

Solomon Builds the Temple

1 Kings 5 – 9

2 Chronicles 2 - 8

by Don Falkos

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Solomon set about to build the Temple of the Lord on the threshing floor where the Lord had appeared to his father David. All the stones used in the construction of the Temple were prepared at the quarry. No hammer, chisel, or any other iron tool was ever heard at the building site.

The interior of the Temple was divided into two spaces: the Holy Place, where only the priests were allowed, and the Most Holy Place, the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was to reside. The floors were covered with cypress and the walls with ornately carved cedar overlaid with gold and studded with jewels. The sacrificial altar was in the courtyard just outside the Temple.

Everything produced for the Temple was richly and ornately made. The materials and the artistic depictions of flora, fauna, angels all harkened back to a time when God lived among human beings in the Garden of Eden. After seven years the Temple was finished.

The priests carried the Ark of the Covenant into the Most Holy Place. They came out singing, "The love of the Lord endures forever." Then the glory of the Lord filled the Temple in the form a thick cloud.

Solomon prayed, "Let this temple be a house of prayer for all people, so that everyone everywhere will know that you alone are God." He then pronounced a blessing over the people of Israel, and together they offered sacrifices to the Lord in a celebration that lasted fourteen days.

The Lord said to Solomon, "If you devote yourself to me, you will be successful. But if you abandon me to worship other gods, Israel will be uprooted from this land and I will reject this Temple."