

# SECOND CHRONICLES

## Chapter 4

### *The Temple's Furnishings*

**He made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high. 2 Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. 3 Under it were figures of gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast. 4 It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward. 5 Its thickness was a handbreadth. And its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held 3,000 baths. 6 He also made ten basins in which to wash, and set five on the south side, and five on the north side. In these they were to rinse off what was used for the burnt offering, and the sea was for the priests to wash in. 7 And he made ten golden lampstands as prescribed, and set them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. 8 He also made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. And he made a hundred basins of gold. 9 He made the court of the priests and the great court and doors for the court and overlaid their doors with bronze. 10 And he set the sea at the southeast corner of the house. 11 Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of God: 12 the two pillars, the bowls, and the two capitals on the top of the pillars; and the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the top of the pillars; 13 and the 400 pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars. 14 He made the stands also, and the basins on the stands, 15 and the one sea, and the twelve oxen underneath it. 16 The pots, the shovels, the forks, and all the equipment for these Hiram-abi made of burnished bronze for King Solomon for the house of the LORD. 17 In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredah. 18 Solomon made all these things in great quantities, for the weight of the bronze was not sought. 19 So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of God: the golden altar, the tables for the bread of the Presence, 20 the lampstands and their lamps of pure gold to burn before the inner sanctuary, as prescribed; 21 the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of purest gold; 22 the snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and fire pans, of pure gold, and the sockets of the temple, for the inner doors to the Most Holy Place and for the doors of the nave of the temple were of gold.**

**4:1** *altar of bronze.* The parallel text in Kings does not mention the main altar of the temple described here (1Ki 7:22–23), though several other passages in Kings do refer to it (1Ki 8:64; 9:25; 2Ki 16:14). The main altar of Solomon’s temple was similar to the altar with steps that is described in Eze 43:13–17. (CSB)

**4:2** *Sea of cast metal.* Replaced the bronze basin of the tabernacle (Ex 30:18); it was used by the priests for their ceremonial washing (v. 6; Ex 30:21). The NT views these rituals as foreshadowing the cleansing provided by Christ (Tit 3:5; Heb 9:11–14). In the temple of Ezekiel, the Sea, which was on the south side in front of the temple (v. 10), has been replaced by a life-giving river that flows from the south side of the temple (Eze 47:1–12; cf. Joel 3:18; Zec 14:8; Jn 4:9–15; Rev 22:1–2). (CSB)

**4:3** *figures of gourds.* Ornamental knobs on the molten sea. Here their shape is said to resemble oxen. In Hbr, the words for “oxen” and “gourds” are similar; a copyist could easily confuse them. Decorative

symbols were strung around the 30-cubit circumference of the great basin in a symmetric pattern so that there were 10 in every cubit. (TLSB)

**4:4** *twelve oxen*. Possibly symbolic of the 12 tribes, which also encamped three on each side of the tabernacle during the desert journeys (Nu 2; cf. Eze 48:30–35). (CSB)

**4:5** *three thousand baths*. 1Ki 7:26 has 2,000 baths. These figures could easily have been misread by the ancient scribes. (CSB)

**4:6** *ten basins*. See 1Ki 7:38–39. (CSB)

*sea was for the priests*. Used for ceremonial washing of priests. Other basins were built for washing objects (vv 14–16). In the NT, the priests of God (i.e., believers) are washed not in a temple basin but in the water of Holy Baptism. Through that Sacrament, as with the priests of ancient Israel, one is made clean to enter God’s presence. (TLSB)

**4:7–9** Some of these details are unique to 2Ch. Solomon, as charged by David, precisely followed the plan for the temple. (TLSB)

**4:7** *ten golden lampstands*. Instead of one, as in the tabernacle (Ex 25:31–40). (CSB)

Divinely mandated plans were given to David (1Ch 28:15), who measured out the gold for the work. The statement “as prescribed” probably applies to the tables and golden basins of v 8 as well (cf 1Ch 28:16–17). (TLSB)

*prescribed*. See 1Ch 28:15. These lamps were not necessarily of the same shape as described in Ex 25:31–40, but could have resembled the style of lamp depicted in Zec 4:2–6. (CSB)

**4:8** *ten tables*. Instead of one, as in the tabernacle (Ex 25:23–30; 40:4; Lev 24:5–9; 1Sa 21:1–6; Eze 41:22; Heb 9:2; cf. 2Ch 13:11; 29:18). (CSB)

Not mentioned in 1Ki, they seemingly had some connection with the lampstands (v 7). (TLSB)

**4:9** *court of the priests*. Restricted to use by priests, it was smaller than “the great court,” where the people assembled and where Solomon erected his bronze platform (6:13). (TLSB)

**4:11–16** While Hiram, the master craftsman, did the work (cf 2:13–14), he did so as a “subcontractor” for King Solomon (vv 11, 16), who remained the primary builder. (TLSB)

**4:11** *pots ... shovels ... basins*. For handling food, ashes, blood, and whatever else was involved with offering sacrifices. Cf 1Sm 2:12–17; Ezk 46:19–24 for insights into the handling of the sacrifices. (TLSB)

**4:16** *burnished bronze*. Utensils were often wrought from sheets of copper. (TLSB)

**4:17–22** Cf 1Ki 7:46–50. Summary crediting Solomon with the making of all the contents of the temple. (TLSB)

**4:17** *cast...clay*. The clay beds of the Jordan plain made it possible to dig molds for these bronze castings. (CSB)

**4:19 tables.** Only one table is mentioned in 13:11; 29:18; 1Ki 7:48. The 10 tables (cf 1Ch 28:16) for exhibiting the bread of the Presence are not explained. (TLSB)

**4:21 flowers.** Design element. Cf v 11. (TLSB)