

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 5

When all the work 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 all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God’s temple.

5:1 *things his father David had dedicated.* See notes on 1Ch 18:1–20:8; 22:2–16; 29:2–5; see also 1Ch 26:26. (CSB)

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 summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the LORD’s covenant from Zion, the City of David. ³ And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month. ⁴ When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark, ⁵ and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up; ⁶ and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted. ⁷ The priests then brought the ark of the LORD’s covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁸ The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles. ⁹ These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. ¹⁰ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt. ¹¹ The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions. 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.

5:2–14 See 1Ki 8:1–11 and notes. (CSB)

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 *festival 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 (see note on 1Ki 8:2). (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)

5:9 *still there today.* See note on 1Ki 8:8; see also 8:8; 10:19; 20:26; 21:10; 35:25; 1Ch 4:41, 43; 5:26; 13:11; 17:5. (CSB)

5:10 *two tablets.* See Ex 31:18 and note; see also Ex 32:15–16. 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)

5:12 *fine linen*. See 1Ch 15:27 and note. (CSB)

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)