

# The Great and Wonderful Temple

Second Chronicles 3–5

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • November 14, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Second Chronicles 2.7–9

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on the church

## **Prelude:**

### **I. King David had stored up countless precious jewels and metals**

A. for his son Solomon to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem.

B. However, Solomon needed to get

1. the wood and

2. the workers.

### **II. He wrote to King Hiram of Tyre**

A. that he needed cedars of Lebanon and

B. that he needed a man who was skillful

1. in working with the wood and

2. with all the material that King David had laid up.

### **III. He explained to King Hiram:**

**9 ...for the temple which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful.**

**– 2 Chronicles 2.9**

A. The text of Second Chronicles 3–5 shows us with words,

B. coupled with our imagination

1. just how great and wonderful it must have been.

2. I also have some slides that will give an idea.

## **Persuasion:**

### **I. Second Chronicles 3.1–2 • Mount Moriah**

**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. 2 And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.**

- A. Mount Moriah is also where the Lord told Abraham to offer Isaac.
- B. It was also the place where the angel appeared to Ornan.
- C. The great project began toward the beginning of the reign of Solomon.
- D. [Slides showing the location today]

## II. Second Chronicles 3.3–17 • Dimensions of the House of God

**3 This is the foundation which Solomon laid for building the house of God: The length was sixty cubits (by cubits according to the former measure [Probably 17.5 inches, DR]) and the width twenty cubits. 4 And the vestibule that was in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the height was one hundred and twenty. He overlaid the inside with pure gold. 5 The larger room he paneled with cypress which he overlaid with fine gold, and he carved palm trees and chainwork on it. 6 And he decorated the house with precious stones for beauty, and the gold was gold from Parvaim. 7 He also overlaid the house—the beams and doorposts, its walls and doors—with gold; and he carved cherubim on the walls. 8 And he made the Most Holy Place. Its length was according to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and its width twenty cubits. He overlaid it with six hundred talents of fine gold... 10 In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim, fashioned by carving, and overlaid them with gold. 11 The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits in overall length: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub; 12 one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub. 13 The wings of these cherubim spanned twenty cubits overall. They stood on their feet, and they faced inward... 15 Also he made in front of the temple two pillars thirty-five cubits high, and the capital that was on the top of each of them was five cubits...**

- A. The whole house of God was 60 cubits long and 20 cubits wide,
  - 1. meaning it was at least 90 feet long and
  - 2. 30 feet wide.
- B. Verse 4 says that he overlaid the inside with gold.

C. Verse 6 says he also used precious stones for decoration.

1. The Lord did not need all this stuff.
2. However, he accepted what man offered to him,
  - a) even as today he continues to receive our gifts,
  - b) not because he needs them, but
    - (1) he himself loves to give and
    - (2) he wants us to be cheerful givers.
3. He treasures us even more as stones in his temple:

**4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

**– 1 Peter 2.4–5**

D. Verse 7 says that he overlaid the beam, doorposts, walls, and doors with gold.

E. Verse 8 says that Solomon overlaid the inside of the Most Holy Place,

1. which I like to call the Holy of Holies,
2. with 600 talents of fine gold.
  - a) In the Old Testament, a talent was a measure of weight.
  - b) In the New Testament, a talent was a form of money.
    - (1) I checked four sources for how much weight a Hebrew talent was.
    - (2) One source said 66 pounds, but the other three said 75 pounds!
      - (a) That was 45,000 pounds of gold!
      - (b) The sight must have been amazing.
        - i) How much was the value of the gold and everything else?

F. The cherubim in the Most Holy Place,

1. which in the tabernacle

2. sat on the Ark of the Covenant,
  - a) were large with each one of the cherubim having 5-cubit wings.
  - b) They faced the priest when he entered,
    - (1) whereas in the tabernacle of Moses they faced one another.
    - (2) These in Solomon's temple touched from wall to wall
      - (a) since their wings were spread open
      - (b) instead of coming together in front of them.

G. Verse 17 speaks of those pillars,

1. which reminds us of what the Lord Jesus
2. promised to those who overcome:

**12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name."**

**– Revelation 3.12**

H. All of this showed how Israel thought of their God.

### **III. Second Chronicles 4 • Furnishings of the House of God**

**1 Moreover he made a bronze altar: twenty cubits was its length, twenty cubits its width, and ten cubits its height. 2 Then he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. 3 And under it was the likeness of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The oxen were cast in two rows, when it was cast. 4 It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward. 5 It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths... 17 In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zeredah... 19 Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God: the altar of gold**

**and the tables on which was the showbread; 20 the lampstands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in the prescribed manner in front of the inner sanctuary, 21 with the flowers and the lamps and the wick-trimmers of gold, of purest gold; 22 the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold. As for the entry of the sanctuary, its inner doors to the Most Holy Place, and the doors of the main hall of the temple, were gold.**

A. The altar outside was as large as the Most Holy Place.

1. And it was 10 cubits, or 15 feet high!
2. A basketball hoop is 10 feet high.

B. The “Sea” in which the priests bathed was also large:

1. Ten cubits from brim to brim.
2. Notice the circumference.
  - a) It was 30 cubits.
  - b) Atheists and other doubters of God’s word say this cannot be.
    - (1) If you have the diameter, how do you figure out the circumference?
    - (2) You multiply the diameter by pi.
      - (a) Pi is 3.14 (rounded off) and
      - (b) that equals 31.4 cubits.
        - i) Or if you have the circumference and
        - ii) want to find the diameter,
          - (1) you divide the circumference by Pi or 3.14.
          - (2) That equals 9.55 cubits.
  3. However, it is rounded off,
    - a) even as 3.14 is rounded off.
    - b) What is the actual number of Pi?
      - (1) Here is a slide showing Pi taken to the millionth digit, but
      - (2) that still does not show the whole thing.

(a) [It will take a few seconds for it to appear]

C. Verse 17 mentions

1. that the smelting of the metals took place away from Jerusalem because
2. of the smoke and noxious vapors.

#### IV. Second Chronicles 5.1 • Treasuries of the House of God

**1 So all the work that Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God.**

A. David had said

1. that the Lord God would be with Solomon
2. to make sure that he finished the work.
  - a) It happened even as David promised.

B. Solomon put the silver, gold, and other things

1. in the treasuries of the house of God.

#### V. Second Chronicles 5.2–9 • The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord

**2 Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the City of David, which is Zion. 3 Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast, which was in the seventh month. 4 So all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. 5 Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up. 6 Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. 7 Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. 8 For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 9 The poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are**

**there to this day.**

- A. This was a super special occasion.
- B. Just like it will be beyond special when we see the temple in heaven.
- C. Moving things like this are great festive occasions for people.
  - 1. The moving of the things in Egypt.
  - 2. Even the fire from a certain BBQ place in Texas.
- D. What about that last sentence?
  - 1. This would refer to the temple that Ezra's generation built, or
  - 2. what we call Zerubbabel's temple.

#### **VI. Second Chronicles 5.10 • Ten Commandments in the Ark**

**10 Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they had come out of Egypt.**

- A. Here is why it is called the Ark of the Covenant.
- B. What happened to the pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded?
  - 1. Did the people of Beth Shemesh take them out?

#### **VII. Second Chronicles 5.11–14 • Singing of the Goodness of the Lord**

**11 And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions), 12 and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets— 13 indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying:**

**“For He is good,  
For His mercy endures forever,”**

**that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.**

- A. The children of Israel, their leaders, and especially the Levites,
- B. praised God for what they finally had.
  - 1. When the ark was brought in
  - 2. the Lord God of Israel entered the temple, and
    - a) just as when Moses completed the tabernacle,
    - b) the cloud of God's glory so filled the temple,
      - (1) that the priests could not enter it and do their work.
      - (2) This showed the Lord's full approval of their work.

**Exhortation:**

**I. Remember where Israel got all these precious metals.**

- A. They got this stuff from the nations
- B. that they battled.

**II. The Holy Place represents the church and**

- A. The Holy of Holies represents heaven.
- B. Even as the church was first built by Jews
  - 1. by adding Jews and people from the nations,
  - 2. so shall heaven have Jews and people from all the families of the earth.

**III. We invite everyone to be part of the spiritual holy temple of the Lord now.**