found their true home.

Then, they were promised land and through Joshua, they settled it, but not entirely. Through the Judges they attempted to further settle it but could never know peace due to their sinfulness. Then, they cried out for a king. God gave them a king after their own wicked hearts, Saul. Then after Saul failed, God gave them a king after His heart, David.

David was a man of war who fought many battles to secure Israel's territory. Now then, God had given them Solomon. A son of David who would preside over a time of peace. Amid this peace, God will establish a permanent structure, a massive building that will be the symbol of His presence among His people. This will not be a portable tent because God had now provided His people their lasting home.

## The Location's Significance

### **2 Chronicles 3:1-2**

Chronicles adds an interesting detail as to the location of the Temple. Chronicles points out it was specifically on Mount Moriah. Mount Moriah held spiritual significance for the Jews. As Chronicles says that this was the location where God (The Angel of the Lord) had appeared to David on Ornan's threshing floor after the plague for David's census. Furthermore, it is the sight that God commanded David to purchase and build the altar in preparation of the future Temple.

The land of Moriah is mentioned in Genesis 22:2 when God commanded Abraham to take Isaac to a mountain that God would show him and sacrifice Isaac there. Jewish tradition was that perhaps the Temple was built on that same mountain in Moriah

where God provided a substitute ram to be sacrificed in the place of Isaac. God's presence had operated in a special way to some of Israel's heroes, and it seems fitting God would rest His dwelling place among His people on Mount Moriah.

## The Size & Decore of the Temple

The Temple was built as if in concentric circles (rectangles). The Temple was built off the same model as the Tabernacle. It had the holy of holies room (inner sanctuary), then the holy room (outer sanctuary). These rooms contained the holy furniture. This was considered the Temple Proper. Outside of this there were other areas such as courtyards, storage rooms, and other decor.

The Temple Proper was 60 cubits in length (~ 90 feet); 20 cubits in width (~30 feet); 30 cubits in height (~45 feet). The front porch was 20 cubits (~30 feet) long and 10 cubits (~15 feet) wide. Then, Solomon built multiple stories of rooms around the holy room and holy of holies, as well as side chambers all around. After the main building was built, Solomon covered it with beams and rows of cedar all around.

In verse 20 we read the inner sanctuary (Most Holy place) was 20 cubits long (~30 feet), 20 cubit wide (~30 feet), and 20 cubits tall (~30 feet). It was overlaid with pure gold. The entire temple was overlaid with pure gold, even the altar (v. 22). The Most Holy room also had two cherubim of olive wood, each 10 cubits tall (~15 feet). Their wingspan was 10 cubits (~15 feet). They were positioned in such a way that their wingtips touched, and they spread out across the center of the Most Holy room. They were also overlaid with gold. This is the room the ark of the covenant was set in.

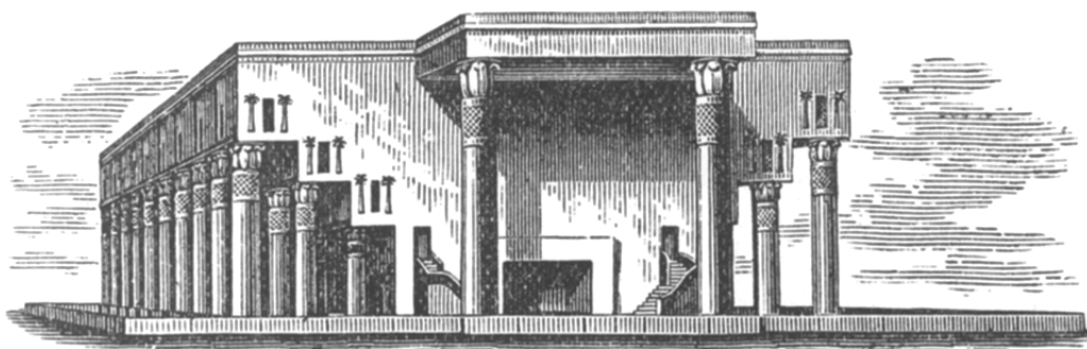
Verses 23-38 explain at various points that Solomon overlaid just about everything with gold and used wood for the planks, floors, and walls. He made ornate designs on the walls and window frames that had images of cherubim, palm trees, and flowers.

Scholars believe the Temple's entire grounds was a rectangle 100 cubits long by 50 cubits wide (~165 ft x 841.5 ft). Of course all the Tabernacle furnishings were used in the Temple (show bread table, incense altar, lampstand, etc.).

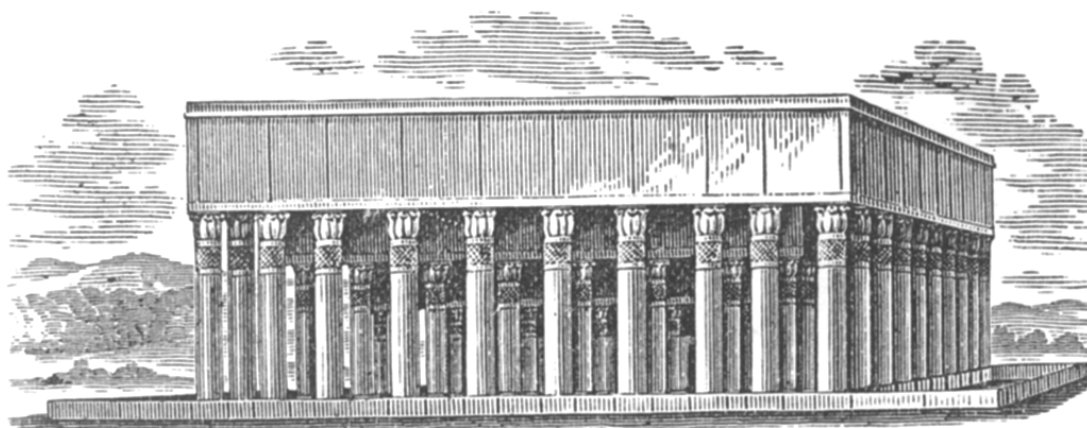
## The Temple is Completed

God told Solomon as they were building the Temple in 1 Kings 6:11-13, that if Solomon and Israel followed His commands, God would always dwell among His people and never abandon them.

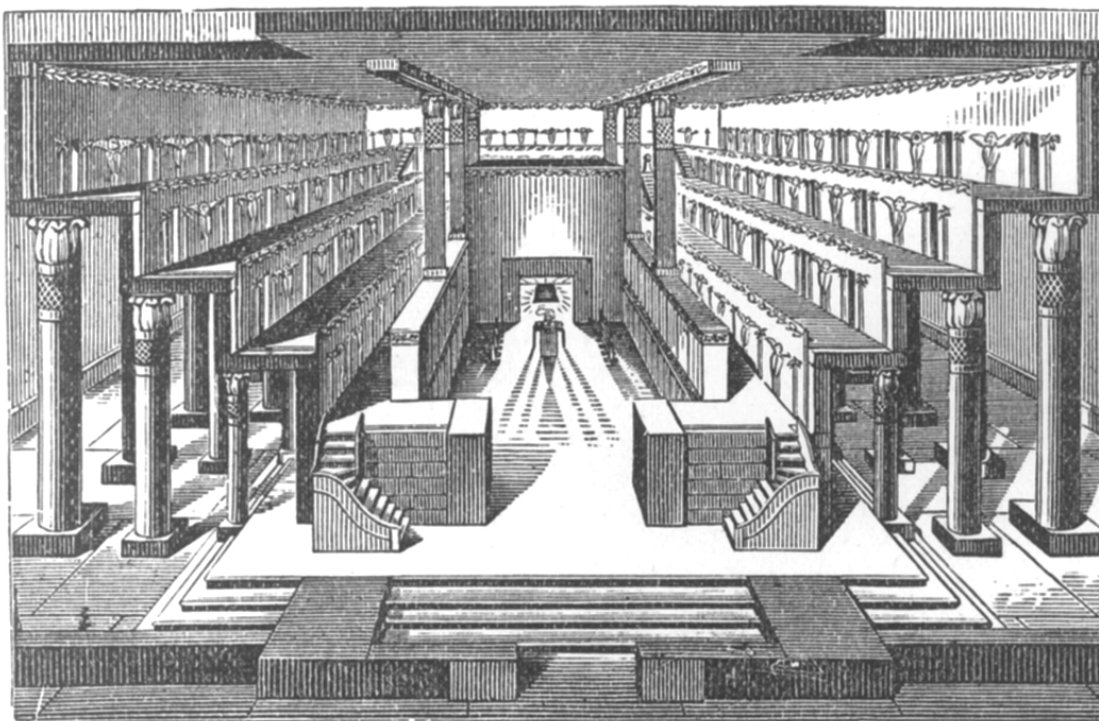
Finally, the time came and they completed the Temple. Verses 37-38 says it took 7 years, technically 7.5 years, to complete the Temple.



FRONT VIEW.



WEST END.



INTERIOR.

