

1 Kings 5

Verses 1- 6

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 had always been a friend of David. ² Then Solomon sent *word* to Hiram, saying, ³ “You know that David my father was unable to build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the wars which 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 Behold, I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spoke to David my father, saying, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he will build the house for My name.’ ⁶ Now therefore, command that they cut for me cedars from Lebanon, and my servants will be with your servants; and I will give you wages for your servants according to all that you say, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.”

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 had always been a friend of David.

See Map 505



Tyre is a coastal town in the country of Lebanon. In the time of the Greeks they were called Phoenicians because of the purple dye they sold.

² Then Solomon sent *word* to Hiram, saying, ³ “You know that David my father was unable to build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the wars which surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet.

God would not allow David to build the Temple because he had been a man of war.

See 1 Chronicles 22:8

⁸ But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars; you shall not build a house to My name, because you have shed so much blood on the earth before Me.

⁶ Now therefore, command that they cut for me cedars from Lebanon, and my servants will be with your servants; and I will give you wages for your servants according to all that you say, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.”

This alliance was advantageous to both nations.

See 2 Chronicles 2:13-6

¹³ “Now then, I am sending Hiram-abi, a skilled man, endowed with understanding, ¹⁴ the son of a Danite woman and a Tyrian father, who knows how to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, *and* in purple, violet, linen, and crimson fabrics, and *who knows how* to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which is assigned to him, *to work* with your skilled workers and with ^[s]those of my lord, your father David. ¹⁵ Now then, let my lord send his servants wheat and barley, oil and wine, of which he has spoken. ¹⁶ We will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon and bring it to you as rafts by sea to Joppa, so that you may carry it up to Jerusalem.”

The Phoenicians got wheat, barley, olive oil and wine and Solomon would get the Cedar he needed.

The logs were made into rafts and floated from Tyre to Joppa (about 95 miles) by sea. Then the logs were transported from Joppa to Jerusalem (35 - 40 miles).

See map 510 below

Iudaea Province in the First Century



Verses 7 - 12

⁷ When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he greatly rejoiced; and he said, “Blessed be the Lord today, who has given to David a wise son over this great people.” ⁸ So Hiram sent *word* to Solomon, saying, “I have heard *the message* which you sent me; I will do everything you wish concerning the cedar and juniper timber. ⁹ My servants will bring *the timbers* down from Lebanon to the sea; and I will have them made into rafts *to go* by sea to the place where you direct me, and I will have them broken up there, and you will carry *them* away. Then you shall do what I wish, by giving food to my household.” ¹⁰ So Hiram gave Solomon all that he wished of the cedar and juniper timber. ¹¹ Solomon then gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors of pure oil; this is what Solomon would give Hiram year by year. ¹² And the Lord gave wisdom to Solomon, just as He promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a covenant.

⁷ When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he greatly rejoiced; and he said, “Blessed be the Lord today, who has given to David a wise son over this great people.”

Hiram was pleased that Solomon was a peaceful leader and to have a trade agreement with him instead of facing an enemy that could threaten his leadership and possibly seize the timber.

⁸ So Hiram sent *word* to Solomon, saying, “I have heard *the message* which you sent me; I will do everything you wish concerning the cedar and juniper timber.

Various versions differ on the kind of timber that was being traded.

The NIV has Cedar and juniper.

The NAS (1995) says Cedar and Cypress.

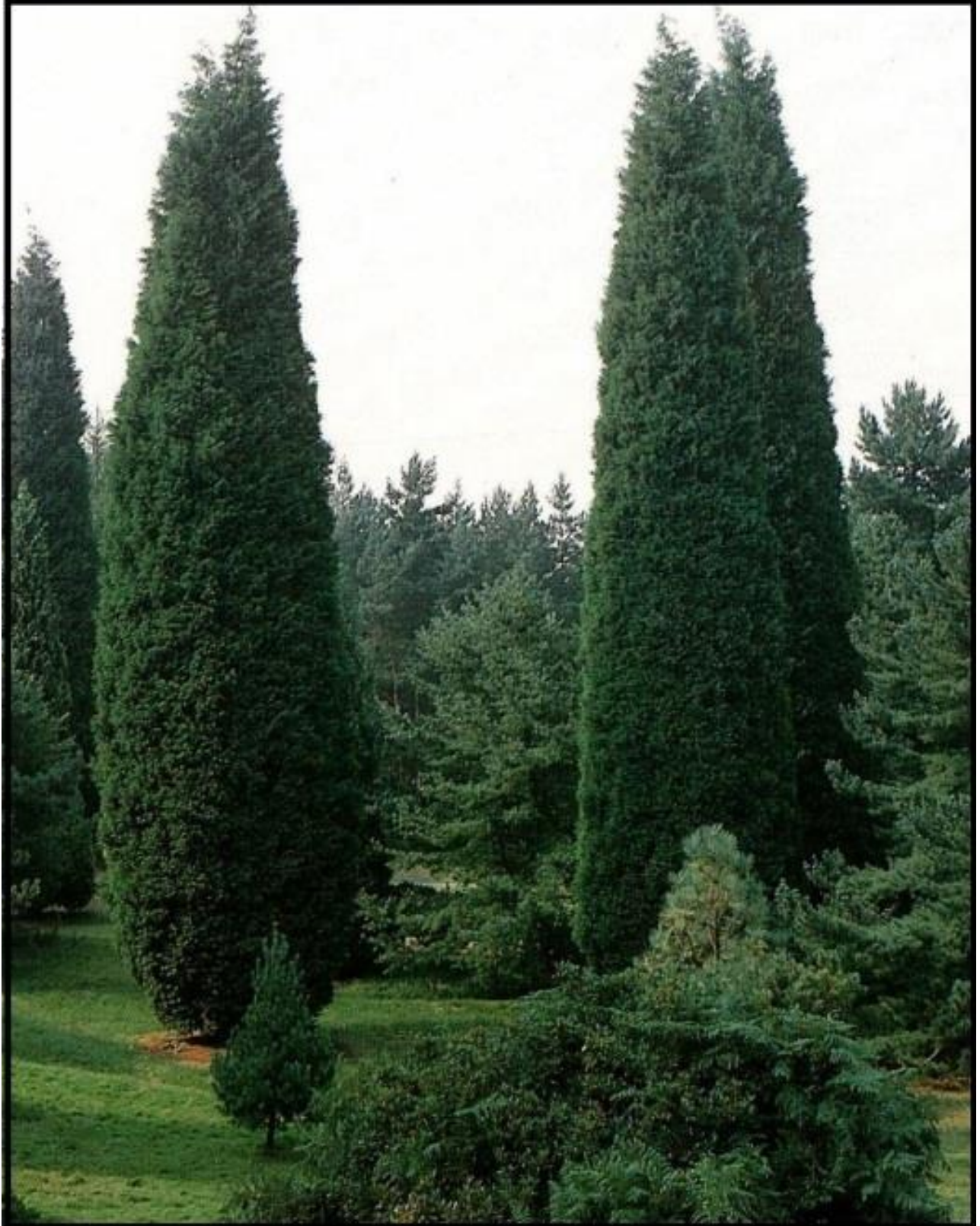
The KJV has Cedar and Fir.

See Pics 515 thru 518 below

515 Juniper Tree



516 Cypress Tree



517 Fir Tree



518 Cedar Tree



¹¹ Solomon then gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors of pure oil; this is what Solomon would give Hiram year by year.

It should be noted that this payment went to Hiram's household. This was an enormous annual payment and it did not include the payment that was also given to the laborers in Lebanon

See 2 Chronicles 2:10

¹⁰ Now behold, I will give your servants, the woodsmen who cut the timber, twenty thousand kors of crushed wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil."

¹² And the Lord gave wisdom to Solomon, just as He promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a covenant.

Solomon sealed this alliance with an addition to his harem.

See 1 Kings 11:1, 5

¹ Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,

⁵ For Solomon became a follower of Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and of Milcom the abhorrent idol of the Ammonites.

Verses 13 - 18

¹³ Now King Solomon levied forced laborers from all Israel; and the forced laborers numbered 30,000 men. ¹⁴ He sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in relays; they were in Lebanon a month *and* two months at home. And Adoniram was over the forced laborers. ¹⁵ Now Solomon had 70,000 transporters, and 80,000 hewers of stone in the mountains, ¹⁶ besides Solomon's 3,300 chief deputies who were over the project *and* who ruled over the people who were doing the work. ¹⁷ Then the king commanded, and they quarried great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with cut stones. ¹⁸ So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites cut them, and prepared the timbers and the stones to build the house.

King Solomon levied forced laborers from all Israel; and the forced laborers numbered 30,000 men

These forced laborers that were citizens of Israel were not considered slaves because their service was intermittent (1/3 of the year) and temporary (most of Solomon's reign).

See 1 Kings 9:20 - 22

²⁰ As for all the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of the sons of Israel, ²¹ their descendants who were left after them in the land, whom the sons of Israel were unable to completely eliminate, from them Solomon conscripted forced laborers, as they are to this day. ²² But Solomon did not make slaves of the sons of Israel; for they were men of war, his servants, his commanders, his charioteers, his chariot commanders, and his horsemen.

¹⁵ Now Solomon had 70,000 transporters and 80,000 hewers *of stone* in the mountains, ¹⁶ besides Solomon's 3,300 chief deputies who *were over the project and who ruled over the people who were doing the work.*

Much of the Temple was built with 150,000 slaves, who were remnants of the Canaanites.

Isn't it ironic that a people freed from Egyptian slavery would then enslave others to build a temple to the one true God that freed Israel from slavery and punished Egypt for the sin of slavery? Isn't it odd how people can forget or ignore their own history and God's word when they believe it will benefit them?

Then the king commanded, and they quarried great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with cut stones.

This magnificent building was completed in 959 BC. It would be destroyed in 586 BC by the Babylonians because Israel rejected the one and only true God and sought after many false gods.