SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 3

*Solomon Builds the Temple*

**Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David. 2 He began building on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign. 3 The foundation Solomon laid for building the temple of God was sixty cubits long and twenty cubits wide (using the cubit of the old standard). 4 The portico at the front of the temple was twenty cubits long across the width of the building and twenty cubits high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold. 5 He paneled the main hall with pine and covered it with fine gold and decorated it with palm tree and chain designs. 6 He adorned the temple with precious stones. And the gold he used was gold of Parvaim. 7 He overlaid the ceiling beams, doorframes, walls and doors of the temple with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls. 8 He built the Most Holy Place, its length corresponding to the width of the temple—twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide. He overlaid the inside with six hundred talents of fine gold. 9 The gold nails weighed fifty shekels. He also overlaid the upper parts with gold. 10 In the Most Holy Place he made a pair of sculptured cherubim and overlaid them with gold. 11 The total wingspan of the cherubim was twenty cubits. One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long and touched the temple wall, while its other wing, also five cubits long, touched the wing of the other cherub. 12 Similarly one wing of the second cherub was five cubits long and touched the other temple wall, and its other wing, also five cubits long, touched the wing of the first cherub. 13 The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits. They stood on their feet, facing the main hall.14 He made the curtain of blue, purple and crimson yarn and fine linen, with cherubim worked into it. 15 In the front of the temple he made two pillars, which together were thirty-five cubits long, each with a capital on top measuring five cubits. 16 He made interwoven chains and put them on top of the pillars. He also made a hundred pomegranates and attached them to the chains. 17 He erected the pillars in the front of the temple, one to the south and one to the north. The one to the south he named Jakin and the one to the north Boaz.**

**3:1–17** The Chronicler has considerably curtailed the description of the temple’s construction found in Kings, omitting completely 1Ki 6:4–20. This abridgment probably indicates that the Chronicler’s audience was familiar with the details of the earlier history and that the temple of the restoration period was less elaborate than the original Solomonic structure (Hag 2:3). On the other hand, the Chronicler goes into more detail on the furnishings and implements (3:6–9; 4:1, 6–9). (CSB)

**3:1** *Mount Moriah.* The only passage in the OT where Mount Zion is identified with Mount Moriah, the place where Abraham was commanded to offer Isaac (Ge 22:2, 14). (CSB)

 *place provided by David.* See 1Ch 21:18–22:1. (CSB)

**3:2** *second month in the fourth year.* In the spring of 966 b.c. (see note on 1Ki 6:1). (CSB)

**3:4** *overlaid.* Or “inlaid,” which perhaps gives a more correct picture: not that the entire interior was covered with gold leaf, but that designs (palm trees, chains) were inlaid with gold leaf (v. 5). (CSB)

**3:6** *Parvaim.* Designates either the source of the gold (perhaps southeast Arabia) or a particular quality of fine gold. (CSB)

**3:7** *cherubim.* See vv. 10–14; see also notes on Ge 3:24; Eze 1:5. (CSB)

**3:8** *twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide.* It was also 20 cubits high (1Ki 6:20), making the dimensions of the Most Holy Place a perfect cube, as probably also in the tabernacle. In the New Jerusalem there is no temple (Rev 21:22); rather, the whole city is in the shape of a cube (Rev 21:16), for the whole city becomes “the Most Holy Place.” (CSB)

**3:9** *gold nails.* The fact that gold is such a soft metal would make it unlikely that nails were made of this substance. It is probable that this small amount (only 1 1/4 pounds; see NIV text note) represents gold leaf or sheeting used to gild the nail heads. (CSB)

**3:10–13** See 1Ki 6:23–27 and notes. (CSB)

**3:14** *curtain.* Also separated the two rooms of the tabernacle (Ex 26:31). Wooden doors could also be closed across the opening (4:22; 1Ki 6:31–32; cf. Mt 27:51; Heb 9:8). (CSB)

**3:15** *(together) were thirty-five cubits long.* Supplying the word “together” represents an attempt to harmonize this measurement with the 18 cubits (each) in 1Ki 7:15 (also confirmed by 2Ki 25:17—see NIV text note there; Jer 52:21, though the Septuagint at Jer 52:21 has 35). Alternatively, 35 may be the result of a copyist’s mistake. (CSB)

**3:17** *pillars.* Remains of such pillars have been found in the excavations of numerous temples in Palestine. Cf. Rev 3:12. (CSB)

 *Jakin … Boaz.* See NIV text notes. (CSB)