

1 Kings 6 - Thursday, September 17th, 2015

1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

- Here we're given the dating as it relates to the Exodus, by way of the year that Solomon commenced the building of the temple.
- It's interesting to note that Solomon is still young in this his fourth year as king, which means he's probably about 24-years old.
- It's also interesting to note that it took four years to prepare just the lumber from the cedars of Lebanon that Hiram provided.

2 Now the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits. 3 The vestibule in front of the sanctuary of the house was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the width of the vestibule extended ten cubits from the front of the house. 4 And he made for the house windows with beveled frames. 5 Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around, against the walls of the temple, all around the sanctuary and the inner sanctuary. Thus he made side chambers all around it. 6 The lowest chamber was five cubits wide, the middle was six cubits wide, and the third was seven cubits wide; for he made narrow ledges around the outside of the temple, so that the support beams would not be fastened into the walls of the temple.

- One of the things that will begin to stand out as we see the construction of the temple is the meticulous detail that we're given.
- There are a number of reasons for this, chief of which is the tabernacle, though not exactly like the temple, was a foreshadow.
- In other words, it was a type of what is in heaven in the sense that it foreshadowed the throne of God and was to be a copy.

Hebrews 8:5 (NIV) — 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Hebrews 9:23–24 (NIV) — 23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.

- When we get to 1st Chronicles, we'll have more blanks filled in for us concerning David's role in preparing everything for David.

1 Chronicles 28:11–12 (NKJV) — 11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; 12 and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;

2 Chronicles 3:1 (NKJV) — 1 Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

7 And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

- Couple of thoughts on this detail of having no hammering or chiseling of these stones being heard where the temple was built.
- The first thought is that it speaks to God's work being done in God's way practically such that man's labor isn't a distraction.
- The worship of God in His temple in that day, and in His church in our day, shouldn't have the sight or sound of man's flesh.

Exodus 28:40-43 – 40 "For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty. 41 So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. 42 And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. 43 They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place, that they do not incur iniquity and die. It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him.

- Notice first that the trousers were to be made of linen, and not wool. The reason being is wool would make the priests sweat.
- In other words, the priests were not to sweat in the presence of the Lord because it would symbolize the energy of the flesh.
- Notice also that it was to cover their nakedness, meaning that no flesh was exposed in the presence and service of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (NKJV) — 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

- The second thought on these stones being finished at the quarry has to do with God's work done God's way metaphorically.
- These massive stones were to be hammered on and chipped at so they were perfectly completed before brought to Jerusalem.
- Then, when the work was completed, the stones fit perfectly together in the building of the temple. We are those living stones.

1 Peter 2:4-5 (NIV) — 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Adam Clarke of this says, "But why is this so particularly marked? Is it not because the temple was a type of the kingdom of God; and the souls of men are to be prepared here for that place of blessedness? There, ... is no preaching, exhortations, repentance, tears, cries, nor prayers; the stones must be all squared and fitted here for their place in their New Jerusalem."

8 The doorway for the middle story was on the right side of the temple. They went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle to the third. 9 So he built the temple and finished it, and he paneled the temple with beams and boards of cedar. 10 And he built side chambers against the entire temple, each five cubits high; they were attached to the temple with cedar beams.

- What we see here from this detail is that the temple was not built exactly like the tabernacle, which did not have side chambers.
- Also, we know from the aforementioned measurements that the temple was actually built twice as large as the tabernacle was.
- Another difference was that the tabernacle did not have windows, whereas the temple did and as such, was much more ornate.

- I find it interesting that the original tabernacle is referred to as the heavenly copy, which we just read in the book of Hebrews.
- The question becomes why? Why was it the tabernacle, half the size of the temple that became the type of what is in heaven?
- It's been suggested that one of the reasons for this is because the tabernacle accurately portrayed both simplicity and humility.

11 Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying: 12 "Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David. 13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

- This is very interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that it's sort of parenthetical as it relates to the building.
- Let me explain, Solomon is in the midst of a very complex building project when he's told God will perform His word with him.
- The reason I point this out is that it's so apropos. In the midst of our building project, the main thing needs to be the main thing.

14 So Solomon built the temple and finished it. 15 And he built the inside walls of the temple with cedar boards; from the floor of the temple to the ceiling he paneled the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the temple with planks of cypress. 16 Then he built the twenty-cubit room at the rear of the temple, from floor to ceiling, with cedar boards; he built it inside as the inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place. 17 And in front of it the temple sanctuary was forty cubits long. 18 The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with ornamental buds and open flowers. All was cedar; there was no stone to be seen. 19 And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. 20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar. 21 So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold. He stretched gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold. 22 The whole temple he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the temple; also he overlaid with gold the entire altar that was by the inner sanctuary. 23 Inside the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high. 24 One wing of the cherub was five cubits, and the other wing of the cherub five cubits: ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other. 25 And the other cherub was ten cubits; both cherubim were of the same size and shape. 26 The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was the other cherub. 27 Then he set the cherubim inside the inner room; and they stretched out the wings of the cherubim so that the wing of the one touched one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall. And their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. 28 Also he overlaid the cherubim with gold. 29 Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. 30 And the floor of the temple he overlaid with gold, both the inner and outer sanctuaries. 31 For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood; the lintel and doorposts were one-fifth of the wall. 32 The two doors were of olive wood; and he carved on them figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees. 33 So for the door of the sanctuary he also made doorposts of olive wood, one-fourth of the wall. 34 And the two doors were of cypress wood; two panels comprised one folding door, and two panels comprised the other folding door. 35 Then he carved cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers on them, and overlaid them with gold applied evenly on the carved work. 36 And he built the inner court with three rows of hewn stone and a row of cedar beams. 37 In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv. 38 And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

- Here we're told it took seven years to complete the building of the temple, and when it was finally finished it was spectacular.
- However, it should be noted how that sadly, this glorious temple would be plundered within five years of the death of Solomon.
- The reason being is that the glory of the temple quickly faded by virtue of the fact that Israel would not remain faithful to God.