

1 Kings 7

Verses 1-8

Now Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house. ² He built the house of the forest of Lebanon; its length was 100 cubits and its width 50 cubits and its height 30 cubits, on four rows of cedar pillars with cedar beams on the pillars. ³ It was paneled with cedar above the side chambers which were on the 45 pillars, 15 in each row. ⁴ *There were artistic window frames in three rows, and window was opposite window in three ranks. ⁵ All the doorways and doorposts had squared artistic frames, and window was opposite window in three ranks.*

⁶ Then he made the hall of pillars; its length was 50 cubits and its width 30 cubits, and a porch was in front of them and pillars and a threshold in front of them.

⁷ He made the hall of the throne where he was to judge, the hall of judgment, and it was paneled with cedar from floor to floor.

⁸ His house where he was to live, the other court inward from the hall, was of the same workmanship. He also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom Solomon had married.

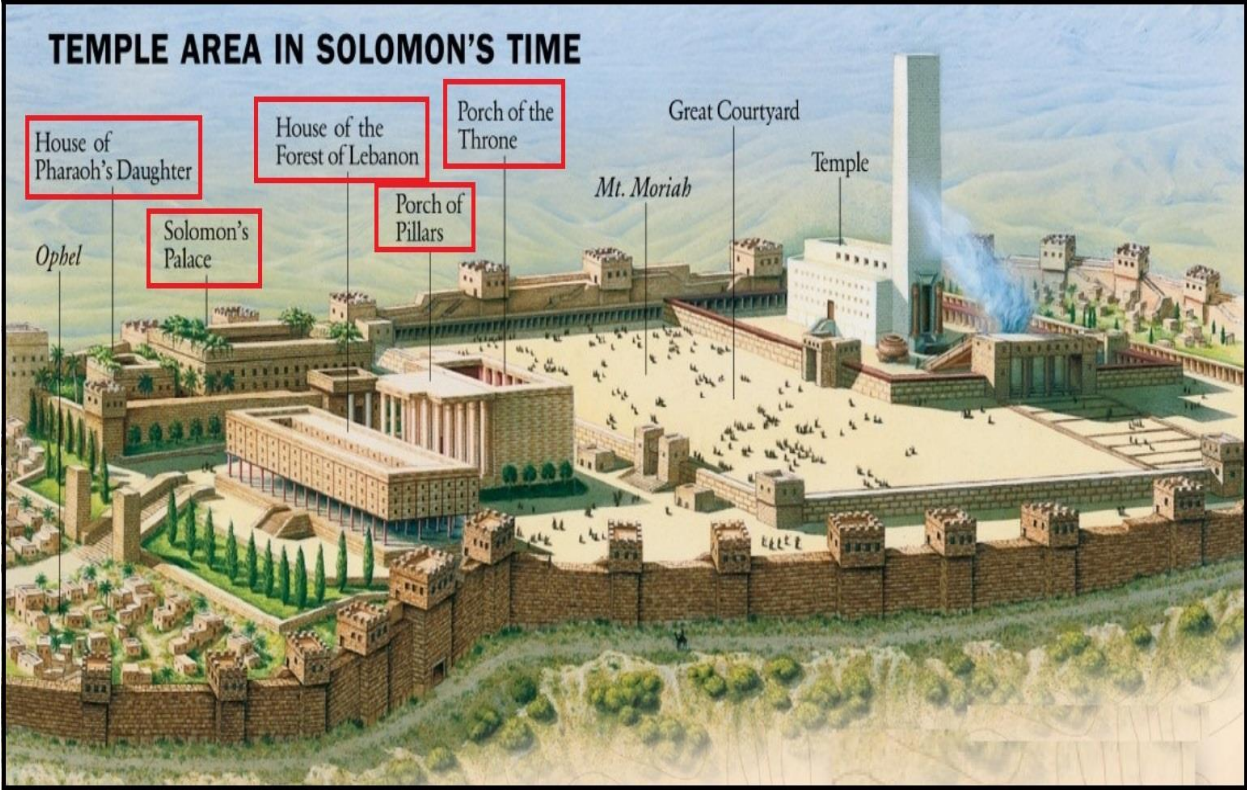
Now Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house.

Solomon spent nearly twice as much time building his own house as he did the Temple. David had spent years collecting money and materials for the Temple but that was not the case for Solomon's house.

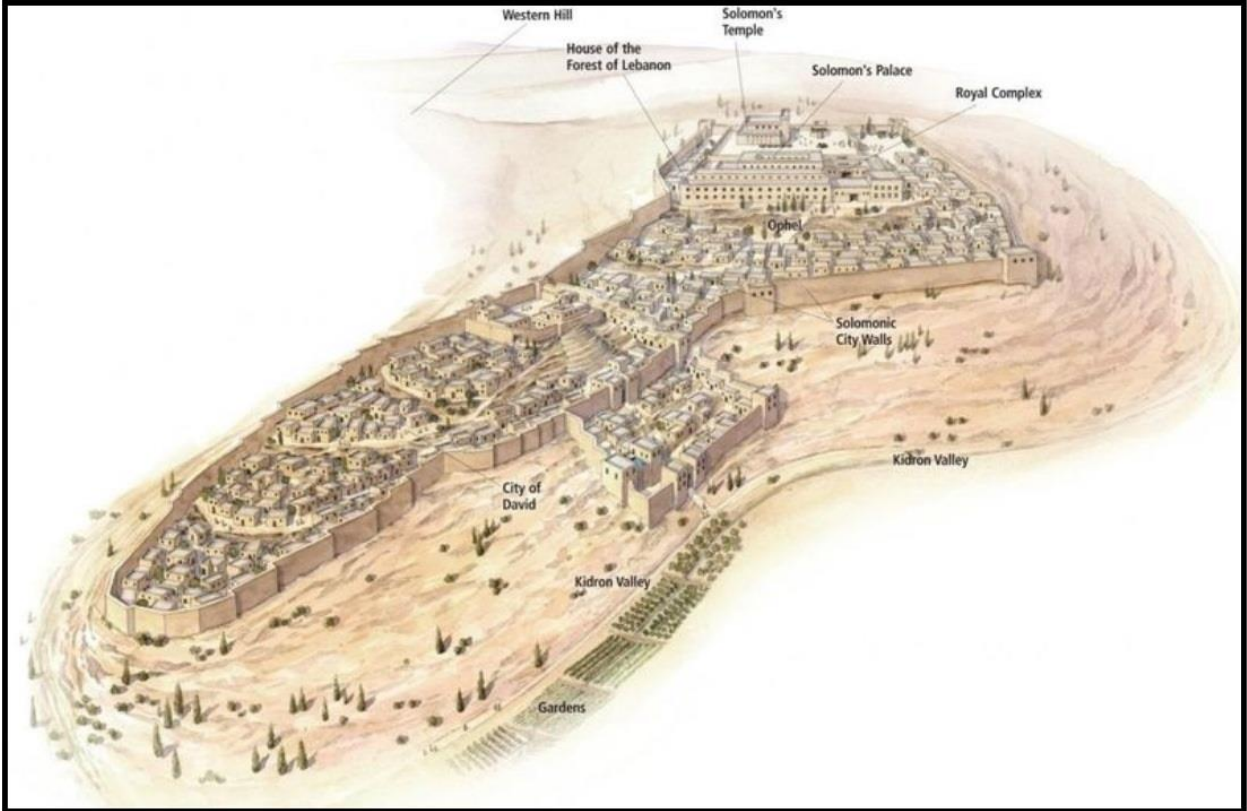
In addition, there were a number of other projects:

1. The house of the forest of Lebanon
2. The pillar hall and porch
3. The throne room and judgment hall
4. The house for Pharaoh's daughter

See Pics 705 and 706



City of David to the south & Solomon's buildings to the north



Verses 9-12

⁹ All these were of costly stones, of stone cut according to measure, sawed with saws, inside and outside; even from the foundation to the coping, and so on the outside to the great court. ¹⁰ The foundation was of costly stones, *even* large stones, stones of ten cubits and stones of eight cubits. ¹¹ And above were costly stones, stone cut according to measure, and cedar. ¹² So the great court all around *had* three rows of cut stone and a row of cedar beams even as the inner court of the house of the Lord, and the porch of the house.

⁹ All these were of costly stones, of stone cut according to measure, sawed with saws, inside and outside; even from the foundation to the coping, and so on the outside to the great court ¹⁰ The foundation was of costly stones, *even* large stones, stones of ten cubits and stones of eight cubits.

These foundation stones were 15 feet in length, width and height and others were 12. The weight of the larger stones would have been about 250 tons (500,000 lbs.).

Verses 13-22

Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. ¹⁴ He was a widow's son from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze; and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill for doing any work in bronze. So he came to King Solomon and performed all his work. ¹⁵ He fashioned the two pillars of bronze; eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of both. ¹⁶ He also made two capitals of molten 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* nets of network and twisted threads of chainwork for the capitals which were on the top of the pillars; seven for the one capital and seven for the other capital. ¹⁸ So he made the pillars, and two rows around on the one network to cover the capitals which were on the top of the pomegranates; and so he did for the other capital. ¹⁹ The capitals which *were* on the top of the pillars in the porch were of lily design, four cubits. ²⁰ *There were* capitals on the two pillars, *even* above *and* close to the rounded projection which was beside the network; and the pomegranates *numbered* two hundred in rows around both capitals. ²¹ Thus he set up the pillars at the porch of the nave; and he set up the right pillar and named it Jachin, and he set up the left pillar and named it Boaz. ²² On the top of the pillars was lily design. So the work of the pillars was finished.

¹³ Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. ¹⁴ He was a widow's son from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze; and he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill for doing any work in bronze. So he came to King Solomon and performed all his work.

Hiram was a skilled metal, wood and fabric worker from Tyre. His mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali but she was of the tribe of Dan by birth.

See 2 Chronicles 2:14.

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 those of my lord, your father David.

¹⁵ He fashioned the two pillars of bronze; eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of both.

The pillars were located in front of the temple and were 27 feet high and had a diameter of 5.7 feet.

The bronze for these pillars came from the cities of Hadadezer when David conquered them.

See 1 Chronicles 18:8

⁸ Also from Tibhath and Cun, cities of Hadadezer, David took a very large amount of bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze Sea and the pillars and the bronze utensils.

¹⁶ He also made two capitals of molten 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

The two capitals added another 7.5 feet to the pillars making them 34.5 feet high.

The temple of Heracles at Tyre had two pillars.

See Pic 710



The Temple to Baal at Palmyra also had two columns and the entrance was offset. In Greek and Roman temples they were usually centered.

See Pic 715



Verses 23-26

²³ Now he made the sea of cast *metal* ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height was five cubits, and thirty cubits in circumference. ²⁴ Under its brim gourds went around encircling it ten to a cubit, completely surrounding the sea; the gourds were in two rows, cast with the rest. ²⁵ It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east; and the sea was set on top of them, and all their rear parts *turned* inward. ²⁶ It was a handbreadth thick, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, as a lily blossom; it could hold two thousand baths.

²³ Now he made the sea of cast *metal* ten cubits from brim to brim, circular in form, and its height was five cubits, and thirty cubits in circumference.

See Pics 720 and 721



The "Sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet (2.3 m) tall and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons (44,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kings 7:23–26; cf. 2 Chron. 4:2–5).



Both of these pictures have some details that are missing therefore both have been added and the viewer can choose which is closer to the description in the text.

²⁶ **It was a handbreadth thick, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, as a lily blossom; it could hold two thousand baths.**

The sea held about 11,500 gallons.

Verses 27-39

²⁷ Then he made the ten stands of bronze; the length of each stand was four cubits and its width four cubits and its height three cubits.

²⁸ This was the design of the stands: they had borders, even borders between the frames, ²⁹ and on the borders which were between the frames *were* lions, oxen and cherubim; and on the frames there *was* a pedestal above, and beneath the lions and oxen *were* wreaths of hanging work.

³⁰ Now each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles, and its four feet had supports; beneath the basin *were* cast supports with wreaths at each side. ³¹ Its opening inside the crown at the top *was* a cubit, and its opening *was* round like the design of a pedestal, a cubit and a half; and also on its opening *there were* engravings, and their borders were square, not round. ³² The four wheels *were* underneath the borders, and the axles of the wheels *were* on the stand. And the height of a wheel *was* a cubit and a half. ³³ The workmanship of the wheels *was* like the workmanship of a chariot wheel. Their axles, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs *were* all cast.

³⁴ Now *there were* four supports at the four corners of each stand; its supports *were* part of the stand itself.

³⁵ On the top of the stand *there was* a circular form half a cubit high, and on the top of the stand its stays and its borders *were* part of it. ³⁶ He engraved on the plates of its stays and on its borders, cherubim, lions and palm trees, according to the clear space on each, with wreaths *all* around.

³⁷ He made the ten stands like this: all of them had one casting, one measure and one form. ³⁸ He made ten basins of bronze, one basin held forty baths; each basin *was* four cubits, *and* on each of the ten stands *was* one basin. ³⁹ Then he set the stands, five on the right side of the house and five on the left side of the house; and he set the sea *of cast metal* on the right side of the house eastward toward the south.

²⁷ Then he made the ten stands of bronze; the length of each stand was four cubits and its width four cubits and its height three cubits.

See pic 725



The process in preparing the sacrifices would have been a messy job and these were used to wash the priest's hands.

There was only one laver for the tabernacle but that washing was a ritual cleansing.

See Exodus 30:17 - 21

¹⁷ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁸ “You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. ¹⁹ Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; ²⁰ when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they do not die; or when they approach the altar to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire *sacrifice* to the Lord. ²¹ So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they do not die; and it shall be a permanent statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations.”

Since this was a ritual cleansing what did the priests use to wash their hands when preparing the animals that were sacrificed at the Tabernacle?

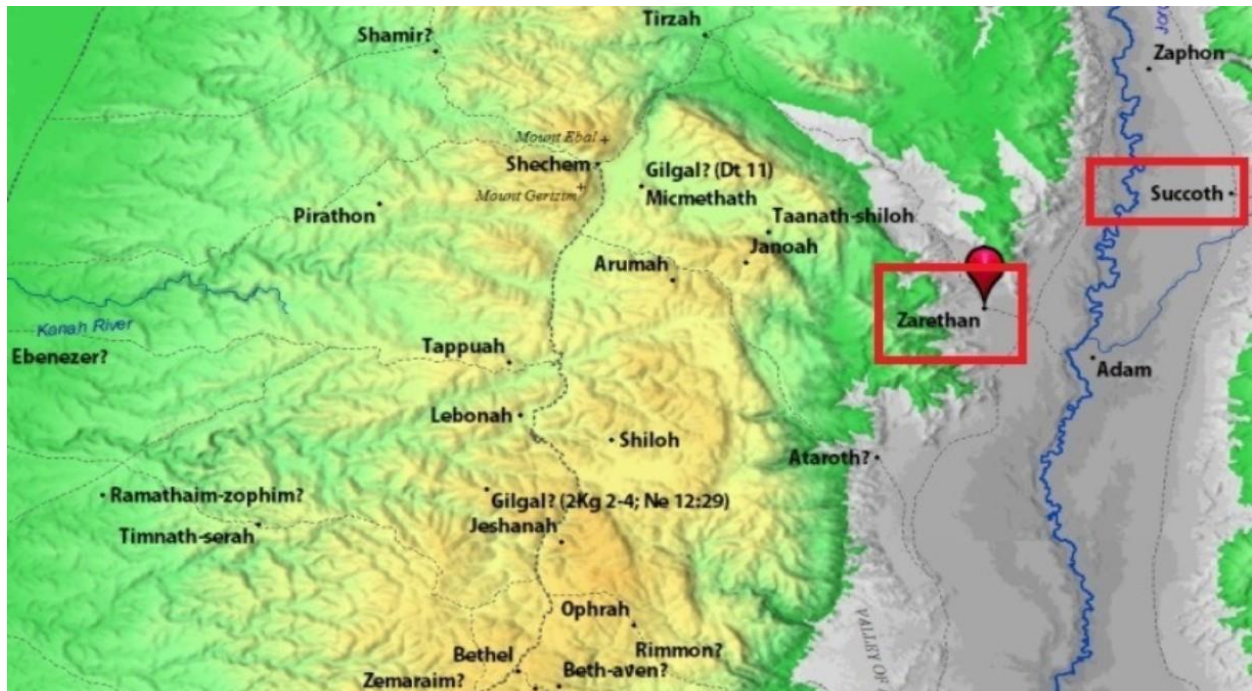
It seems that the Tabernacle and the Temple had one but not the other.

Verses 40-47

⁴⁰ Now Hiram made the basins and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing all the work which he performed for King Solomon *in* the house of the Lord: ⁴¹ the two pillars and the *two* bowls of the capitals which *were* on the top of the two pillars, and the two networks to cover the two bowls of the capitals which *were* on the top of the pillars; ⁴² and the four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, two rows of pomegranates for each network to cover the two bowls of the capitals which *were* on the tops of the pillars; ⁴³ and the ten stands with the ten basins on the stands; ⁴⁴ and the one sea and the twelve oxen under the sea; ⁴⁵ and the pails and the shovels and the bowls; even all these utensils which Hiram made for King Solomon *in* the house of the Lord *were* of polished bronze. ⁴⁶ In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan. ⁴⁷ Solomon left all the utensils *unweighed*, because *they were* too many; the weight of the bronze could not be ascertained.

⁴⁶ In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan.

See Map 730



We can probably assume this was the nearest place to Jerusalem where the clay was proper for molding these gigantic works of bronze.

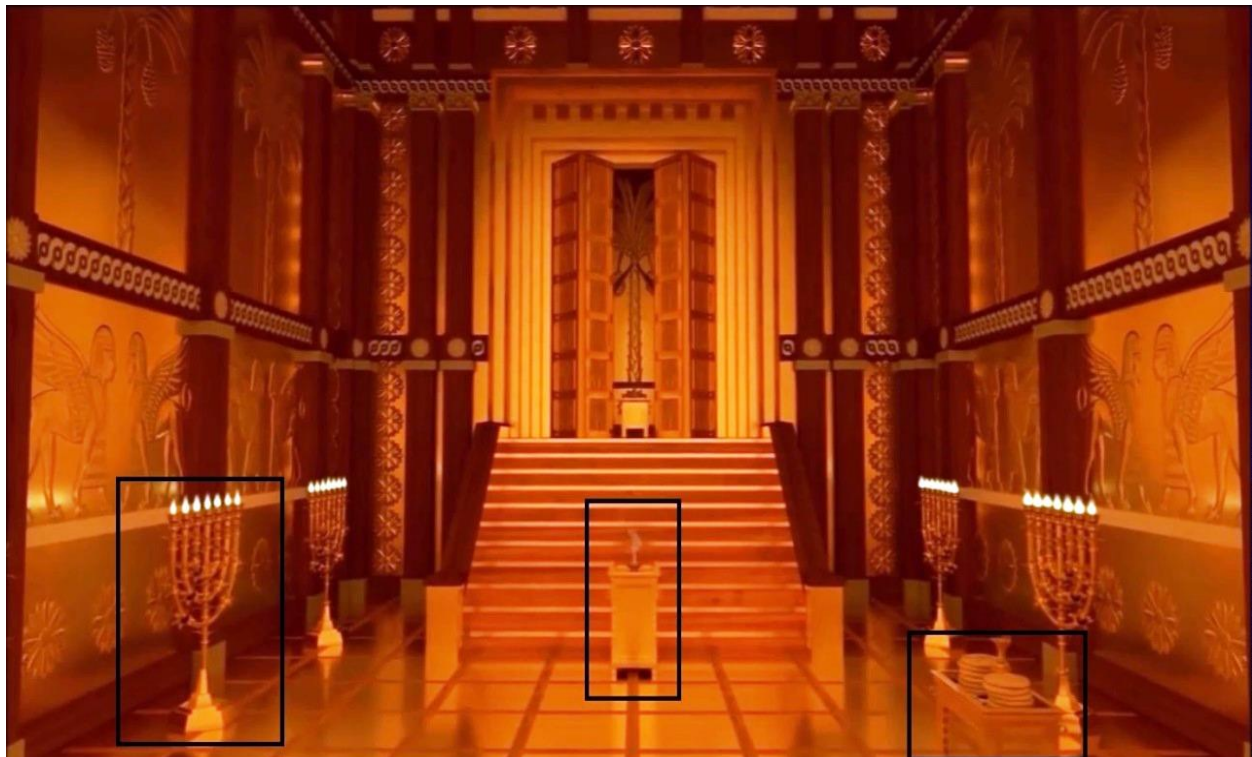
Verses 48-50

⁴⁸ Solomon made all the furniture which *was in* the house of the Lord: the golden altar and the golden table on which *was* the bread of the Presence; ⁴⁹ and the lampstands, five on the right side and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary, of pure gold; and the flowers and the lamps and the tongs, of gold; ⁵⁰ and the cups and the snuffers and the bowls and the spoons and the firepans, of pure gold; and the hinges both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, *and* for the doors of the house, *that is*, of the nave, of gold.

⁴⁸ Solomon made all the furniture which *was in* the house of the Lord: the golden altar and the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence; ⁴⁹ and the lampstands, five on the right side and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary, of pure gold; and the flowers and the lamps and the tongs, of gold;

Solomon made all new equipment for the temple; only the ark remained the same.

See Pic 735 thru 738



The following pics represent the equipment made for the tabernacle. Some of the new equipment in the temple may not have had the poles and rings because they did not need to be transported from place to place.





Verse 51

Thus all the work that King Solomon performed *in* the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things dedicated by his father David, the silver and the gold and the utensils, *and* he put them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord.

The temple became and remained a centerpiece of Jewish religious activity until it was destroyed in 586 BC. After the Jews returned to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon God ordered the reconstruction of the Temple even though He had never asked for or wanted a temple built in His name.