

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 5

Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, and stored the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the treasuries of the house of God.

5:1 *was finished.* Before dedicating the finished temple, Solomon deposited in it “the things that David ... had dedicated” to the Lord (cf 1Ch 18:7–11; 22:3–4, 14; 26:26–28; 29:2–5), giving closure to the story of the building (3:1–5:1). (TLSB)

The Ark Brought to the Temple

2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. 3 And all the men of Israel assembled before the king at the feast that is in the seventh month. 4 And all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. 5 And they brought up the ark, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the Levitical priests brought them up. 6 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. 7 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. 8 The cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. 9 And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. 10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt. 11 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions, 12 and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters; 13 and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever,” the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

5:2 Cf 7:9. The Chronicler specifically notes that Israel’s leaders came to King Solomon.(TLSB)

assembled the elders. Elders of Israel were gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Booths (v 3) (TLSB)

ark. Had been in a tent provided for it 40 years earlier when David brought it to Jerusalem (1Ch 15:1–16:6). (CSB)

5:3 *feast that is in the seventh month.* The Feast of Tabernacles. The month is designated by its Canaanite name Ethanim in 1Ki 8:2; the Hebrew name is Tishri. According to 1Ki 6:38 the temple was completed in the eighth month of Solomon’s 11th year, i.e., September-October, 959 B.C. This celebration

of dedication took place either a month before the completion of the work or 11 months after, probably the latter. (CSB)

5:4–10 The Chronicler specifies “Levites” rather than “priests” (as in 1Ki) to show precise accord with Mosaic Law. (TLSB)

5:6 Cf. David’s bringing of the ark to Jerusalem (1Ch 15:26; 16:1–3). (CSB)

5:8 *poles*. Used by the Levites for carrying the ark. (TLSB)

5:10 *two tablets*. The ark had earlier contained also the gold jar of manna (Ex 16:32–34) and Aaron’s staff (Nu 17:10–11; Heb 9:4). These items were presumably lost, perhaps while the ark was in Philistine hands. (CSB)

Original contents were the tablets, manna, and Aaron’s staff (Ex 16:32–34; 31:18; 32:15–16; Nu 17:10–11; Dt 10:1–5). Some have speculated that the Philistines or the men of Beth-shemesh removed these things when they held the ark (1Sm 4:11; 6:19). (TLSB)

5:11–14 Cf 1Ki 8:10–11. The Chronicler includes further details about the priests and Levites in his characteristic emphasis on their role in Israel’s divinely instituted worship of the Lord (see “Authorship and the Author’s Interests,” p 628). He notes the presence of the cloud, i.e., the glory of the Lord (cf Ex 40:34–38). (TLSB)

5:11 *all the priests*. In 11b–13a, the writer of Chronicles reports two facts not found in Kings: (1) all the priests and “all the Levitical singers” participated at this occasion, not only those on duty in Jerusalem at the time; (2) the theme song of the singers, accompanied by instrumental music, was a liturgical refrain (v 13b) that David had used (1Ch 16:34; cf Ps 118:1–4, 29). (TLSB)

5:13 *in unison*. Lit, “one voice.” (TLSB)

He is good. The Chronicler uses an excerpt from the very psalms used by Solomon’s father, David. Cf 7:1–3. (TLSB)

5:14 *cloud ... glory of the LORD*. Cf. 7:1–3. The glory cloud represented the presence of God. It had guided Israel out of Egypt and through the desert, and was present above the tabernacle (Ex 13:21–22; 40:34–38; cf. Eze 43:1–5; Hag 2:9; Zec 1:16; 2:10; 8:3). (CSB)