

## LIGHT WAS AGAINST LIGHT IN THREE RANKS

### 1 KINGS 7:1 – 8:43

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is in an acutely dry section of Scripture as we begin this report. We commenced construction on Solomon's temple in our previous report; and it is written that it was seven years in the building process. Honestly, it seemed to me as if our last report took seven years to write. Interestingly, we read in verse one of chapter seven, Solomon's own home took almost twice as long to build. His personal house must have been quite elaborate. Well, we also examined the ways in which Solomon's temple was inferior to the tabernacle tent structure commanded to Moses; in spite of the temple's rich ornate and detailed architecture. The temple dimensions were twice as large as the tabernacle was – and three times taller – and surrounding the temple proper were buildings where the priests resided during their term of service; but the temple did not have the power the tabernacle had in Moses' day as Israel wandered through the wilderness.

We also considered Solomon's over-engineering of the temple by adding things that weren't part of the original design God had given Moses for the tabernacle. Plainly, Solomon was overly-complicating everything related to their God-given Mosaic System. Even though the Shekinah Glory did come upon the temple, the type used in the New Testament is always the tabernacle. In short, the temple never rose to the level of prominence the tabernacle had occupied in hearts of the children of Israel in the days of Moses; when they wandered through the wilderness following a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day.

Today, the church attempts to develop a formula of methods, rituals and rules, and they believe they have Christianity pretty much figured out. Well, those things don't lead a lost man to Christ; and they do not cause any saved person to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord, either. Only through the power of the Spirit of God using the Word of God – and the Word of God *ALONE* – taught through His Personally ordained man, can those things ever be attained. The church is obsessed, overwhelmed

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and submerged with rules and methods. Some people feel that if they can just read the right book *ABOUT* Christianity, or about a so-called meaningful life – or if they make a right approach to God by doing or not doing a certain thing – then they will be comfortable and blessed and live happy forevermore. That’s why Christianity in America is in such sorry shape, my beloved.

We need the *ONLY* thing that will ever help anyone to ever turn to a personal relationship with Christ – the Word of God taught properly, correctly and completely in the sound doctrine of the apostles. I cannot stress that enough, friends. Some Christian people today even think the Bible is outdated and outmoded – but I just happen to know that the truth of the Bible is *ALWAYS* brand new to the serious student of Scripture. See, there’s not much educated, sincere, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led teaching going on in this day in which we live – and that is Christianity’s entire problem. That is also why the church is totally ineffective at leading people to Christ. Alright, moving on, in our last report there were also many other structures Solomon constructed to accompany the temple. None of these were part of God’ command to Moses....

## **VII**

***1 But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.***

***2 He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof was an hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars.***

***3 And it was covered with cedar above upon the beams, that lay on forty five pillars, fifteen in a row.***

***4 And there were windows in three rows, and light was against light in three ranks.***

***5 And all the doors and posts were square, with the windows: and light was against light in three ranks.***

***6 And he made a porch of pillars; the length thereof was fifty cubits, and the breadth thereof thirty cubits: and the porch was before them: and the other pillars and the thick beam were before them.***

***7 Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, even the porch of judgment: and it was covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other.***

***8 And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work. Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch.***

~ Solomon's second home – the forest home – was half as long as a modern-day football field. All of these building materials were supplied by the king of Tyre; and we're going to discover all the implications that holds when we get to Ezekiel chapter twenty-eight. You might want to prepare and brace yourself for that revelation. In the day in which we are studying, the land was heavily timbered; however, that entire area – including Palestine – has now been almost completely denuded. Today, very few of those enormous cedar trees still stand. We have seen, and we continue to see, how Solomon spared no expense and built in an almost gaudily ornate manner.

Solomon also seems to have placed the daughter of Pharaoh in a very lofty and favored position. It would have been impossible to build all of his women a palace because, if he had, there would have been a thousand palaces throughout the land. Or, perhaps he did, and it looked like a modern-day subdivision in Florida. That might make Solomon's sordid women's story even worse. Either way, we have a highly detailed record of the stones and their costs for this home; details about the court – and details all the way down to the foundation are given....

***9 All these were of costly stones, according to the measures of hewed stones, sawed with saws, within and without, even from the foundation unto the coping, and so on the outside toward the great court.***

***10 And the foundation was of costly stones, even great stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits.***

***11 And above were costly stones, after the measures of hewed stones, and cedars.***

***12 And the great court round about was with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for the inner court of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the house.***

***13 And King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre.***

***14 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.***

***15 For he cast two pillars of brass, of eighteen cubits high apiece: and a line of twelve cubits did compass either of them about.***

***16 And he made two chapiters of molten brass, to set upon the tops of the pillars: the height of the one chapter was five cubits, and the height of the other chapter was five cubits:***

***17 And nets of checker work, and wreaths of chain work, for the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars; seven for the one chapter, and seven for the other chapter.***

***18 And he made the pillars, and two rows round about upon the one network, to cover the chapiters that were upon the top, with pomegranates: and so did he for the other chapter.***

**19 And the chapters that were upon the top of the pillars were of lily work in the porch, four cubits.**

**20 And the chapters upon the two pillars had pomegranates also above, over against the belly which was by the network: and the pomegranates were two hundred in rows round about upon the other chapter.**

**21 And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz.**

~ Apparently, the Hiram mentioned in verse thirteen is not the king of Tyre – but another man named Hiram. He fabricated all the delicate pieces of iron and brass and gold. This is evidence of an extremely affluent period of prosperity and peace. Interestingly, the arts always develop exponentially during times of peace and affluence. Well, these are further details of the temple, mainly the pillars – named Jachin and Boaz. There are Psalms that speak of these pillars; and Jachin means *“God shall establish”* and Boaz, whom we met in the Book of Ruth, of course, means *“in it is strength.”* So, we have strength and beauty presented. Psalm ninety-six verse six says: *“... strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.”* Strength speaks of salvation and how God is able to deliver those who are His children. Beauty speaks to the appearance of worship; and we are to worship Christ in the beauty of His holiness and righteousness. Those are the two spiritual pillars that should support the life of all who desire to worship God. I dare say, *almost* no one reads, understands or contemplates this section of Scripture today.

If we are to worship God in any meaningful capacity, we must know something about salvation; meaning, we’re going to have to know His power of deliverance from sin. We will also have to come and worship Him in the beauty of righteousness and holiness. We’re not talking about lights, music, singing, expensive equipment and sensual stuff; because those accessories are *NOT* worship. Now, don’t get me wrong, those things may be conducive to worship, and it’s lovely to have a well-appointed sanctuary – but they cannot be a substitute for worship – and, unfortunately, that’s what is prevalent in the average American modern church. When we worship in Spirit and Truth, we worship in the beauty of holiness. That, by

de facto, requires the teaching of sound doctrine be incorporated. That's when we will begin to sense our inadequacy and shortcomings before the Lord; and begin to see Christ in His beauty and glory. That's what John Baptist meant when he said, "... *Christ must increase, but I must decrease.*"

That was also the experience of Isaiah when he entered the temple. Isaiah was given a vision of the Lord as being high, holy and lifted up. Isaiah saw himself in the light of the presence of God – and that caused him to fall on his face before the Lord, confess his inadequacy and worship Jehovah properly, correctly and completely. That is the spiritual meaning of these two pillars we are considering. The redeemed soul is the only soul which can properly worship – and make no mistake, it takes time, my beloved. We simply don't rush into the presence of a Holy God. Now, I just happen to be what I consider an authority in the realm of music; and I'm here to tell you that any music that doesn't lift you into the presence of the Almighty God isn't good for your soul. There is a great deal of modern "worship" music that is a complete turn-off; not to mention unbiblical in every aspect. When that is permitted, there is usually no preparation for a correct sermon and, in fact, the wrong music can literally wreck an otherwise terrific Biblical message. Let's move on...

***22 And upon the top of the pillars was lily work: so was the work of the pillars finished.***

***23 And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.***

***24 And under the brim of it round about there were knops compassing it, ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about: the knops were cast in two rows, when it was cast.***

~ Note the *MOLTEN* sea for lavers as opposed to the original design command given by Moses. This is another epic example of over-engineering, which always makes worship obsolete. Sure, those lavers were beautiful – but the priests couldn't wash in them. They were as dry as the dust inside. We have a whole lot of so-called worship services in the church

today that may be beautiful and lovely, but it doesn't cleanse, and it doesn't bring us into the presence of God. Remember, God would not permit the priests to serve until they had washed. That was impossible in the lavers in Solomon's temple. Most of today's "service" does nothing to cleanse and wash souls. Those are the important things if we want to be effective at witnessing for Christ and leading this lost and dying world to salvation. Again, I simply cannot stress those points enough....

***25 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea was set above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward.***

***26 And it was an hand breadth thick, and the brim thereof was wrought like the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies: it contained two thousand baths.***

***27 And he made ten bases of brass; four cubits was the length of one base, and four cubits the breadth thereof, and three cubits the height of it.***

***28 And the work of the bases was on this manner: they had borders, and the borders were between the ledges:***

***29 And on the borders that were between the ledges were lions, oxen, and cherubims: and upon the ledges there was a base above: and beneath the lions and oxen were certain additions made of thin work.***

***30 And every base had four brasen wheels, and plates of brass: and the four corners thereof had undersetters: under the laver were undersetters molten, at the side of every addition.***

***31 And the mouth of it within the chapter and above was a cubit: but the mouth thereof was round after the work of the base, a cubit and an half: and also upon the mouth of it were gravings with their borders, foursquare, not round.***

***32 And under the borders were four wheels; and the axletrees of the wheels were joined to the base: and the height of a wheel was a cubit and half a cubit.***

***33 And the work of the wheels was like the work of a chariot wheel: their axletrees, and their naves, and their felloes, and their spokes, were all molten.***

***34 And there were four undersetters to the four corners of one base: and the undersetters were of the very base itself.***

***35 And in the top of the base was there a round compass of half a cubit high: and on the top of the base the ledges thereof and the borders thereof were of the same.***

***36 For on the plates of the ledges thereof, and on the borders thereof, he graved cherubims, lions, and palm trees, according to the proportion of every one, and additions round about.***

***37 After this manner he made the ten bases: all of them had one casting, one measure, and one size.***

***38 Then made he ten lavers of brass: one laver contained forty baths: and every laver was four cubits: and upon every one of the ten bases one laver.***

***39 And he put five bases on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house: and he set the sea on the right side of the house eastward over against the south.***

***40 And Hiram made the lavers, and the shovels, and the basons. So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he made king Solomon for the house of the LORD:***

***41 The two pillars, and the two bowls of the chapiters that were on the top of the two pillars; and the two networks, to cover the two bowls of the chapiters which were upon the top of the pillars;***



***42 And four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, even two rows of pomegranates for one network, to cover the two bowls of the chapiters that were upon the pillars;***

***43 And the ten bases, and ten lavers on the bases;***

***44 And one sea, and twelve oxen under the sea;***

***45 And the pots, and the shovels, and the basons: and all these vessels, which Hiram made to King Solomon for the house of the LORD, were of bright brass.***

***46 In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarthan.***

***47 And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because they were exceeding many: neither was the weight of the brass found out.***

***48 And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the shewbread was,***

***49 And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold,***

~ Alright, Solomon constructed ten lamp stands; instead of one lamp stand that spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ. Solomon had five on each side. One was enough to speak of the Lord. See, there is a grave danger today in over-emphasizing Jesus – and I’m not being critical for the sake of being critical in this report – but I am being critical; I have heard messages given on television by very prominent modern preachers where the Name of Jesus was mentioned more than fifty times. I’ve counted them – because I do that sort of thing. Well, to just say His Name for the sake of saying His name – multiplying lamp stands – that’s no good. We really need to recognize that we don’t become familiar with Him, friends – not at all. You don’t

know Jesus right now as you should. If you believe you do, there is something radically wrong in said relationship.

The over-familiarity with Jesus on this forum on which I teach is sickening, quite frankly. People say the most ridiculous things about Jesus and how they're going to sit down and talk to Him and all of that. Well, maybe you really think that will happen; but, we have an account of a man that was very familiar with Jesus while He was here on earth – and that man rebuked Jesus and told Jesus to bring down fire from Heaven and all that – John even suggested the Lord destroy many people and things – but Jesus didn't pay any attention to John in that connection. Well, later, when John sees the glorified Christ on the island of Patmos, John fell at His feet as dead. That's where – and how – you're going to approach Jesus – make no mistake about that. The error of multiplying lamp stands does not further the cause of Christ....

***50 And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple.***

***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.***

## **VIII**

~ Chapter eight brings us the dedication of Solomon's temple; and we'll see the Shekinah glory fill the Holy of Holies when the Ark is placed there. Verse five leaves questions about how this could happen logistically given the reported numbers. I think they may have had many temporary altars for the dedication. Perhaps they believed making continual sacrifices around the clock would impress the Lord. Well, it's not impressive to Him because Christ appeared *ONCE* in the end of the age – to offer Himself *ONCE* for the sins of the world. *ONCE!* They didn't need to do all of this, but Solomon went for pageantry and pomp – even though this demonstration

was totally and completely against the commandment of God given for the order of service concerning sacrifices in the Mosaic System of Levitical Law. See, friends, it's *VERY* easy to get away from the original intent of God and end up with a form of godliness that God never intended. I urge you to be careful to avoid this, spiritually speaking, in your own life....

***1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.***

***2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.***

***3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.***

***4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up.***

***5 And King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.***

***6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.***

***7 For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.***

***8 And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.***

***9 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.***

***10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,***

***11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.***

***12 Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.***

***13 I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.***

***14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood)***

***15 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying,***

***16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.***

***17 And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.***

***18 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.***

***19 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.***

***20 And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the***

***LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.***

***21 And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.***

***22 And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:***

***23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:***

***24 Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.***

***25 Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying , There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.***

***26 And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.***

***27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded ?***

***28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day:***

***29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that***

*thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.*

*30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.*

*31 If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house:*

*32 Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.*

*33 When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house:*

*34 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.*

*35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them:*

*36 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.*

*37 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be;*

***38 What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house:***

***39 Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)***

***40 That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.***

***41 Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake;***

***42 (For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm) when he shall come and pray toward this house;***

***43 Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.***

~ Alright, we'll break off the reading at verse forty-three in this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God. I trust you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment; and then have read this section of Scripture separately in your own Bible. Verse twenty-seven confirms Solomon knew the Lord wouldn't be dwelling in this temple. To make the assertion that God dwells in a house made by hands is simply pagan. Not only will God *not* dwell in the temple, but God doesn't even dwell on earth. Heaven cannot contain God, friends! It is a mistake to label a church building "God's house." It's *NOT* God's house by any stretch of an imagination. God today indwells *BELIEVERS* – not structures. When believers meet in a church, then God is there in the Person of His Spirit, to be sure; but, when they all go home, God asserts His omnipresence. If two believers meet in a barroom – or on Halloween eve – or around a Christmas tree – God is there, too! Let's move on.

The church building and the ensuing worship is but a tangible way we can approach God on terms we understand. God says whatsoever we shall ask in His *NAME* then His *NAME* shall be there, “... *that Thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which Thy servants shall make towards that place!*” Israel was told that if they prayed towards the temple, God would hear and answer their prayer – and forgive them of their sins. It is certainly a very wonderful thing Solomon’s dedication prayer reveals. This is no primitive notion of some elusive Higher Power – or something similarly absurd. No, the temple is hereby declared the world center of worship and the government capital of Israel. Even in captivity, the Jews were to turn toward the temple to pray; which is exactly what Daniel did, you may recall.

So, this extended report concludes with the temple firmly established as the place of worship for the nation Israel. Israel’s witness to the world at the time in which we are studying is much different than ours today; we are told to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. Well, here in the time of the kings of Israel, the world was told to come to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. Strangers will be coming from afar, too; as we will see when we meet the Queen of Sheba. Her traveling to the temple will reveal that this was the way the world was instructed to worship. All of this speaks of the way to Christ and the cross of Christ. Remember, our so-called safari is searching for Him on every page of the Bible. Of course, that’s the way to God today – the *ONLY* way. No man cometh unto the Father but by the Lord Jesus Christ. You won’t even get in the same stratosphere as God through the temple – or by ritual – or by service – *ONLY* through the Lord Jesus Christ can we ever come to God.

In our next report, we’ll go into detail about how God is prophetically telling Israel at this time they will soon go into captivity. When that time comes, they are instructed to pray once again towards Jerusalem. We’re going to continue to pursue this study in the very complicated and not-so-interesting book of first Kings. If you haven’t begun to take some time to read the Word of God and these reports for an educated, sincere and systematic study of the Bible, I hope you will do that now. I will try to make it a thrilling experience for you – but I make no promises – let’s pray about that. I will be praying about that, to be sure. Personally, I believe this Spiritual Safari will be an experience for you that cannot be duplicated; and



this may be a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn the Word of God properly, correctly and completely, my beloved readers. Again, I hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity the Lord is giving you ~