

## Israel: Drive through History Pt 2

### 2 Chronicles 4:1-22

- Solomon has started the building process one that will take him seven years to complete, and what I like is how scripture describes Solomon's actions, **1<sup>st</sup>** - it said **he determined to do it > 2:1**, **2<sup>nd</sup>** - next it said **he began to do it > 3:1**, and **3<sup>rd</sup>** - it says **he finished doing it > 5:1**. This is a great process because we don't like taking on anything that may last seven days, or seven weeks, even seven months, much less seven years, as we live in an instant society from breakfast, to camera's, we want our stuff right away, and if it will take some time we look for short cuts.

#### V1-22

- **V1-3** here on Mt. Moriah the place where Abraham offered Isaac, and where David sacrificed on the threshing floor of Ornan and God was appeased and stopped the plague spreading throughout Israel, the place that will eventually be where Jesus our Lord will be sacrificed for our sins, this is where Solomon begins to build the temple for the Lord. **V1** describes the size of the altar, about **30** feet long, and **30** feet wide, and **15** feet tall, roughly twice as large as the altar originally built for the tabernacle, it was meant to be rather large for a purpose.
- When you approached the temple from the East you came to the entrance of the inner courtyard of the priests. It was to this entrance the people brought their sacrifices and offerings to be presented to the Lord. The Hebrew word for "**Altar**" meant "**killing place**" this was the place of sacrifice, the center for worship and service for the priests and the people. The "**altar**" was the first main object to be met as one entered the sanctuary court, as it demonstrates that God may be approached only through sacrifices, which is why it was raised so high, in order that the people might see the burnt offerings and be reminded of their sins and of their God.
- In the NT we also have an altar that is better than the one they built in Solomon's temple, according to > **Heb 13:10**- as our altar or "**killing place**" is the cross, where Jesus died for our sins once and for all, and instead of us bringing daily sacrifices in order to be forgiven, we come once, confess, and then follow by dying unto self, and then living for Jesus. **V4-6** you had **12** figures of oxen and a laver to carry the water that was set upon them, which most believed represented the **12** tribes and ultimately the **12** Apostles to carry the water of life to the world.
- **V7-10** you see both the practical and the spiritual as you had the lamp stands, tables and bowls in order to hold the showbread that represented the continual fellowship of Israel with God, and the bowls were there to collect the blood of the sacrifices which was sprinkled upon the altar during the temple services of atonement. Then you had the "**inner court**" reserved only for the priests, and the "**outer court**" or great court, was open to all the nation of Israel. Later there'd be another separation as a "**court of the women**" would be established between the **OT-NT**.

- These separations showed that under the **OT** the universal priesthood of believers had not yet been achieved, as that priesthood would only come about in the **NT**, through The Lord Jesus Christ, in Him all of us have direct access to the Father > **Gal 3:28**- there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, as we are all one in Christ Jesus, **1Pet 2:9**- all of us are now God's Holy priest. **V11-16 "Hiram"** was the best craftsman around, and Solomon used him greatly to finish much of the artistic work in and around the temple, and because he was half Jewish and half Gentile meant he would be somewhat familiar with what Solomon wanted.
- **V17-19** the two chief metals used in the were bronze and gold, the bronze represented the our sin and the burnt offerings needed to receive forgiveness from the Lord, the gold represented our place and fellowship that we enjoyed with the Lord, as being His children meant we shined like the most precious and expensive of all of life's materials. **V20-22** the lamp stands was all about our prayers going up continually to the Lord, the priests were to burn them regularly. **V18** notice there was no attempt to keep an accurate account of what was given to the service of the Lord, for as wise as he was he didn't want his left to know what his right hand had done for God.