

### 18.03 Solomon's Building the Temple (1 Kings 5; 6; 7; 2 Chronicles 2; 3; 4; 5)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [ . . . ] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

#### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- A scroll; picture of the tabernacle; wood samples, if possible, of cedar, fir (pine), algaroba (juniper); pieces of jewelry made of gold, silver, bronze

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- (None for this lesson)

#### Scripture” (ESV)

1 Kings 5:1 Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David. 2 And Solomon sent word to Hiram, 3 “You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. 4 But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side. There is neither adversary nor misfortune. 5 And so I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to David my father, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.’ 6 Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. And my servants will join your servants, and I will pay you for your servants such wages as you set, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.”

7 As soon as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, “Blessed be the Lord this day, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people.” 8 And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, “I have heard the message that you have sent to me. I am ready to do all you desire in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. 9 My servants shall bring it down to the sea from Lebanon, and I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you direct. And I will have them broken up there, and you shall receive it. And you shall meet my wishes by providing food for my household.” 10 So Hiram supplied Solomon with all the timber of cedar and cypress that he desired, 11 while Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 cors of wheat as food for his household, and 20,000 cors of beaten oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. 12 And the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. And there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

13 King Solomon drafted forced labor out of all Israel, and the draft numbered 30,000 men. 14 And he sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in shifts. They would be a month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the draft. 15 Solomon also had 70,000 burden-bearers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hill country, 16 besides Solomon's 3,300 chief officers who were over the work, who had charge of the people who carried on the work. 17 At the king's command they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones. 18 So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the men of Gebal did the cutting and prepared the timber and the stone to build the house.

6:1 In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came 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, he began to build the house of the Lord. 2 The house that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high. 3 The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house. 4 And he made for the house windows with recessed frames. 5 He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running around the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary. And he made side chambers all around. 6 The lowest story was five cubits broad, the middle one was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad. For around the outside

of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house.

7 When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built.

8 The entrance for the lowest story was on the south side of the house, and one went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle story to the third. 9 So he built the house and finished it, and he made the ceiling of the house of beams and planks of cedar. 10 He built the structure against the whole house, five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar.

11 Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon, 12 “Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. 13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel.”

14 So Solomon built the house and finished it. 15 He lined the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar. From the floor of the house to the walls of the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood, and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress. 16 He built twenty cubits of the rear of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the walls, and he built this within as an inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place. 17 The house, that is, the nave in front of the inner sanctuary, was forty cubits long. 18 The cedar within the house was carved in the form of gourds and open flowers. All was cedar; no stone was seen. 19 The inner sanctuary he prepared in the innermost part of the house, to set there the ark of the covenant of the Lord. 20 The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high, and he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid an altar of cedar. 21 And Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold, and he drew chains of gold across, in front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold. 22 And he overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.

23 In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high. 24 Five cubits was the length of one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the length of the other wing of the cherub; it was ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other. 25 The other cherub also measured ten cubits; both cherubim had the same measure and the same form. 26 The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was that of the other cherub. 27 He put the cherubim in the innermost part of the house. And the wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a wing of one touched the one wall, and a wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; their other wings touched each other in the middle of the house. 28 And he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

29 Around all the walls of the house he carved engraved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms. 30 The floor of the house he overlaid with gold in the inner and outer rooms.

31 For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors of olivewood; the lintel and the doorposts were five-sided. 32 He covered the two doors of olivewood with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. He overlaid them with gold and spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

33 So also he made for the entrance to the nave doorposts of olivewood, in the form of a square, 34 and two doors of cypress wood. The two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding. 35 On them he carved cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, and he overlaid them with gold evenly applied on the carved work. 36 He built the inner court with three courses of cut stone and one course 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 parts, and according to all its specifications. He was seven years in building it. . . .

13 And King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. 14 He was the son of a widow of the tribe of

Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze. And he was full of wisdom, understanding, and skill for making any work in bronze. He came to King Solomon and did all his work.

15 He cast two pillars of bronze. Eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured its circumference. It was hollow, and its thickness was four fingers. The second pillar was the same. 16 He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits. 17 There were lattices of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals on the tops of the pillars, a lattice for the one capital and a lattice for the other capital. 18 Likewise he made pomegranates in two rows around the one latticework to cover the capital that was on the top of the pillar, and he did the same with the other capital. 19 Now the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars in the vestibule were of lily-work, four cubits. 20 The capitals were on the two pillars and also above the rounded projection which was beside the latticework. There were two hundred pomegranates in two rows all around, and so with the other capital. 21 He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the temple. He set up the pillar on the south and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the north and called its name Boaz. 22 And on the tops of the pillars was lily-work. Thus the work of the pillars was finished.

23 Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. 24 Under its brim were gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast. 25 It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward. 26 Its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held two thousand baths.

27 He also made the ten stands of bronze. Each stand was four cubits long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high. 28 This was the construction of the stands: they had panels, and the panels were set in the frames, 29 and on the panels that were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the frames, both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled work. 30 Moreover, each stand had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and at the four corners were supports for a basin. The supports were cast with wreaths at the side of each. 31 Its opening was within a crown that projected upward one cubit. Its opening was round, as a pedestal is made, a cubit and a half deep. At its opening there were carvings, and its panels were square, not round. 32 And the four wheels were underneath the panels. The axles of the wheels were of one piece with the stands, and the height of a wheel was a cubit and a half. 33 The wheels were made like a chariot wheel; their axles, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all cast. 34 There were four supports at the four corners of each stand. The supports were of one piece with the stands. 35 And on the top of the stand there was a round band half a cubit high; and on the top of the stand its stays and its panels were of one piece with it. 36 And on the surfaces of its stays and on its panels, he carved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, according to the space of each, with wreaths all around. 37 After this manner he made the ten stands. All of them were cast alike, of the same measure and the same form.

38 And he made ten basins of bronze. Each basin held forty baths, each basin measured four cubits, and there was a basin for each of the ten stands. 39 And he set the stands, five on the south side of the house, and five on the north side of the house. And he set the sea at the southeast corner of the house.

40 Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished all the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of the Lord: 41 the two pillars, the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars, and the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars; 42 and the four hundred pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars; 43 the ten stands, and the ten basins on the stands; 44 and the one sea, and the twelve oxen underneath the sea.

45 Now the pots, the shovels, and the basins, all these vessels in the house of the Lord, which Hiram made for King Solomon, were of burnished bronze. 46 In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan. 47 And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because there were so many of them; the weight of the bronze was not ascertained.

48 So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of the Lord: the golden altar, the golden table for the bread of the Presence, 49 the lampstands of pure gold, five on the south side and five on the north, before the inner sanctuary; the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of gold; 50 the cups, snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and fire pans, of pure gold; and the sockets of gold, for the doors of the innermost part of the house, the Most Holy Place, and for the doors of the nave of the temple.

51 Thus all the work that King Solomon did on the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and the vessels, and stored them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Who was the wisest man who ever lived? [Solomon.] How did he get that way? [God said He would give Solomon one request. When Solomon asked for wisdom, God gave it to him.]

### **Story:**

#### ***Hiram's kindness***

When David was king, he had had a friend named Hiram, the king of Tyre. [Locate on map in northern Israel on the coast.] In fact, Hiram respected David enough to send cedar wood and workmen to build David a palace. Now that David had died, Hiram sent some servants to Solomon in order to congratulate him on becoming king, much as David had tried to do to the son of the King of Amon. (Remember the cut-off beard when the king of Amon misunderstood David's intentions?) Solomon, however, gladly received Hiram's servants. He even wrote a letter back to Hiram. This is what it said: [Pretend to read from a scroll.]

#### ***Solomon's request***

"Hiram, you know how David my father could not build a house unto the name of the Lord his God because of the war he had on every side. But now the Lord my God has given me peace on every side, and I intend to build a house unto the Lord my God. Now, get some of your servants to cut down cedar trees and send me the logs as you did for my father's house. My men will work with yours, and I will pay what you decide. The Temple I am going to build will be great because our God is greater than all other gods. Actually, no one is able to build a Temple for Him since even the highest heaven cannot contain him.

"Send me a man skilled in work with gold, silver, bronze, fine fabric, and engraving. This Temple must be exceedingly magnificent. I will give your workers 125,000 bushels of wheat, 125,000 bushels of barley, 115,000 gallons of wine, and 115,000 gallons of oil."

#### ***Hiram's response***

When King Hiram received Solomon's letter, he was pleased. He wrote right back, saying, "You are the king because the Lord loves His people. Praise to the God of heaven, who made heaven and earth. He has given David a wise son. My men will haul cedar and pine logs down from Lebanon to the sea, then to Joppa. From there you can take them to Jerusalem. I am sending Hiram, whose mother is an Israelite from Dan and whose father is from Tyre. He is trained to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, wood, fabric, and in engraving. He will work with your craftsmen. Now send the wheat, barley, olive oil, and wine you promised in payment for our materials."

#### ***Workers' tasks***

So each year Solomon sent Hiram 125,000 bushels of wheat (equal to 31 grain train cars), 125,000 bushels of barley (equal to 31 grain train cars), 115,000 gallons of wine (equal to six tank cars), and 115,000 gallons of oil (equal to six tank cars) in payment. He also got 70,000 men to be carriers, 80,000 to be stonecutters, 3600 to be foremen, and 30,000 to cut and shape the logs. [Demonstrate with three children the next sentence.] Ten thousand worked one month [separate one child from the other two] while 20,000 [represented by two children] stayed home two months. [Repeat this "shift work" until all three children have rotated.]

That is a lot of people working to gather materials to build one building. Actually, all of this was probably for several buildings including Solomon's palace. But the main purpose was to build a beautiful place to honor the God of gods.

### ***Temple's description***

I won't tell you all the details that God gives in the Bible about this beautiful building, but I will tell you several facts:

1. David gave the plans to Solomon.
2. The workers were aliens.
3. The Temple was for God, not people.
4. A man named Hiram did the craft workmanship.
5. Engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers were on the walls.
6. Furnishings were garnished with precious stones.
7. The location was Adullam's threshing floor.
8. The building was about twice as big as the tabernacle had been. Of course, this was a building made of stone and wood, not of skins and fabric to carry around.
9. All hammering and chiseling were done outside and away from the building site so that God's house would be respected.
10. No stone was seen inside the Temple when it was finished. Instead, pine wood covered the floor and cedar wood covered the walls and ceiling. But the wood didn't show either because Solomon had it all covered with gold, not just plain gold but carved with beautiful plants and animals. Imagine gold walls, ceilings and floors. It reminds me of a far more beautiful place prepared by God for those who believe on Jesus Christ—of heaven! There the *streets* will be paved with gold!
11. In the courtyard instead of one laver (washbowl), there were eleven. One was huge, holding 17,500 gallons of water (76 times larger than the small lavers). The ten smaller lavers, each on wheels so that they could be moved, contained 230 gallons of water. Five of the smaller lavers were on one side of the courtyard, and five were on the other side. The bronze altar was 30 feet by 30 feet square and fifteen feet tall.
12. Inside the holy place, instead of one table for the showbread, there were ten. There was still only one altar of incense but ten golden lamp stands.
13. Solomon had the most holy place overlaid with especially fine gold—23 tons of it. Compare that weight to about five Asian elephants. He had two cherubim (angels) built in this room that were fifteen feet tall (about twice as high as an eight-foot ceiling) with wings that were seven and one-half feet long. One wing of each cherub touched the opposite wall, and one wing touched the other cherub's wing. (This was not the top of the ark of the covenant.)
14. Rooms on the sides of the Temple held the gold and silver treasures David had gotten in war as well as all the other dishes and tools that were needed for sacrifices. The bronze couldn't even be counted because there was so much.
15. One more thing we'll mention is two beautifully decorated bronze pillars, each 27½ feet tall. These two pillars even had names—Jakin on the south, meaning “[God] establishes or builds,” and Boaz on the north, meaning “in [God] is strength.”

The Bible says so much more about the Temple, but I couldn't take time to tell it all. Neither could I imagine anything so costly and beautiful.

## ***Temple's history***

Where is the Temple today? Well, Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. After the children of Israel returned to Jerusalem seventy years later, a man named Zerubbabel built another Temple that was the one Jesus saw in His lifetime five hundred years later. It had been remodeled and improved over several years. This Temple was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70—about forty years after Jesus was crucified and resurrected. Today a Muslim temple, called the Dome of the Rock, stands near the site where the Temple of God once stood.

## ***Temple's counterparts***

We don't need a physical Temple today, for Jesus Christ is the Temple—the holy of holies, the One to whom we go for cleansing from our sins. His offering of Himself as the Lamb of God who took away the sin of believers is sufficient for them for all time.

Another “temple” (lower case) is mentioned in the Bible. That is the bodies of believers, for the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit, who is God) lives in them. Just as the workers of the first Temple showed their respect for it, so the temples of our bodies should not be defiled with sin. “Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God[.] You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

## **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:

We don't need a physical Temple today, for Jesus Christ is the Temple—the Holy of Holies, the One to whom we go for cleansing from our sins. His offering of Himself as the Lamb of God who took away the sin of believers is sufficient for those who believe for all time.

## **Activities:**

- Play dough: Temple furnishings—lavens, table of showbread, lamp stands, one altar of incense, one bronze altar; logs
- Snack: “Ants on a Log”: celery stalks filled with peanut butter with raisins sprinkled along the “log”
- Review questions: (Game: Print the Temple layout found at the end of this lesson. A student who answers a question correctly may point out and name a feature of the Temple.)
  1. What was the name of the king of Tyre who showed kindness to David and Solomon? [Hiram.]
  2. What did Solomon ask Hiram for in building God's Temple? Name two things. [Cedar trees; a man skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, fine fabric, and engraving.]
  3. What would Solomon give Hiram's workers? Name two things. [Wheat, barley, wine, oil.]
  4. Tell two facts about the Temple or its construction; *e.g.*, *David gave Solomon the plans*. [The workers were aliens. The Temple was for God, not people. Hiram did the craft workmanship. Engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers were on the walls. Furnishings were garnished with precious stones. The location was Adullam's threshing floor. The building, made of stone and wood, was about twice as big as the tabernacle had been. All hammering and chiseling were done outside and away from the building site. No stone was seen inside the Temple. Eleven lavens (washbowls) were there. Ten tables for the showbread, one altar of incense, and ten golden lamp stands were there. The most holy place was overlaid with fine gold. Rooms on the sides held gold and silver treasures and dishes and tools needed for sacrifices. Two bronze pillars, each 27½ feet tall, were in front of the Temple.
  5. Why don't we need a Temple anymore? [Jesus is the Holy of Holies, where we can have sins forgiven.]

**Memory Verse[s]:** (KJV) A song sheet by Earl Martin for this verse may be found at [STB05SM \(mysteryministries.net\)](http://STB05SM(mysteryministries.net)), #11.

- Proverbs 3:5, 6—Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.

**Handwork:**

- Print a coloring page at [solomons-temple-coloring-page.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://solomons-temple-coloring-page.wordpress.com) and have students color it.
- Or print the template for a three-dimensional Temple at [solomons-temple.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](https://solomons-temple.wordpress.com). Students will color the Temple, cut it out, and assemble by gluing together at the side tabs.

# Facts about King Solomon's Temple

- David gave the plans to Solomon.
  - The workers were aliens.
- The Temple was for God, not people.
  - Hiram did the craft workmanship.
- Engravings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers were on the walls.
  - Furnishings were garnished with precious stones.
    - The location was Adullam's threshing floor.
- The building, made of stone and wood, was about twice as big as the tabernacle had been.
  - All hammering and chiseling were done outside and away from the building site.
    - No stone was seen inside the Temple.
- Eleven lavers (washbowls), ten tables for the showbread, and ten golden lamp stands were there.
  - One altar of incense, was there.
    - The most holy place was overlaid with fine gold.
- Rooms on the sides held gold and silver treasures and dishes and tools needed for sacrifices.
- Two bronze pillars, each 27½ feet tall, were in front of the Temple.

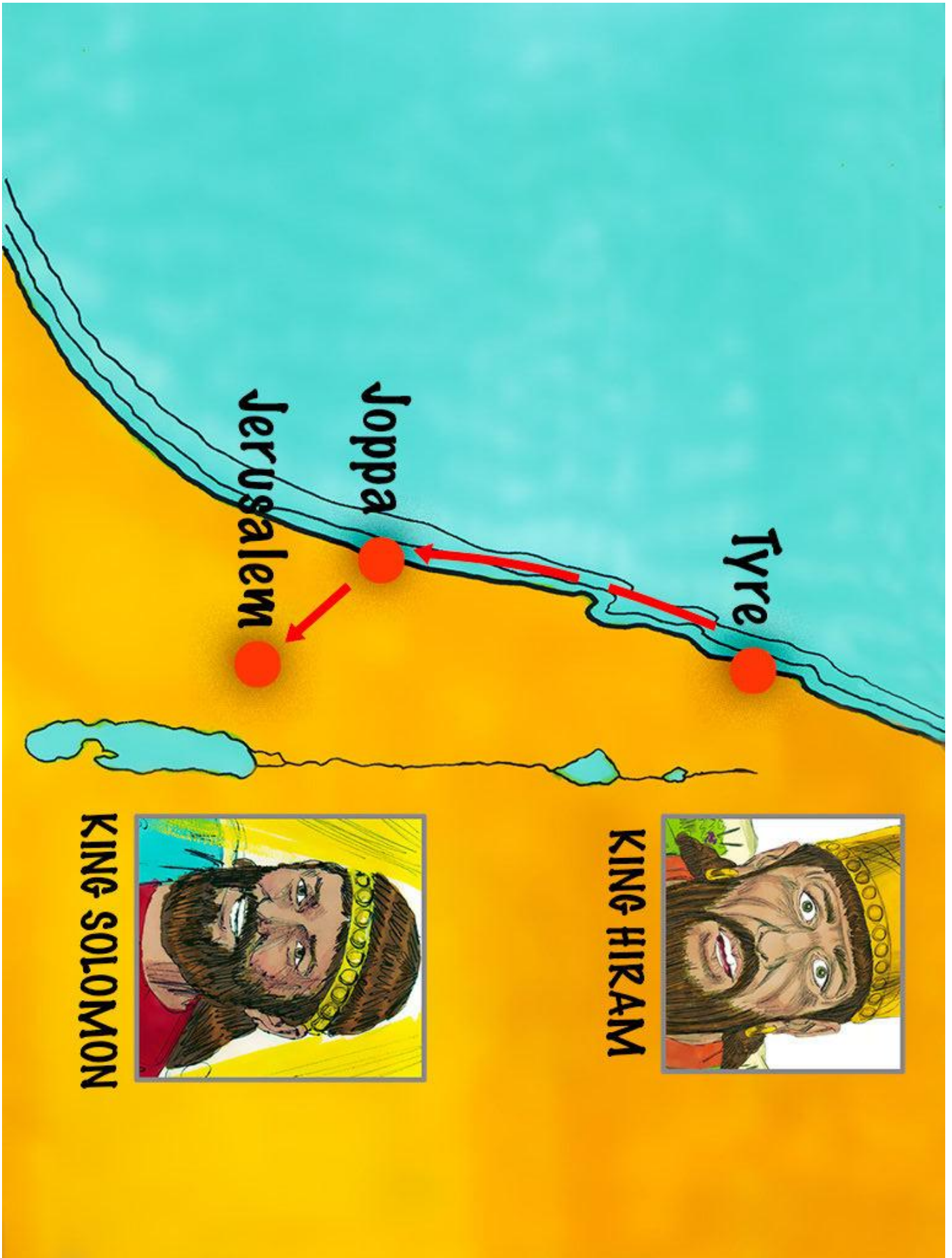




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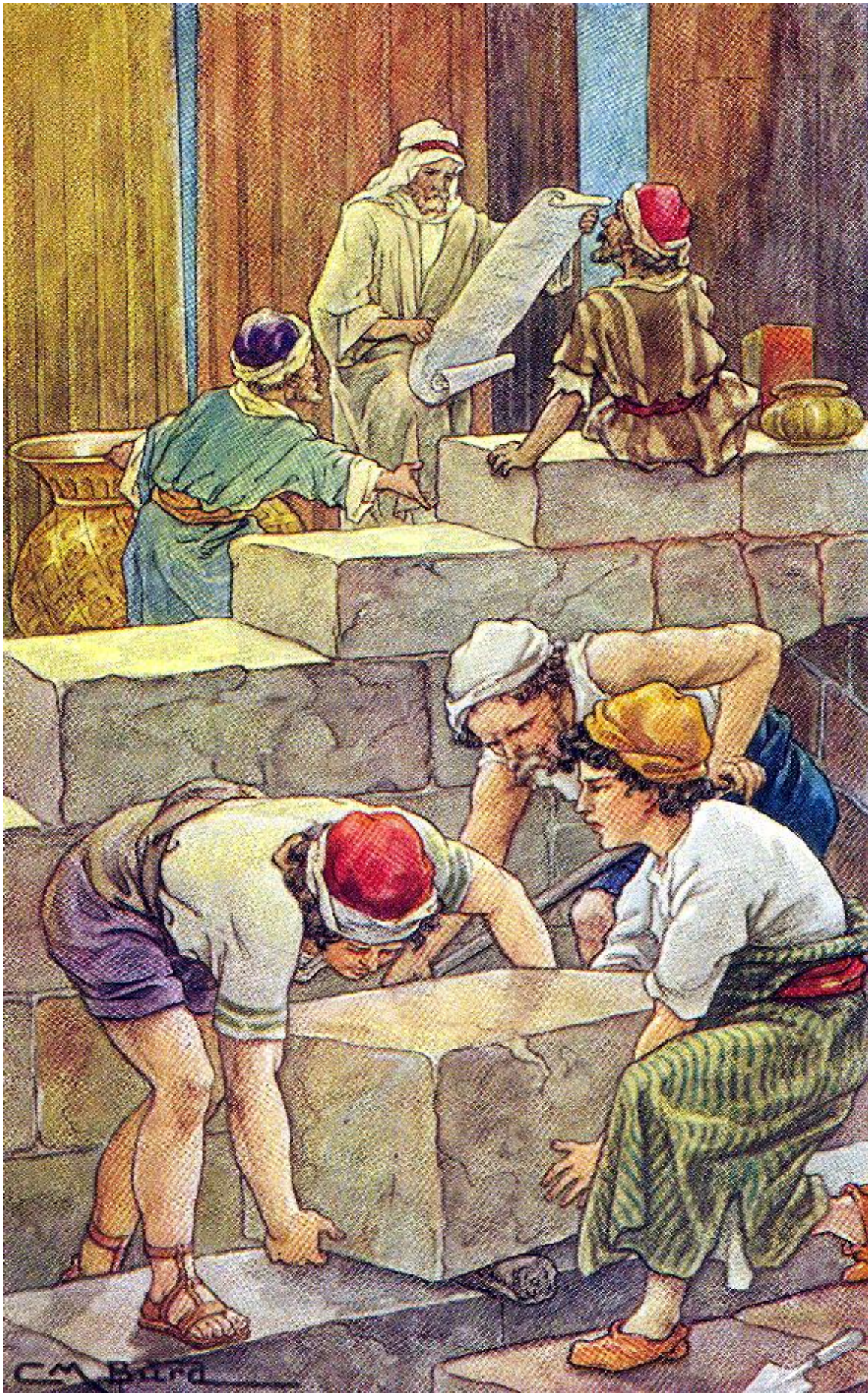


**KING SOLOMON**

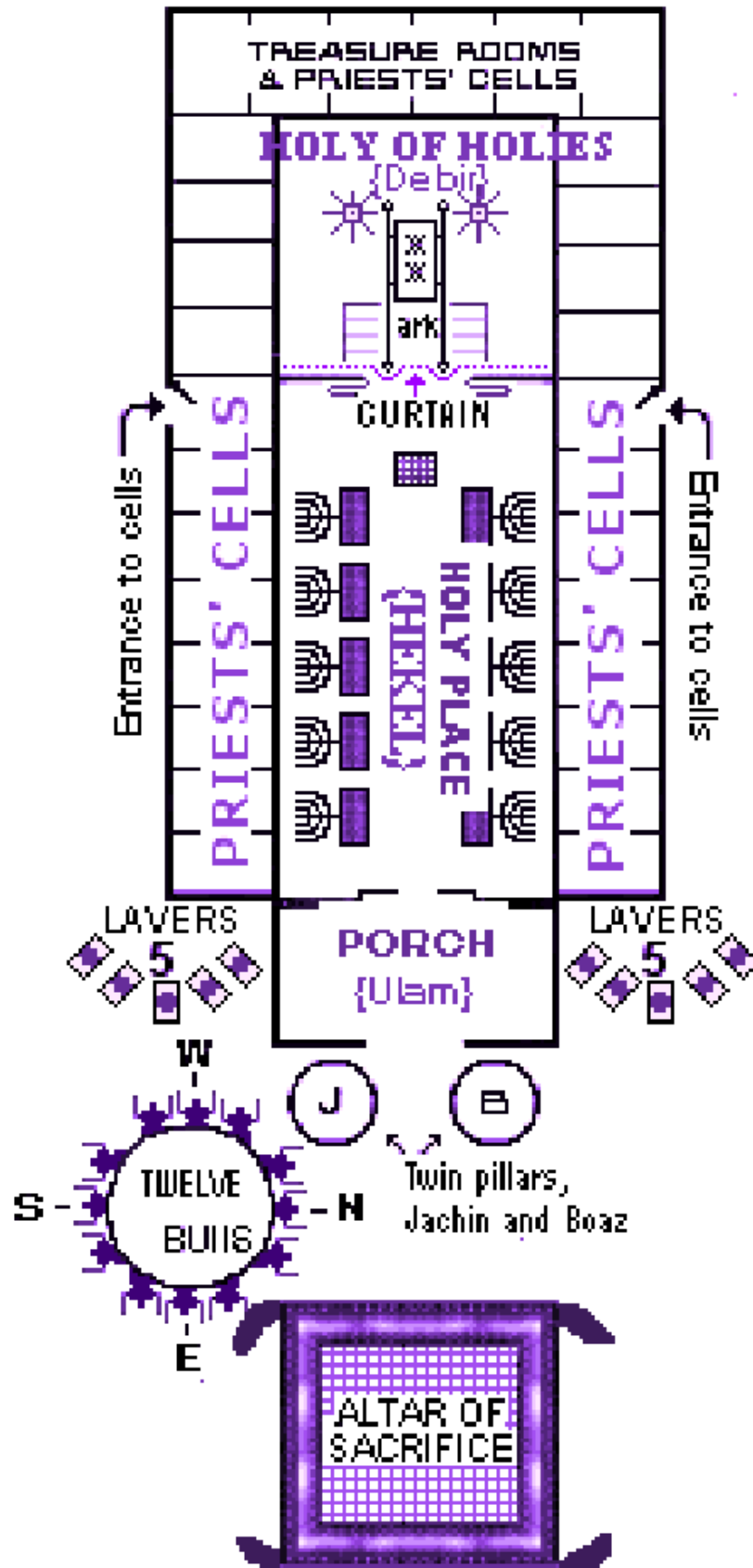


**KING HIRAM**





# SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



# FIRST TEMPLE



