

2 Chronicles Chapters 1 – 7

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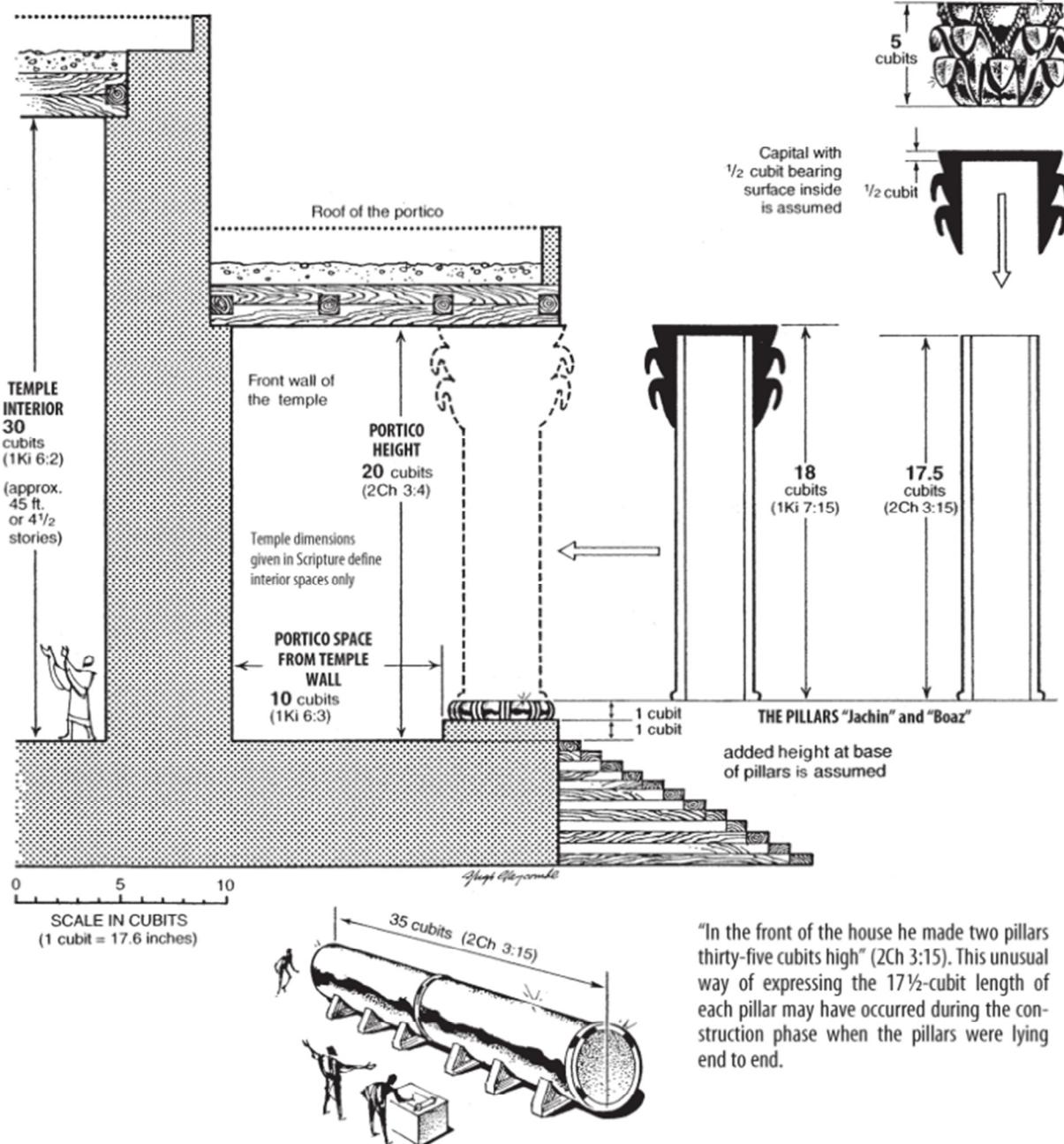
III. God Exalts His Kingdom under Solomon (2 Chronicles 1:1—9:31)

- A. Solomon Worships at Gibeon (1:1-6): Earlier David had brought the Ark to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15), yet the tent of meeting remained at Gibeon. ^{NIV} **2 Chronicles 1:3** and **Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon, for God's Tent of Meeting was there, which Moses the LORD's servant had made in the desert [over 400 years earlier].** ⁴ Now David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.
- B. Solomon Prays for Wisdom (1:7-13):
- God said to Solomon: “Ask what I shall give you.” (v. 7) Then Solomon acknowledged ♦God’s great goodness to David and ♦God having made him the king after David over a very large number of people. Then Solomon asked for “wisdom and knowledge...” (v. 10)
Application: *Do we notice and acknowledge the great blessings God has freely given to us? Then, on the basis of the big picture of ♦who God is, ♦who we were, and ♦what we are in Christ, do we humbly ask for what is best?*
 - God responded to Solomon: “Since...you have not asked for wealth, riches or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king,¹² therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.” (2Ch 1:11-12 NIV)
- C. Solomon Given Wealth (1:14-17): When God makes a promise, *He keeps it*: “The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones...” (2Ch 1:15 NIV)
- D. Preparing to Build the Temple (2:1-18):
- “Solomon gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself...⁵ The temple I am going to build will be great, because our God is greater than all other gods.” (2Ch 2:1, 5)
 - Is Solomon’s statement in v. 5 good or bad? _____
 - Why? _____
 - How does Solomon’s statement relate to what we know about his future? (1 Kings 11:1-4) _____
 - Yet Solomon was also realistic: “But who is able to build a temple for him, since the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain him? Who then am I to build a temple for him...? (2Ch 2:6 NIV) Let’s keep things in the proper perspective regarding *God and man, eternal and temporal, etc.*
 - So who did all that building? “Solomon took a census of all the aliens who were in Israel, after the census his father David had taken; and they were found to be 153,600.¹⁸ He assigned 70,000 of them to be carriers and 80,000 to be stonecutters in the hills, with 3,600 foremen over them to keep the people working.” (2Ch 2:17 NIV) We also learn this from 1 Kings 5:13: “King Solomon conscripted [forced] laborers from all Israel—thirty thousand men.” (NIV)

E. Solomon Builds the Temple (3:1-17):

1. Where? "...Solomon began to build the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite..." (2Ch 3:1 NIV) (1Ch 21:15-28)
2. When? "He began building on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign." (2Ch 3:2 NIV)
3. What did it look like? It was very elaborate (see vv. 4b-7). Here is a drawing from **The Lutheran Study Bible**:

The decorative 5-cubit capital ($7\frac{1}{2}$ ft) in the shape of lilies (1Ki 7:19) is shown (right) fitting down over the $17\frac{1}{2}$ -cubit pillar described in 2Ch 3:15. The $\frac{1}{2}$ -cubit (9 in) weight-bearing surface at the top creates a total pillar/capital unit of 18 cubits, thus matching the 18-cubit pillar recorded in 1Ki 7:15.



- F. The Temple's Furnishings (4:1 – 5:1): They included “an altar of bronze” (v. 1), “the sea of cast metal” (v. 2) – with “figures of gourds” (v. 3) around it and resting on “twelve oxen” (v. 4), “ten basins in which to wash” (v. 6), “ten golden lampstands” (v. 7), “ten tables” (v. 8) – which probably went under the ten lampstands, and “a hundred basins of gold” (v. 8).
- G. The Ark Brought to the Temple (5:2-14):
1. The Bible records that “all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month.” (2Ch 5:3 NIV) So what “festival”? **The Lutheran Study Bible**, in connection with 1 Kings 8:2: “Solomon waited 11 months after the completion of the temple to dedicate it. As an appropriate time for the solemnities, he chose the Feast of Booths, which began on the 15th of Ethanim, the seventh month, also called Tishri.” (546)
 2. This is my summary of the Feast of Booths (from the 3-12-14 sermon): **Tabernacles or Booths** (Sukkot; *it began at sundown on Tishri 15 and continued through Tishri 22*): It celebrated the fall harvest and pointed ahead to the final harvest – when all **believers** will share in the joy of God’s kingdom forevermore!
 3. Finally, keep this in mind: The tent of meeting was still at Gibeon while the ark was in Jerusalem (2Ch 1:3-4); therefore, this move brought everything together at the temple: “...they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it.” (2Ch 5:5 NIV)
 4. Try to imagine this *awesome* scene: “The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place [after putting the ark in its proper location]....¹² All the Levites who were musicians--Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives--stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.¹³ The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: ‘He is good; his love endures forever.’ Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud,¹⁴ and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.” (2Ch 5:11-14 NIV)
- H. Solomon Blesses the People (6:1-11): Notice who got the credit for what had been built: Solomon said: “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hands has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to my father David.” (2Ch 6:4f NIV) **But wait!** David gathered the materials, Solomon gathered the men, and the men did the work of making the building and the furnishings, so why did Solomon credit **God and His hands** for what had been done? _____

Application: When you work, give, or serve, do you expect a pat on the back or feel a sense of pride because of your abilities, your generosity, your sacrifice, or your hard work? Y N How do you think God might want us to view our working, giving, and serving? (Deut. 8:17-18) _____

I. Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication (6:12-42):

1. What was his posture for his prayer? (6:13) _____
2. Read 6:14; identify a very important quality of God’s servants: _____

3. Notice what the LORD had earlier promised to David, which Solomon repeated in his prayer: “**You [David] shall never fail to have a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful in all they do to walk before me according to my law, as you have done.**” (2Ch 6:16 NIV) Initially David did well; *the LORD blessed him!* But David’s sins of adultery and murder resulted in many problems within his household and kingdom. Solomon must have known about such things, *since his own mother was the one with whom David had committed adultery.* So Solomon knew the LORD’s promise and the importance of being careful to walk before the LORD in all his ways.
 - a. How did Solomon do? _____
 - b. How are we doing? _____

(See [Hebrews 12:14](#) and [The Lutheran Study Bible](#) note.)
 4. Solomon addressed many topics in his prayer (defeat by an enemy, 24-25; no rain, 26-27; no food, 28-31; being taken captive, 36-39); most follow this pattern: **sin** (*doing what the LORD prohibited or failing to do what He commanded*), **repentance** (*sorrow for and turning away from such sin*), **and forgiveness** (*having sin removed and being reconciled to the LORD*).
- Application: Is that pattern still important today for us and others? Y N
- The LORD allows us to struggle when we sin because He is encouraging us to walk in His ways – *which are always best for us!*
- J. Fire from Heaven (7:1-3): “**When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.**” (2Ch 7:1 NIV)
 - K. The Dedication of the Temple (7:4-10):
 1. ***So many sacrifices:*** “...King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the people dedicated the temple of God.” (2Ch 7:5 NIV)
 2. Notice how this ties in with G. 2. above: “...Solomon observed the festival at that time for seven days... ¹⁰ On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their homes, joyful and glad in heart... (2Ch 7:8, 10 NIV)
 - L. If My People Pray (7:11-22):
 1. After the temple and Solomon’s house had been built, the LORD appeared to Solomon and said: “**When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people,** ¹⁴ **if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.**” (2Ch 7:13-14 NIV) So write the earlier pattern we had noted: _____

We, as God’s holy children, should live in continual repentance!

 2. The LORD said to Solomon: “...**if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws,** ¹⁸ **I will establish your royal throne...** ¹⁹ **But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them,** ²⁰ **then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name....**” (2Ch 7:17-20 NIV) *Let us honor the LORD!*