

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 2

Preparing to Build the Temple

Now Solomon purposed to build a temple for the name of the LORD, and a royal palace for himself. 2 And Solomon assigned 70,000 men to bear burdens and 80,000 to quarry in the hill country, and 3,600 to oversee them. 3 And Solomon sent word to Hiram the king of Tyre: “As you dealt with David my father and sent him cedar to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me. 4 Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God and dedicate it to him for the burning of incense of sweet spices before him, and for the regular arrangement of the showbread, and for burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths and the new moons and the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, as ordained forever for Israel. 5 The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods. 6 But who is able to build him a house, since heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain him? Who am I to build a house for him, except as a place to make offerings before him? 7 So now send me a man skilled to work in gold, silver, bronze, and iron, and in purple, crimson, and blue fabrics, trained also in engraving, to be with the skilled workers who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided. 8 Send me also cedar, cypress, and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber in Lebanon. And my servants will be with your servants, 9 to prepare timber for me in abundance, for the house I am to build will be great and wonderful. 10 I will give for your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, 20,000 cors of crushed wheat, 20,000 cors of barley, 20,000 baths of wine, and 20,000 baths of oil.” 11 Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in a letter that he sent to Solomon, “Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you king over them.” 12 Hiram also said, “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, who has discretion and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal palace for himself. 13 “Now I have sent a skilled man, who has understanding, Hiramabi, 14 the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre. He is trained to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, and in purple, blue, and crimson fabrics and fine linen, and to do all sorts of engraving and execute any design that may be assigned him, with your craftsmen, the craftsmen of my lord, David your father. 15 Now therefore the wheat and barley, oil and wine, of which my lord has spoken, let him send to his servants. 16 And we will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon and bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, so that you may take it up to Jerusalem.” 17 Then Solomon counted all the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census of them that David his father had taken, and there were found 153,600. 18 Seventy thousand of them he assigned to bear burdens, 80,000 to quarry in the hill country, and 3,600 as overseers to make the people work.

2:1 *purposed to build.* Solomon’s first concern was to secure the necessary labor and materials. His appeal to the king of Tyre for aid met with a favorable reply (vv 11–16). (TLSB)

temple. Hbr “house.” (TLSB)

palace. Although the Chronicler frequently mentions the palace Solomon built (7:11; 8:1; 9:11), he gives no details of its construction (see 1Ki 7:1–12). (CSB)

Cf 7:11; 8:1; 9:11. The Chronicler omits the description of the building of the palace given in 1Ki 7:1–12, focusing entirely on Solomon and the temple. (TLSB)

2:2 Massive workforce is assembled, totaling 150,000 workers plus 3,600 supervisors. (TLSB)

2:3–10 The Chronicler’s theological interests appear in his handling of Solomon’s correspondence with Hiram of Tyre. In the Kings account the correspondence was initiated by Hiram (1Ki 5:11). The Chronicler omits this (and also the material in 1Ki 5:3–5) but adds his own material, reflecting his concerns with the temple worship in vv. 3–7. (CSB)

While related to 1Ki 5:2–11, the material is reorganized In the Chronicler’s account, Solomon initiated the correspondence with Hiram (v 3; cf 1Ki 5:1). The divinely instituted worship rites of the temple and the uniqueness of Israel’s God are emphasized in vv 4–6 (but not in 1Ki). Further, the Chronicler connects Solomon’s planning to David’s by asking for an artisan to join those “whom David my father provided” (v 7). This artisan is skilled in more specialties than 1Ki 7:13–14 reports. (TLSB)

2:3 *Solomon sent.* Delegation from Hiram assured him that friendly relations between the two nations were to continue (1Ki 5:1). Exchange between Solomon and Hiram (Hbr “Huram”) is expanded from 1Ki 5:1–12. (TLSB)

2:10 The payment here differs from that reported in 1Ki 5:11, but the texts speak of two different payments: In Kings the payment is an annual sum delivered to the royal household of Hiram, while Chronicles speaks of one payment to the woodsmen. The goods paid are also not identical; the oil specified in Kings is of a finer quality. (CSB)

2:11–16 Hiram’s reply to Solomon. Cf 1Ki 5:7–9. (TLSB)

2:11–12 The Chronicler notes that Hiram blessed the Lord and includes his additional words “God of Israel, who made heaven and earth.” The glory of Solomon caused even a pagan king to acknowledge the omnipotence of the Lord. (TLSB)

2:13 *Huram-Abi.* Kings reports that the ancestry of Hiram-Abi was through a widow of Naphtali (1Ki 7:14); Chronicles strengthens the parallel between Hiram-Abi and Oholiab by assigning him Danite ancestry. These statements are not necessarily contradictory: (1) The mother’s ancestry may have been Danite, though she lived in the territory of Naphtali; or (2) her parents may have been from Dan and Naphtali, allowing her descent to be reckoned to either. The Danites had been previously associated with the Phoenicians (Jdg 18:7). (CSB)

Abi means “my father” or “master of”; thus, the king’s craftsman. The mother of this master craftsman, “a woman of the daughters of Dan” (v 14), apparently also had been a resident of Naphtali (1Ki 7:14). (TLSB)

2:17–18 The Chronicler specifies that this levy of forced laborers was from aliens resident in the land, not from Israelites. This is not stated in the parallel passage in Kings, though 1Ki 9:20–22 confirms that alien labor was used (see 8:8). (CSB)

Cf 1Ki 5:12–18. The Chronicler notes that these were “resident aliens” who were pressed into labor (cf 1Ki 9:20–1Ki 9:20–22). (TLSB)

2:17 *aliens.* On their identity and number, see notes, 1Ki 5:15–16. In addition to them, “Solomon drafted forced labor out of all Israel” (1Ki 5:13). (TLSB)

2:18 *3,600 overseers.* The number given in 1Ki 5:16 is 3,300; however, some manuscripts of the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the OT) also have 3,600. The Chronicler may have been following a

different text of Kings from the present Masoretic (traditional Hebrew) text at this point (but see note on 1Ki 5:16). (CSB)