

1 Kings 6:1-38

The Building of the Temple

As we read about the Temple, its dimensions and materials, we need to always keep in mind that this building, like the Tabernacle, was made from a heavenly pattern given by the Spirit to portray the spiritual Temple of which we are a part.

We are the temple of the living God:

- **2 Corinthians 6:15-17** - "What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement can exist between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be My people. Therefore come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

1 Kings 6:1 - "And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif (Iyyar), which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD."

The reign of Solomon began in 971 B.C. and ended at 913 B.C. The Temple construction begun in 967 B.C. This means that the Exodus took place in 1447 B.C. The Temple took seven years to build.

The plan of the Temple was similar to the Tabernacle. The Holy Place was divided in two, with the Holy of Holies containing the Ark of the Covenant separated with a curtain and - in the Temple - with a veil and a golden chain.

The Temple was twice as long, and as broad, and three times as high as the Tabernacle dimensions.

The Tabernacle had no windows, but the Temple did:

1 Kings 6:4 - "And for the house he made windows of narrow lights."

Rashi - Narrow = "broad without, and narrow within" - These windows were constructed so that they were open on the outside and closed (אָטוּמִים) on the inside. The opening was wider on the outside and narrow on the inside. This was not in the usual manner of all other windows which are made [expressly] for illumination.

The idea was that the Temple itself and the presence of God within it would give light to the world, and also to emphasize that God does not require the sunlight.

In the Tabernacle, priests on duty would stay in the shelter of the overhang of the tent.

In Solomon's Temple, an extra 38 chambers were built around the walls of the building where priests could stay, store provisions and eat during their course of duty..

1 Kings 6:7 - "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building."

As we saw before, God prepares us before we even know Him to fit in to our place in the spiritual Temple as living stones. There is no work or self-exertion taking place in the Temple.

This was a continuation of a principle stated in the Torah about the altar.

- **Exodus 20:25** - "Now if you make an altar of stones for Me, you must not build it with stones shaped by tools; for if you use a chisel on it, you will defile it."

- **Deuteronomy 27:56** - "Moreover, you are to build there an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. You must not use any iron tool on them. You shall build the altar of the LORD your God with uncut stones and offer upon it burnt offerings to the LORD your God..."

In this case, the stones were for the Temple building not the altar, and were cut from the quarry, but still not fashioned or worked on within the Temple itself.

Two pictures are really displayed here - God prepares us for our place in the church before we even become believers. At the same time, once we are a part of his Bride, He continues to fashion us through the things that we suffer here to take our place eternally in His heavenly kingdom - where there will be no longer need for testing, sorrow or repentance.

Besides the exclusion of self-effort, tools with sharpened blades like an ax or chisel could also be used as weapons of war, and the Temple was a sanctuary of peace.

The 'Samir'

The rabbis were puzzled by how the stones used in the Temple could have been hewn and fashioned without the use of tools.

One material is mentioned in the Bible as a super-hard material capable of cutting stone. The Hebrew word *shamir* or *samir* appears in several scriptures.

The Talmud has a fanciful tale about Solomon and his use of the *Samir* to hew the stones.

In Tractate Avot, the *Samir* is mentioned as one of the ten things created on the "Sabbath eve," before the completion of the act of Creation.

Tractate Sotah (48b) explains that Moses used the samir to engrave the stones inserted into the Priestly breastplate (Hoshen), which were cut "like a fig which splits open in summer." It also says there that because nothing could withstand the *Samir's* strength, it is stored in tufts of wool in a lead box filled with barley bran. It was considered to be a green stone.

The Talmud, Tractate Gittin (68a) contains the most detailed legend surrounding the *Samir*: King Solomon asked his advisors how the stones for the Temple could be prepared without the use of an axe or chisel, as it was inappropriate to use tools of bloodshed and war to construct such a building. They told him of the miraculous *Samir* but did not know where to find it.

Solomon - who had control of demons and magic - was able to find its location and after many twists and turns, recovered the *Samir* and use it in the building of the Temple.

The material to be worked, whether stone, wood or metal, was affected by being "shown to the *Samir*." Following this line of logic (anything that can be 'shown' something must have eyes to see), early rabbinical scholars described the *Samir* almost as a living being, or sometimes a worm.

The *Samir* was said to have been either lost or had lost its potency by the time of the destruction of the First Temple.

This legend is interesting because of the scriptures where *Samir* is used.

The word is from a root mean "to prick like a thorn or brier" - pointing us back to Adam's curse and Jesus' crown of thorns.

- **Jeremiah 17:1** - "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond (*Samir*): it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars"

- **Ezekiel 3:8-9** - "Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As 'an adamant harder than flint' (*Samir*) have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house."

Spiritually then, the "*Samir*" is not only used to indelibly imprint a record of sin, but it is used to describe the unrelenting preaching of repentance by the prophets against that sin. The *Samir* is the only thing that could penetrate our stony hearts.

- **Zechariah 7:12** - "Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone (*Samir*), lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts."

Yet repentance is a gift. And it happens through no effort on our part - the power comes

from the Spirit.

This is in fact how God - without iron tool or chisel - extracts us from the world and knocks off the rough places of our pride and self-seeking to allow us to fit smoothly next to our fellow stones, supporting one another as part of the Temple of God, the Lord's Body and Bride.

[See <https://blog.nli.org.il/en/shamir-temple/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon%27s_shamir]

Renewal of the Promise

1 Kings 6:11-13 - "And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying, Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel."

That promise was given to David in **2 Samuel 7:12** and ultimately fulfilled in Jesus:

- **Luke 1:32** - "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David."

1 Kings 6:14 - "So Solomon built the house, and finished it."

- **John 19:30** - "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished (*tetelestai*): and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

Solomon finishing the Temple is a parallel to Jesus completing the sacrifice for sin on the cross. Redemption was fulfilled.

'There was No Stone Seen'

The inner walls, the floor and the ceiling of the Temple were first covered with cedar wood.

1 Kings 6:18 - "And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen."

Then the cedar was covered with gold.

1 Kings 6:22 -- "And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle (Holy of Holies) he overlaid with gold."

From the inside, all that was seen was the gold, representing the glory of God. The gold covered the cedar, representing the cross. The gold and cedar in turn covered the stones, which were not seen at all.

If we are functioning properly in our place in the Temple, we are not seen - only His glory is displayed.

As the Psalmist says:

- **Psalm 45:13** - "The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold."

The only other thing not covered with gold, was the veil separating the Holy of Holies.

- **2 Chronicles 3:14** - "And he made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it."

The veil maintained the symbolic colors we studied in the Tabernacle (**Exodus 26:31**).

WHITE - The white linen is the righteousness of Christ

PURPLE - Associated with royalty

RED/SCARLET - standing for Christ's blood shed on the cross, which completely covers our sin

BLUE - The Blue color represented the Heavens, from which He came to become one of us.

In the Talmud (Menaḥoth 43b): "The tekheleth [blue thread] resembles the sea, and the sea resembles the heavens, and the heavens resemble God's Throne of Glory."

Where is the Silver?

The Tabernacle boards - both for the surrounding wall and the tent itself, were separated from the ground by sockets of silver. The silver represented redemption and silver is a stand-in for the redemptive blood of Christ, separating us from the world system.

Also the redemption money was paid in shekels of silver.

- **Exodus 38:26-27** - "A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men. And of the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary, and the

sockets of the vail; an hundred sockets of the hundred talents, a talent for a socket.”

Israel carried around that almost four tons of silver sockets each time they moved, and then set up the Tabernacle securely upon it through their whole time in the wilderness.

But in the description of Solomon's Temple, almost everything is covered in gold. Silver is barely mentioned.

There is one mysterious mention of silver in a later chapter:

- **1 Kings 10:21** - "All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver — it was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon."

Solomon had an abundance of silver through trade, gifts and tribute.

- **1 Kings 10:27** - "And the king made silver to be in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars made he to be as the sycamore trees that are in the vale, for abundance."

But what about the spiritual type of silver as redemption?

I think the Tabernacle was held up away from the earth as it was traveling toward "the place where God would place His name." i.e. Jerusalem. The silver sockets served as a temporary measure.

The Temple being built was located on Mount Moriah, where the prototype of Jesus' sacrifice was acted out in the binding of Isaac by Abraham and the provision of the substitute ram.

- **Genesis 22:13-14** - "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The LORD Will Provide'. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

It was also there that the plague was stopped by the angel of death, when God said "Enough" (**2 Samuel 24:15-16**)

- **2 Chronicles 3:1** - "Then Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David."

Once it was settled not only in the Promised Land but in the exact location God had chosen, it didn't need to be lifted up and away from the world. It took root in its rightful place.

Finally with a promised king - Solomon - reigning in Jerusalem with a completed Temple, the type of redemption has been realized, with everything pointing to the future Messiah. The silver sockets had surrendered their significance to Mount Moriah, which

pointed too the cross.

[Charles Spurgeon has a great sermon on this:
<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/silver-sockets-or-redemption-the-foundation/#flipbook/>

666 talents of gold?

But there is always the flip side to these types.

Solomon soon begins a slide into disobedience, idolatry and greed. He goes over to the dark side.

- **1 Kings 10:14-15** - "The weight of the gold which Solomon received every year was 666 talents of gold, besides what came from tradesmen, from the traffic of the merchants, and from all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the regions."

In contrast to the descriptions of the glory of Solomon's kingdom, this shows his disobedience:

- **Deuteronomy 17:16-17** - "But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold."

This also shows that the phrase "silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon" could mean that Solomon dismissed God's redemption as seen in his backsliding actions.

Some scholars see the meaning of 666 - the number of the Beast in Revelation - as relating to this amount of riches that Solomon amassed yearly. Along with his reputation in the first century as a controller and master of demons and magic, Solomon has added these aspects to John's description of the antichrist - along with Nebuchadnezzar's statue of himself standing 60 cubits high and six cubits wide.

- **1 Kings 11:4**- "For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been."

Again, it's digital. Our identity is either Christ or we are the antichrist.

We need to be watchful and aware:

- **Luke 8:14** - "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

God will not forsake us, but we can forsake Him:

- **Matthew 7:21-23** - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice iniquity (self-exertion).'"