

## Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

### 2 Chronicles 2:1-18

#### V1-18

- **V1-5** Solomon is now ready to build the temple and we're told that he went into this project with a determined heart and mindset which was both fitting and needed given the magnitude of it all. **1<sup>st</sup>** this was his father's dying wish for him to fulfill, as David not only charged Solomon with this task, but also while he was living prepared all the materials and plans in expectation that Solomon and the nation of Israel would make this temple the most grandest of all buildings ever made > **1Chron 22:3**, this wasn't just some quick fix to satisfy a senile King, it was meant to be a masterpiece, a symbol that represented how the nation felt about their "**Mighty God**".
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** this temple announced to the world exactly Who Israel worshipped and followed as the Temple would be the centerpiece in all of Jerusalem, for everything would revolve around it. **3<sup>rd</sup>** the temple was a reminder of everything God had accomplished in calling Abraham out of his father's house and delivering Israel from the bondage of Egypt and giving them a land to call their own, so every time anyone saw the temple it spoke of how God kept his promises to them.
- **V2** shows the magnitude of the work, **70,000** to bear burdens, **80,000** to quarry stone, and a middle management team of **3,600** who over saw the work, even with all this man power it took them seven years to finally complete the project. Which also shows that the work of God is always in need of plenty of laborers > **Matt 9:37-38**- "**the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest**".
- **V3** notice Solomon also relied on the relationship that his father had with Hiram King of Tyre in supplying good timber needed for a sure foundation. Parents establishing long lasting friendships often benefit not only themselves but also their children, because when you've been a blessing to people they often want to bless those who you care about as well, so make sure to remind your children that many of the things they enjoy is because of the friendships of those who came before them, as they will continue on long after a person is in eternity.
- **V6-10** not only did Solomon receive the best timber that King Hiram had to offer, as the cedar trees were legendary for being the very best timber in the forest, and Tyre had them in abundance. But he also sent him skilled artisans who could work in gold, silver, bronze and Iron, and men who could skillfully cut down timber without damaging it so that they could place it in specific places at the building.

- **V11-16** Hiram's response is interesting, as we don't know if he was truly a believer, but we can see that he at least respected the God of Israel, and that's no doubt due to David's Godly influence on him, as he saw how the Lord used David and how David loved the Lord. **V14** in response to Solomon's request for a skillful man he sends "**Hiram**" a man who had a Jewish mom, and a gentile father, this again showed his respect for David as he knew this man was not only skillful at his craft but also familiar with Jewish customs and beliefs which made it easier to work with. **V15** we see Hiram still expected to get paid for his services friends or no friends.
- **V17-18** we see exactly where much of the labor force came from, as Solomon used both Israelites and non Jews in cutting, trimming, and transporting the logs to the construction site. This is one of the reasons why the temple would also have a court of the gentiles as there were many non Jews involved in its construction, so the temple did not become a "**house of prayer**" for all nations by accident, as people from many nations played a part in its construction.