

2 Chronicles 2:1-18 **Preparing to Build the Temple**

Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple (1 Kings 5)

1 Then Solomon determined to build a **temple** for the **name of Yahweh** (the Lord), and a royal house for himself.

2 Solomon selected seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them.

Message to Hiram king of Tyre

3 Then Solomon sent to Hiram king of Tyre, saying:

As you have dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me.

4 Behold, I am building a **temple** for **the name of Yahweh Elohay** (the Lord my God), **to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God). This is an ordinance forever to Israel.**

5 And the temple which I build will be great, for Eloheynu (our God) is greater than all gods.

6 But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? **Who am I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him?**

7 Therefore send me at once a man skillful to work in gold and silver, in bronze and iron, in purple and crimson and blue, who has skill to engrave with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

8 Also send me cedar and cypress and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants have skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and indeed my servants will be with your servants,

9 to prepare timber for me in abundance, for the temple which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful.

10 And indeed I will give to your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, twenty thousand kors of ground wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

Hiram's Response

11 Then Hiram king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon:

Because Yahweh (the Lord) loves His people, He has made you king over them.

12 Hiram also said:

Blessed be Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel), who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for Yahweh (the Lord) and a royal house for himself!

13 And now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram my master craftsman 14 (the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre), skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen and crimson, and to make any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him, with your skillful men

and with the skillful men of adoniy (my lord) David your father.

15 Now therefore, the wheat, the barley, the oil, and the wine which adoniy (my lord) has spoken of, let him send to his servants.

16 And we will cut wood from Lebanon, as much as you need; we will bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, and you will carry it up to Jerusalem.

Men from Israel appointed for the work

17 Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.

18 And he made seventy thousand of them bearers of burdens, eighty thousand stonecutters in the mountain, and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people work.

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Facts Revealed:

Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple (1 Kings 5:1-18)

✧ The Temple was built for the **Name of Yahweh**.

The royal house was for himself.

The work force of 153,600 was selected from Israel and appointed to their work, burden bearers, stonecutters, overseers. [2 Chronicles 2:1-2]

Message to Hiram king of Tyre [2 Chronicles 2:3-10]

✧ Solomon appealed to the close relationship between Hiram and David. [2 Chronicles 2:3]

✧ Solomon's purpose is to build a temple for the fame of the **Name of Yahweh Elohay**, which he plans to dedicate to Him.

It will be used in place of the Tabernacle Moses made in the wilderness with all its furnishings and rituals of worship. [2 Chronicles 2:4]

✧ The temple must be great because Eloheynu is greater than all gods. [2 Chronicles 2:5]

✧ But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? **Who am I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him?** [2 Chronicles 2:6]

(Solomon expresses his sense of inadequacy for the cause and the greatness of God).

✧ Solomon requested Hiram to provide a man skillful in gold, silver, bronze, iron, purple, crimson and blue, who can engrave, to work with the skillful men of Israel whom David had provided. [2 Chronicles 2:7]

✧ Solomon asked Hiram to send an abundance of cedar, cypress, and algar logs from Lebanon, acknowledging that Hiram's servants have skill to cut timber, and promised that he would send servants from Israel to help in the work. The Temple will be great and wonderful. [2 Chronicles 2:8-9]

✧ Solomon promised to give the woodsmen from Lebanon who cut the timbers, twenty thousand kors of ground wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil. [2 Chronicles 2:10]

Hiram's Response

✧ Because Yahweh (the Lord) loves His people, He has made you king over them.

Blessed be Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel), who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for Yahweh (the Lord) and a royal house for himself! [2 Chronicles 2:11-12]

- ✧ For the skillful man Solomon requested, Hiram king of Tyre sent Hiram his master craftsman to work with the skilled men of Israel appointed by David. [2 Chronicles 2:13]
- ✧ Hiram accepted the payment offered by Solomon and agreed to cut wood from Lebanon, as much as needed, which will be sent in rafts by sea to Joppa, where Solomon's servants will carry it to Jerusalem. [2 Chronicles 2:15-16]

Men from Israel appointed for the work

- ✧ The 153,600 men appointed to do the work were the aliens living in the land of Israel. [2 Chronicles 2:17-18]