FIRST KINGS

Chapter 7

***Solomon Builds His Palace***

**It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace. 2 He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high, with four rows of cedar columns supporting trimmed cedar beams. 3 It was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the columns—forty-five beams, fifteen to a row. 4 Its windows were placed high in sets of three, facing each other. 5 All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in the front part in sets of three, facing each other.6 He made a colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty wide. In front of it was a portico, and in front of that were pillars and an overhanging roof. 7 He built the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge, and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling. 8 And the palace in which he was to live, set farther back, was similar in design. Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh’s daughter, whom he had married. 9 All these structures, from the outside to the great courtyard and from foundation to eaves, were made of blocks of high-grade stone cut to size and trimmed with a saw on their inner and outer faces. 10 The foundations were laid with large stones of good quality, some measuring ten cubits and some eight. 11 Above were high-grade stones, cut to size, and cedar beams. 12 The great courtyard was surrounded by a wall of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams, as was the inner courtyard of the temple of the Lord with its portico.**

**7:1** *thirteen years.* Solomon spent almost twice as long building his own house as he did the Lord’s house (see 6:38; see also Hag 1:2–4). (CSB)

**7:2** *Palace of the Forest of Lebanon.* Four rows of cedar pillars in the palace created the impression of a great forest. (CSB)

*a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high.* See NIV text note. Compare these measurements with those of the temple in 6:2. (CSB)

**7:3** *forty-five beams, fifteen to a row.* Suggests that there were three floors in the building above the main hall on the ground level. The building included storage area for weaponry (see 10:16–17). (CSB)

**7:6** *colonnade.* Apparently an entrance hall to the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon. Its length (50 cubits) corresponds to the width of the palace. (CSB)

**7:7** *throne hall.* It is not clear whether the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, Solomon’s own living quarters (v. 8) and the palace for Pharaoh’s daughter (v. 8) were separate buildings or locations within the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon. (CSB)

**7:9** *trimmed with a saw.* The pinkish white limestone of Palestine is easily cut when originally quarried, but gradually hardens with exposure. (CSB)

**7:12** *great courtyard.* Constructed in the same way as the inner courtyard of the temple (6:36). (CSB)

***The Temple’s Furnishings***

**13 King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Huram, 14 whose mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali and whose father was a man of Tyre and a craftsman in bronze. Huram was highly skilled and experienced in all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him. 15 He cast two bronze pillars, each eighteen cubits high and twelve cubits around, by line. 16 He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars; each capital was five cubits high. 17 A network of interwoven chains festooned the capitals on top of the pillars, seven for each capital. 18 He made pomegranates in two rows encircling each network to decorate the capitals on top of the pillars. He did the same for each capital. 19 The capitals on top of the pillars in the portico were in the shape of lilies, four cubits high. 20 On the capitals of both pillars, above the bowl-shaped part next to the network, were the two hundred pomegranates in rows all around. 21 He erected the pillars at the portico of the temple. The pillar to the south he named Jakin and the one to the north Boaz. 22 The capitals on top were in the shape of lilies. And so the work on the pillars was completed. 23 He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits high. It took a line of thirty cubits to measure around it. 24 Below the rim, gourds encircled it—ten to a cubit. The gourds were cast in two rows in one piece with the Sea. 25 The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were toward the center. 26 It was a handbreadth in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It held two thousand baths.27 He also made ten movable stands of bronze; each was four cubits long, four wide and three high. 28 This is how the stands were made: They had side panels attached to uprights. 29 On the panels between the uprights were lions, bulls and cherubim—and on the uprights as well. Above and below the lions and bulls were wreaths of hammered work. 30 Each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles, and each had a basin resting on four supports, cast with wreaths on each side. 31 On the inside of the stand there was an opening that had a circular frame one cubit deep. This opening was round, and with its basework it measured a cubit and a half. Around its opening there was engraving. The panels of the stands were square, not round. 32 The four wheels were under the panels, and the axles of the wheels were attached to the stand. The diameter of each wheel was a cubit and a half. 33 The wheels were made like chariot wheels; the axles, rims, spokes and hubs were all of cast metal. 34 Each stand had four handles, one on each corner, projecting from the stand. 35 At the top of the stand there was a circular band half a cubit deep. The supports and panels were attached to the top of the stand. 36 He engraved cherubim, lions and palm trees on the surfaces of the supports and on the panels, in every available space, with wreaths all around. 37 This is the way he made the ten stands. They were all cast in the same molds and were identical in size and shape. 38 He then made ten bronze basins, each holding forty baths and measuring four cubits across, one basin to go on each of the ten stands. 39 He placed five of the stands on the south side of the temple and five on the north. He placed the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner of the temple. 40 He also made the basins and shovels and sprinkling bowls. So Huram finished all the work he had undertaken for King Solomon in the temple of the Lord: 41the two pillars; the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; the two sets of network decorating the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars; 42the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network, decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars); 43the ten stands with their ten basins; 44the Sea and the twelve bulls under it; 45the pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls. All these objects that Huram made for King Solomon for the temple of the Lord were of burnished bronze. 46 The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Succoth and Zarethan. 47 Solomon left all these things unweighed, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined. 48Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in the Lord’s temple: the golden altar; the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence; 49 the lampstands of pure gold (five on the right and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary); the gold floral work and lamps and tongs; 50the pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers; and the gold sockets for the doors of the innermost room, the Most Holy Place, and also for the doors of the main hall of the temple. 51 When all the work King Solomon had**

**done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father**

**David had dedicated—the silver and gold and the furnishings—and he placed**

**them in the treasuries of the Lord’s temple.**

**7:13** *King Solomon sent.* Prior to the completion of the temple and the construction of Solomon’s palace (see 2Ch 2:7, 13–14). (CSB)

*Huram.* See NIV text note. His full name is Huram-Abi (2Ch 2:13). (CSB)

**7:14** *widow from the tribe of Naphtali.* 2Ch 2:14 indicates that Huram-Abi’s mother was from Dan. Apparently she was born in the city of Dan in northern Israel close to the tribe of Naphtali, from which came her first husband. After he died, she married a man from Tyre. (CSB)

*all kinds of bronze work.* Huram-Abi had a much wider range of skills as well (see 2Ch 2:7, 14). (CSB)

**7:15** *two bronze pillars.* One was placed on each side of the main entrance to the temple (v. 21). Surely decorative, they may also have embodied a symbolism not known to us. It has been suggested that they were not freestanding but supported a roof (forming a portico to the temple) and an architrave. However, evidence for this view is lacking. (CSB)

**7:21** *pillar to the south.* The temple, like the tabernacle before it, faced east (see Eze 8:16). (CSB)

**7:23** *Sea of cast metal.* This enormous reservoir of water corresponded to the bronze basin made for the tabernacle (see Ex 30:17–21; 38:8). Its water was used by the priests for ritual cleansing (2Ch 4:6). (CSB)

*thirty cubits.* Technically speaking, this should be 31.416 cubits because of the ten-cubit diameter of the circular top. Thirty may be a round number here, or perhaps the measurement was taken a bit below the rim or on the inside circumference (see v. 26). (CSB)

**7:24** *ten to a cubit.* With ten gourds to a cubit it took 300 gourds to span the entire reservoir, or 600 gourds counting both rows. (CSB)

**7:27** *ten movable stands.* These movable bronze stands were designed to hold water basins (see v. 38) of much smaller dimensions than the bronze Sea. The water from the basins was used to wash certain prescribed parts of the animals that were slaughtered for burnt offerings (see Lev 1:9, 13; 2Ch 4:6). (CSB)

**7:36** *He engraved cherubim, lions and palm trees.* See note on 6:29. (CSB)

**7:40** *basins.* Perhaps used for cooking meat to be eaten in connection with the fellowship offerings (see Lev 7:11–17; 22:21–23). (CSB)

*shovels.* Used for removing ashes from the altar. (CSB)

*sprinkling bowls.* For use by the priests in various rites involving the sprinkling of blood or water (see Ex 27:3). (CSB)

**7:41** *two sets of network.* See v. 17. (CSB)

**7:42** *four hundred pomegranates.* See vv. 18, 20. (CSB)

**7:43** *ten stands with their ten basins.* See vv. 27–37. (CSB)

**7:44** *the Sea and the twelve bulls.* See vv. 23–26. (CSB)

**7:45** *pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls.* See v. 40. (CSB)

**7:46** *Succoth.* Located on the east side of the Jordan (Ge 33:17; Jos 13:27; Jdg 8:4–5) just north of the Jabbok River. Excavations in this area have confirmed that Succoth was a center of metallurgy during the period of the monarchy. (CSB)

*Zarethan.* Located near Adamah (see Jos 3:16) and Abel Meholah (4:12). (CSB)

**7:48** *golden altar.* See 6:22. (CSB)

*golden table.* The bread of the Presence was placed on this table (see Ex 25:23–30; 1Ch 9:32; 2Ch 13:11; 29:18). Ten such golden tables are mentioned in 1Ch 28:16 and 2Ch 4:8, 19, five placed on the north and five on the south side of the temple. (CSB)

**7:49** *lampstands of pure gold.* Only one lampstand with seven arms had stood in the tabernacle, opposite the table for the bread of the Presence (Ex 25:31–40; 26:35). The ten lampstands in the temple, five on the north and five on the south side, created a lane of light in the Holy Place. *gold floral work.* See Ex 25:33. (CSB)

*lamps.* See Ex 25:37. (CSB)

*tongs.* See 2Ch 4:21; Isa 6:6. (CSB)

**7:50** *censers.* See 2Ki 25:15; 2Ch 4:22; Jer 52:18–19. (CSB)

**7:51** *things his father David had dedicated.* Valuable objects of silver and gold, either taken as booty in war or received as tribute from kings seeking David’s favor (see 2Sa 8:9–12; 1Ch 18:7–11; 2Ch 5:1). (CSB)

*treasuries of the Lord’s temple.* See 15:18; 2Ki 12:18; 1Ch 9:26; 26:20–26; 28:12. (CSB)