

1 Kings 7:1-51

Solomon's Palace

- **Psalm 127:1-2** - "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

Construction of the Temple took seven years. In chapter 7 there is a description of Solomon building his own house, which took 13 years. Solomon's palace was also called the "House of the Forest of Lebanon" because of its many magnificent pillars.

This is another glimpse of Solomon starting to veer off course spiritually - he is more concerned about his own house, making it more splendid and spectacular than the Temple. After he built his palace, he also built a separate house for Pharaoh's daughter.

This attitude is specifically condemned later by the prophet Haggai, describing the situation of Jews who had returned from exile in Babylon but neglected to rebuild the Temple:

- **Haggai 1:3-4, 9-11** - "Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?...Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house."

Precious Stones

Solomon's house was embedded with precious stones (**verse 9**), and in **verse 12** it seems to add that this was similar to the decorations in the Temple:

1 Kings 7:12 - "And the foundation was of costly stones, even great stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits. And above were costly stones, after the measures of hewed stones, and cedars. And the great court round about was with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for [or, "as that of"] the inner court of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the house."

We already saw this in **chapter 5**:

- **1 Kings 5:17** - "And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house."

King David had already reserved these stones for use in the Temple:

- **1 Chronicles 29:2** - "...onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistening stones, and of divers colors, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance."

- **2 Chronicles 3:6** - Solomon "adorned the house with precious stone for the purpose

of *beauty*”

These precious stones are even hinted at Mount Sinai:

- **Exodus 24:10** - “And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.”

This is also reflected in John’s description of the New Jerusalem

- **Revelation 21:18-21** - “The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysolite, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.”

It goes on to say, “And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.” (**Revelation 21:22**).

The Tabernacle and the Temple were laid out in the pattern of a human body, representing the Messiah, so that “temple *is* the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.” The Hebrew uses words for body parts to describe section of the Tabernacle - like shoulders, thigh, arm, etc.

“One side” - *katheph* = shoulder (**Exodus 27:14-15**)

“One side” - *tsela* = rib (**Exodus 26:26-27**)

“For the two sides westward” - *yarekah* = thigh (**Exodus 26:27**)

To be “in Christ” then is to be in the Temple, in the New Jerusalem.

- **Revelation 21:2-3** - “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

Further, the High Priest’s breastplate also included these precious jewels. So the Messiah is pictured also as our High Priest as well as the Temple itself. These correspondences are amazing!

(See the book “The Temple and the Church’s Mission” by G. K. Beale)

Hiram the Artisan

In chapter 7 we meet another Hiram, a different character than Hiram the king of Tyre.

1 Kings 7:13-14 - "And king Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work."

Rashi - "And he was filled with the wisdom and understanding and skill": [These are] the three tools with which the universe was created, as it is stated, "[The Lord] by wisdom founded the earth, by understanding He established the heavens, by His knowledge the depths were broken up" (**Proverbs 3:19**). With these same three the Temple was built.

Hiram, like Bezalel and Oholiab in the wilderness (**Exodus 31:1-11**), was a master artisan who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to craft the utensils and vessels used in the Temple.

Bezalel's name, which in Hebrew means "to rest in God's shadow," suggests that he intuited and was one with God's will.

Bezalel was endowed with wisdom, *chochmah*; insight, *binah*; and understanding, *da-at*. (**Exodus 35:30-34**) What is the difference among these attributes? Rashi suggests that *chochmah* refers to the wisdom that we learn from others; *binah* is the understanding that we acquire from life experience; and *da-at* is mystical intuition.

Hiram possessed similar traits as Bezalel.

[Masonic legend takes this Hiram to be their founder, with "the widow's son" part of their secret rituals, along with many images from Solomon's Temple.]

The exchange between Solomon and King Hiram is expanded in 2 Chronicles:

Solomon writes to Hiram:

- **2 Chronicles 2:5-7** - "... But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him? the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods. Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide."

King Hiram replies:

- **2 Chronicles 2:13-14** - "... now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in

stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father."

But wait - was Hiram from the tribe of Naphtali or Dan, and what was he doing in Tyre?

Apparently his mother was from Dan and his natural father was from Naphtali. His mother remarried a man of Tyre and they resided there.

There is also a rabbinical back story about the jealousy between Rachel and Leah, the two mothers of the Israelite nation. Dan and Naphtali were both born of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid.

Rashi - In **I Kings 7:14**, it is written: "He was a widow's son, of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a Tyrian man." His mother was from Dan, and his father was from Naphtali. Now why was it necessary to trace his genealogy, from which tribe his father and mother were? This is what is written (**Gen. 30:6**): "God judged me," and also (ibid. 8): "I have fought a divine struggle, etc." Rachel said, "I twisted cords; I went through contortions until I was able to compare to my sister Leah. If Leah will boast of her descendant Bezalel, who will make the Tabernacle, he will require one of the sons of Dan to participate in his work, as it is written (38:23): 'And with him was Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.' Now if Solomon, the descendant of my sister, will build the Temple, some of the sons of Dan and Naphtali will have to participate with him."

In fact, some believe that the two pillars of Jachin and Boaz represented Rachel and Leah (see below).

The Midrash asserts that whilst the Temple was being built none of the workmen died or even became ill, enabling the project to proceed apace – presumably illustrating the principle that God protects those who are engaged on a sacred mission (Talmud Pesachim 8a). However, once the project was completed, they all died, for God wished to prevent heathens using the Temple builders to erect idolatrous shrines, illustrating the rule that one must ascend in sanctity and not descend (Talmud B'rachot 28a). The builders were assured of a rich heavenly reward, and as for Hiram the master craftsman himself, he went straight to Paradise and never tasted real death (Louis Ginzberg, "Legends of the Jews", vol. 4, page 155 and notes).

In a previous study we saw that a similar Midrash claimed that Hiram the King of Tyre also went to Paradise. Maybe the stories are conflated - who knows. The Masonic legend is that Hiram was murdered and God raised him from the dead.

Boaz and Jachin

Hiram made the two tall pillars standing at the entrance to the Temple, which were named Boaz and Jachin.

Jachin = "He will establish"

- **Proverbs 16:3** - "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

Boaz = "in Him is strength" or possibly "fleetness" or "swiftness"

The two pillars disappeared along with the rest of the Temple when it was destroyed by the Babylonians. When Herod expanded the Temple, there is no record of these pillars being replaced. But their existence in Solomon's Temple looked forward to the time of Messiah. On the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2**, the disciples of Jesus gathered in the Temple court, near where the pillar of Boaz originally stood, like Ruth who went down to meet Boaz at the threshing floor. For Ruth and Boaz it was a time of betrothal. For the disciples also, it was a betrothal of the Bride and the Bridegroom sealed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"swiftness" -

- **Malachi 3:1** - "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."

Some commentators think the pillars were meant to represent the two trees in the Garden - the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life. Others think they might symbolize the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire that led Israel in the wilderness.

The most plausible explanation I've found is that the pillars represent David and Solomon, two Messianic figures.

Boaz or "in Him is strength" or "fleetness" is not only the name of David's ancestor but points to David's faith and his skill as a strong warrior.

In this scenario Jachin "He will establish" points to Solomon.

- **I Chronicles 17:11-12** - "And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever."

- **2 Samuel 7:12-13** - "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever."

(See a more detailed discussion of this here: <http://www.templesecrets.info/pillars.html>)

Correction Concerning the Silver

In the Tabernacle and in the Temple, silver represents redemption and the blood of Christ; gold is the glory of God; and brass or bronze stands for judgment (The “brazen Altar”)

In our previous study of **Chapter 6**, I couldn’t find the silver in the Temple that would be analogous to the silver sockets holding the Tabernacle away from the cursed earth.

But turns out the answer is in 1 Chronicles.

David had designated 7,000 talents of silver along with the gold to “overlay the walls” of the “buildings.”

- **1 Chronicles 29:3-5** - “Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal: The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?”

This has been interpreted to mean that the inner walls of the cells or rooms for the priests that were built around the outside of the Temple were overlaid with silver.

Since the silver represents the blood of Christ's sacrifice and therefore redemption, it makes sense that the priests - who administer and offer the sacrifices - would reside during their service in rooms overlaid with silver.

God’s purification of the priests was also identified first with silver, then with both silver and gold:

- **Malachi 3:2-4** - “But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the LORD, as in the days of old, and as in former years.”

In other words, in their rooms the priests are surrounded by a type the blood of Christ, and when they enter the Holy Place as purified silver, they are surrounded by the glory of God - represented by the gold overlay inside the Holy Place . The silver/blood enables their service, which enables the release of the glory of God.

The arrangement of the priests' cells/rooms around the Temple roughly resemble the distribution of the silver sockets in the Tabernacle.

And like the Tabernacle, the layout of the plan of the Temple resembles the head, shoulders, arms and legs of a human figure symbolizing the Messiah, as we pointed out above.

[See an extended discussion here: <http://www.templesecrets.info/>]

Summary

Most of our problems as believers come as a result of not "seeing through" events to the spiritual reality.

Example: The prophet Elisha and his servant were surrounded by the army of Syria:

- **2 Kings 6:15-17** - "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

The reality for us is that we are part of, and enveloped by, the New Jerusalem.

- **Hebrews 12:22-24** - "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

We are 'living stones', 'being built up as a spiritual house' (**1 Peter 2:5**). But also a royal priesthood" (**Isaiah 61:6; Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6**) serving him in the Temple.

- **Psalms 65:4** - "Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple."

"satisfied" = *sāba* - to be sated, be satisfied with, be fulfilled, be filled - i.e., we need nothing more.

Whenever you get caught up in despair or worry, remember this:

- **Ephesians 2:6** - "And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus"

That's our reality!

One More Thing -

1 Kings 7:51 - "So was ended all the work that king Solomon made for the house of the LORD. And Solomon brought in the things which David his father had dedicated; even the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, did he put among the treasures of the house of the LORD."

We assumed that the treasures David took in his conquests were to be used in the building of the Temple, but that turns out not to be true, although they were deposited in the Temple treasury:

Legends of the Jews, 4:5 - "King David had been so averse to having the gold which he had taken as booty from the heathen places of worship during his campaigns used for the sanctuary at Jerusalem, because he feared that the heathen would boast, at the destruction of the Temple, that their gods were courageous, and were taking revenge by wrecking the house of the Israelitish God. Fortunately Solomon was so rich that there was no need to resort to the gold inherited from his father, and so David's wish was fulfilled."

Was the 'Stone that the Builders Rejected' a reference to the Temple?

Not directly, although there is story in the Testament of Solomon, an apocryphal text from probably the first or second century A.D.:

Not only Gentiles like King Hiram, but even the demons were forced to help build the Temple.

"And Jerusalem was built, and the Temple was being completed. And there was a stone [1], the end stone [42] of the corner lying there, great, chosen out, one which I desired lay in the head of the corner of the completion of the Temple. And all the workmen, and all the demons helping them came to the same place to bring up the stone and lay it on the pinnacle of the holy Temple, and were not strong enough to stir it, and lay it upon the corner allotted to it. For that stone was exceedingly great and useful for the corner of the Temple."

Distressed by their inability to place the stone, Solomon calls on one of the demons that he controls, contained in a flask or skin bag.

"And I said to him: "Canst thou raise this stone, and lay it for the beginning of this corner which exists in the fair plan of the Temple [2]?" And he said: "Not only raise this, O king; but also, with the help of the demon who presides over the Red Sea, I will bring up the pillar of air [3], and will stand it where thou wilt in Jerusalem."

“And the flask went up the steps, carrying the stone, and laid it down at the end of the entrance of the Temple. And I Solomon, beholding the stone raised aloft and placed on a foundation, said: "Truly the Scripture is fulfilled, which says: 'The stone which the builders rejected on trial, that same is become the head of the corner.' For this it is not mine to grant, but God's, that the demon should be strong enough to lift up so great a stone and deposit it in the place I wished."

Then using his magical ring, Solomon trapped the spirits and commanded them to continue holding the stone in place.

“And the spirits have remained upholding it until this day, for proof of the wisdom vouchsafed to me. And there the pillar was hanging of enormous size, in mid air, supported by the winds. And thus the spirits appeared underneath, like air, supporting it. And if one looks fixedly, the pillar is a little oblique, being supported by the spirits; and it is so to day.

“I, therefore, Solomon, having heard this, glorified God and adjured the demons not to disobey me, but to remain supporting the pillar. And they both swore, saying: "The Lord thy God liveth, we will not let go this pillar until the world's end. But on whatever day this stone fall, then shall be the end of the world.”

There is more evidence that the stone was a reference to David and therefore to the Messiah.

When Samuel was told to go to the household of Jesse to anoint a king, Jesse brought all his sons forward, but had rejected David initially. But the Holy Spirit selected him. Later he was under suspicion because of his descent from the Moabitess Ruth.

There is even a Midrash story that there was suspicion that David himself was illegitimate (Babylonian Talmud Baba Batra 91a.). That's why he was relegated to shepherd status and sent out to the hills. He was also despised and rejected among his brothers, as he states in Psalms: "I am a stranger to my brothers, a foreigner to my mother's sons" and "hated without reason" (**Psalm 69:4-8**). When he was eventually anointed to be king "in the midst of his brothers" (**1 Samuel 16:12-13**), his mother, now relieved of suspicion herself, cried the words of **Psalm 118:22** - "The stone that the builders rejected...."

The Targum of this psalm identifies the stone as the son of Jesse.

Finally, at the end of his life, David was rejected as builder of the Temple in favor of his son, Solomon.

Jesus, the Son of David and Messiah, was also suspected of being illegitimate, and then was rejected by his own people:

- **Luke 20:17-18** - "And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, 'The

stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?
Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”

The word *pinah*, cornerstone, (or corner) in Hebrew is also used to describe one who is a leader. Several places in the Old Testament, “cornerstone” is used poetically to describe leaders (**Judges 20:2, Isaiah 19:13**).

We can either stumble and fall (repent)...

- **Isaiah 8:13-14** - “The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy... for both houses of Israel, He will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

Or be crushed in judgment...

- **Daniel 2:44** - “The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.”

- **Acts 4:11-12** - “This Jesus is the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.”

- **Luke 17:25** - “But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

- **John 1:11** - “He came to his own, and those who were His own did not receive him.