

Israel: Drive through history Pt 2

2 Chronicles 3:1-17

V1-17

- **V1** tells us where Solomon began to build the temple from a place called “Mt. Moriah” this was the threshing floor David bought from Ornan the Jebusite, when he offered to give it to him for free and David said “**he would not take what is somebody else’s and offer it to the Lord without paying full cost for it**” > **1Chron 21:23-24**. This is also the same hill where Abraham took Isaac his son to offer him to the Lord in **Gen 22**, and ultimately it is where Jesus would be sacrificed on the cross, so this place has significant historical meaning.
- **V2-7** the temple would be 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, 15 feet deep, 45 feet high, and included a vestibule or porch that was 30 feet long that went around the structure. Needless to say there was nothing like that in all of Israel or Jerusalem, which is why in the NT the Jews took offense to hearing Jesus say about the temple that not one brick would lay upon another speaking of the Romans burning and eventually tearing it down brick by brick, they never thought it possible.
- Also we see that it included precious or valuable stones overlaying the structure, and there were Cherubim like the pattern of the tabernacle carved on the walls, its similar to if you go to many of the buildings on the capital inscribed on the walls are scriptures that the founding fathers wrote to remind the country that the laws were suppose to be an extension of biblical truth. Solomon is also saying that the temple is an overstated symbol of what God established in the tabernacle, so Israel should never forget the foundation that comes from the Law of God.
- We know symbols without practice soon turn into powerless traditions that is followed in name only, and that is what happened to the Jews because during Jesus time the temple was no more than a place in which the vendors would cheat the people in selling sacrifices and religious artifacts. **V8-14** special attention is given to the “**Holy of Holies**” or most holy place, it was a **30 foot, 10 meter cube**, completely overlaid with gold, with two large **15 feet high** Cherubim’s also overlaid in gold, no wonder the Roman’s and Titus when burning the temple tore down every brick so they could take the gold that was made into the walls, building and structures.
- The two Cherubim’s were located right inside the “**The Holy Place**” so when the priest entered he saw these giant structures meant as guardians of the presence of God facing him. Then there was the veil which separated the “**holy place**” from “**The Holy of Holies**” and only one man once a year could go behind the veil and enter the “**Most Holy Place**” to offer up sacrifices for the sins of the nation. So for most Israelites the temple was an unseen world, for God had drawn near to them, but the way to Him was hedged around with many restrictions, which both Jesus and the Apostles would face in the NT as the religious leaders refused to change from this system.

- **V15-17** in front of the temple were two pillars **35** feet high, and **1 Kings 7:15** tell us these pillars instead of being made of gold were made of bronze. The pillars were given names, the one on the right was called "**Jachin**"- means He shall establish, and the one on the left "**Boaz**" – which means in strength. So put together both pillars stand as a reminder that God would establish Israel in His strength and not in man's, and these two pillars standing tall were to remind them daily of this very truth, sadly they would walk right past it and ignore its truthful message.
- So every time someone came to this impressive house of God in the days of Solomon they said > "look there is "**He shall establish**" and there is "**In Him is strength**". It was meant to set them in the right frame of mind to worship the Lord. How many things has God placed in our lives that when we look at it they remind us that it was God that established this, it was because of His strength that I have this, it could be your family, your home, your job, your health, whatever it is I know just like the Israelites that God is a great communicator so He will place something to remind you that if it was not for Him where would we be, the answer is always "**in trouble**".