

1 KINGS 7:1–22

GOD'S GLORY IN EVERY DETAIL

THE WORK OF A PREPARED HEART
BUILDS FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

INTRODUCTION

When we read 1 Kings 7, it can feel like we are walking through an ancient construction site. The details reveal the wealth, strength, wisdom, and glory of Solomon's kingdom. Yet these magnificent buildings also remind us of an important truth: a person can build something beautiful for God while still needing to guard what is happening inside his own heart. Would Solomon's heart remain as devoted to God as the buildings he constructed for Him?

1 1 KINGS 7:1 | SOLOMON'S PALACE

Solomon spent thirteen years building his palace, a large royal complex of many buildings. David had already prepared many materials for the temple, so the longer time does not necessarily reveal Solomon's motive. Still, this contrast points to a danger that becomes clear later in his life.

2 1 KINGS 7:2–5 | PALACE OF THE FOREST OF LEBANON

An enormous hall (150 x 75 x 45 feet) built of cedar pillars and beams. Three levels of side rooms and windows made it grand and impressive. It likely served as a royal hall and armory where Solomon displayed his treasures and received important visitors.

3 1 KINGS 7:6 | HALL OF PILLARS

A large covered hall (75 x 45 feet) with a porch and canopy supported by pillars. This was one of the first areas visitors entered, communicating the order, power, and glory of Solomon's kingdom.

4 1 KINGS 7:7 | HALL OF JUSTICE

Also called the Porch of Judgment. Paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling, this was where Solomon sat to hear legal matters and administer justice. The king's responsibility to lead righteously was carried out in a grand and fitting place.

5 1 KINGS 7:8 | SOLOMON'S LIVING QUARTERS

Solomon's private residence was built around a courtyard behind the Hall of Justice. He also built similar living quarters for Pharaoh's daughter. Even in his private life, he lived in comfort and luxury.



CRAFTED WITH SKILL, BUILT FOR GOD'S GLORY, *Standing Firm in His Presence*

6 1 KINGS 7:9–12 | MASSIVE STONES & COURTYARD

Solomon's buildings were constructed with enormous stones, some up to forty-five feet long and fifteen feet wide. The courtyard was covered with large, costly stones fitted with precision and lined with cedar porches supported by pillars. Everything was built with skill and permanence.

7 1 KINGS 7:13–14 | HIRAM THE CRAFTSMAN

Solomon called on Hiram, a skilled craftsman from Tyre, to work with him. Hiram understood design, metals, stone, and wood, and he brought many skilled workers. The work displayed expertise, teamwork, and God-given ability.

8 1 KINGS 7:15–22 | JACHIN & BOAZ

Solomon made two bronze pillars, each 27½ feet high and 18 feet in circumference. He named them Jachin (He Will Establish) and Boaz (In Him Is Strength), placing them at the entrance of the temple. Their design, along with the bronze capitals and network decorations, showed incredible craftsmanship and symbolized the strength and stability of God's house.

KEY APPLICATION



Solomon built magnificent buildings that displayed the glory of God and the greatness of his kingdom. Yet the deeper question remains for each of us: Are we building a life that honors God on the outside while neglecting the condition of our heart?

CONCLUSION

The palace revealed Solomon's wealth and wisdom. The temple revealed God's glory and faithfulness. God desires both outward faithfulness and inward devotion. May we never build more for ourselves than for Him, but keep our hearts devoted to the Lord above all else.

THINK & APPLY



FILL IN THE BLANK

1. The two bronze pillars at the entrance of the Temple were named _____ and _____.
2. Although Solomon built magnificent buildings, the greatest structure he needed to maintain was his relationship with the _____.



CHALLENGING QUESTION

3. How can a Christian become so focused on building a successful ministry, career, or reputation that they neglect their own walk with God? What practical steps help keep our hearts devoted to the Lord first?



"Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways."

PROVERBS 28:6