

~ In our previous report from our Spiritual Safari, we attempted to lay a solid introduction to second Chronicles. I hope that report was helpful to you as a foundation for this remarkable, but completely neglected, book of the Bible. David is now dead, and we're considering the reign of King Solomon; attempting to extract great spiritual lessons placed here for us by the Spirit of God. The first nine chapters detail the reign of Solomon. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is *ALL* profitable for our learning and understanding. So, Solomon is now building the temple according to the instructions and by the preparations David made before his death. Solomon has begun to organize the workmen for this overwhelming task of constructing the temple, and we'll read the account in this section of Scripture.

As most of you know, this safari doesn't just pick out the "love, love, love" theme from the Word of God – we examine the *entire* Bible – in detail. Paul said all of these events in the Old Testament happened unto them as an example unto us. So, there are lessons for us on every page of Scripture. People are simply missing the point of the Bible when they won't dig in and learn the *entire* Word of God. If you don't believe it all – then you don't believe *ANY* of it, my friends. I'm not going into great detail in some of these chapters because, quite frankly, they are as boring as a blueprint or the specifications for materials of a commercial building project. I do trust you will read these chapters carefully on your own after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment, because there are great truths and details not mentioned previously in Kings. Let's pray the Holy Spirit of God will go before us in this report and open our minds and hearts; in Jesus Name we pray....

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⁵ And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.

⁶ 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 burnt sacrifice is the way Israel approached God at the time in which we are studying. The only way you and I can come to God is through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross; and a burnt offering spoke of the sacrifice made by our Holy High Priest. Solomon had no misgivings or questions about Who God was; and whether or not He would live in this house Solomon was building. The peanut theologian today always tries to make an assertion that Solomon was trying to build a little house and put God in a box. Well, obviously, Solomon had no conception whatsoever of God living in this thing he was building; and neither did the people in the nation.

Actually, I think they knew more about God at the time in which we are studying than most of us do today – even in our most conservative and fundamental churches. I have heard the church referred to as “*God’s house*” my entire life. Of course, God does not occupy any house at any time. This temple was merely the tangible place where man could sacrifice and meet with God; and the place had to be worthy of that honorable sacrament. As we see, the temple was highly ornate and beautifully decorated. It was not an imposingly large structure compared to other temples of that historical period; such as the temple of Diana in Ephesus – or the pyramids. Comparably speaking, the temple in Israel was *small* in terms of square footage. However, the wealth of precious stones, gold and silver were of no comparison at all – not even close...

⁷ 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.

~ It's interesting Solomon had to turn to the outside world for skilled labor. They apparently had no artificers or artisans in Israel; so, they called upon Hiram of Tyre again. See, God intended the children of Israel to be an agricultural people – and they were primarily farmers in the day in which we are studying. Even today, they remain mostly agricultural; some of the finest farms you'll ever see are in Israel. I don't think there is any land richer than the valley of Esdraelon where Megiddo is located....

⁸ Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants shall be with thy servants,

⁹ Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great.

¹⁰ And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

¹¹ Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them.

¹² Hiram said moreover, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

13 And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's,

14 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.

15 Now therefore the wheat, and the barley, the oil, and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send unto his servants:

16 And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem.

17 And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred.

18 And he set threescore and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work.

III

1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

² And he began to build in the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign.

³ Now these are the things wherein Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure was threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.

~ Alright, so we know the temple was twice as large as the tabernacle; approximately ninety-feet by thirty-feet; which isn't much bigger than a modern-day average home of twenty-seven hundred square feet. Of course, that was the temple proper; but all around the temple were many other buildings constructed by Solomon. As we read on, there are certain things that are interesting; some of which we have seen before — and some we have not....

⁴ And the porch that was in the front of the house, the length of it was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the height was an hundred and twenty: and he overlaid it within with pure gold.

⁵ And the greater house he cieled with fir tree, which he overlaid with fine gold, and set thereon palm trees and chains.

⁶ And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold was gold of Parvaim.

⁷ He overlaid also the house, the beams, the posts, and the walls thereof, and the doors thereof, with gold; and graved cherubims on the walls.

⁸ And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents.

⁹ And the weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold.

¹⁰ And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold.

¹¹ And the wings of the cherubims were twenty cubits long: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was likewise five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.

¹² And one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing was five cubits also, joining to the wing of the other cherub.

¹³ The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces were inward.

~ These were the cherubims that looked down on the mercy seat. You will recall that when Moses was given the tabernacle instructions there were no measurements given for these. The cherubim's speak of deity. Deity cannot be measured. I think they were made much larger than they were in the tabernacle; however, even with their large scale, there is a note and sense of deterioration. Whenever an attempt is made to measure deity, it is ALWAYS deterioration....

¹⁴ And he made the vail of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon.

~ We are being presented *God's viewpoint* in the books of Chronicles. In Samuel and Kings, we considered *man's viewpoint* of the same period in history. So, there are a few things God calls our attention to that He didn't even mention in Kings. The vail was a thing of tremendous beauty. It was

approximately three inches thick and was changed annually. Well, the veil speaks of the humanity of the Lord Jesus when He was crucified; and the vail was rent in twain when that happened. God calls attention to that here. Long before Christ came the earth, God made the statement that *“this is My Son in Whom I am well pleased!”* ~

15 Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits high, and the chapter that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.

~ We'll do well to note these pillars. We saw them in Kings and, obviously, they went up very high. In fact, they seem out of proportion to the rest of the building. The pillars speak of strength and beauty; and those two are things man erroneously believes he attains down here – strength and beauty. America is a so-called great and strong nation, but we can't even maintain law and order on our streets. We say we can bring peace to the world when it isn't even safe to go outside at night. Artists are supposed to capture beauty; but modern art is a total disgrace. Well, God is still interested in strength and beauty. We'll see strength and beauty again in the next chapter at verse twelve, also...

16 And he made chains, as in the oracle, and put them on the heads of the pillars; and made an hundred pomegranates, and put them on the chains.

~ The chains speak of the unity of the individuals, the tribes, and of the nation Israel as a whole. Of course, they are all one as a whole. God respects and blesses *ABSOLUTE* unity and, my friends, that is something we see *VERY* little of today amongst believers. The believing body is split and fragmented into countless little cliques and groups. Every day sees some new interpretation of the Word of God by people who are just verse grabbing aimlessly. They form a theology that doesn't help anyone, and the problem just snowballs. Well, that's exactly how the Bible says it would all work out, so let's not be surprised that there is no modern-day revival. *NONE* of it honors God today – it honors self. You may say *“all to the glory*

to Christ'' but you aren't kidding anyone. The figure in the New Testament is a body; and that's the church – but most people never even darken the doors of their local church. If they do, it's only to see what the church might do for them – not what they can do for Christ ~

17 And he reared up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

IV

1 Moreover he made an altar of brass, twenty cubits the length thereof, and twenty cubits the breadth thereof, and ten cubits the height thereof.

2 Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

3 And under it was the similitude of oxen, which did compass it round about: ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about. Two rows of oxen were cast, when it was cast.

4 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.

5 And the thickness of it was an handbreadth, and the brim of it like the work of the brim of a cup, with flowers of lilies; and it received and held three thousand baths.

⁶ He made also ten lavers, and put five on the right hand, and five on the left, to wash in them: such things as they offered for the burnt offering they washed in them; but the sea was for the priests to wash in.

⁷ And he made ten candlesticks of gold according to their form, and set them in the temple, five on the right hand, and five on the left.

⁸ He made also ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right side, and five on the left. And he made an hundred basons of gold.

⁹ Furthermore he made the court of the priests, and the great court, and doors for the court, and overlaid the doors of them with brass.

¹⁰ And he set the sea on the right side of the east end, over against the south.

¹¹ And Hiram made the pots, and the shovels, and the basons. And Hiram finished the work that he was to make for king Solomon for the house of God;

¹² To wit, the two pillars, and the pommels, and the chapters which were on the top of the two pillars, and the two wreaths to cover the two pommels of the chapters which were on the top of the pillars;

¹³ And four hundred pomegranates on the two wreaths; two rows of pomegranates on each wreath, to cover the two pommels of the chapters which were upon the pillars.

~ The pomegranates speak of fruitfulness. The four colors we saw in the previous chapter are emphasized again. Blue speaks of Heaven; purple speak of royalty; crimson speaks of redemption by the blood of Christ; and the white linen speaks of a holy walk. All of these are, obviously, very

important to God, and I don't think He wanted us to miss the point in these preceding two chapters....

14 He made also bases, and lavers made he upon the bases;

15 One sea, and twelve oxen under it.

16 The pots also, and the shovels, and the fleshhooks, and all their instruments, did Hiram his father make to king Solomon for the house of the LORD of bright brass.

17 In the plain of Jordan did the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredathah.

18 Thus Solomon made all these vessels in great abundance: for the weight of the brass could not be found out.

19 And Solomon made all the vessels that were for the house of God, the golden altar also, and the tables whereon the shewbread was set;

20 Moreover the candlesticks with their lamps, that they should burn after the manner before the oracle, of pure gold;

21 And the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs, made he of gold, and that perfect gold;

22 And the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers, of pure gold: and the entry of the house, the inner doors thereof for the most holy place, and the doors of the house of the temple, were of gold.

V

¹ Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.

² 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 Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

³ Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month.

⁴ And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark.

⁵ And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up.

⁶ Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

⁷ And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims:

⁸ For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

~ Our Spiritual Safari concludes this report with the Ark having been brought into the temple. This means the temple is complete; and those details were given in Kings, so we're going to bi-pass them in this leg of our

study. Here, they make a sacrifice that couldn't even be numbered. I don't think they even made an attempt to count them. Either way, this *ALL* speaks of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ; and that just cannot be measured nor numbered in *ANY* sense. In our next report, we'll examine something I think will be very meaningful for all of us in these days in which we live. I hope you can travel along with us. It is an amazing picture of Christ we find in these pictures of the temple ~

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And They Stood on Their Feet >>>

<<< 2 Chronicles 2:5 – 5:8