

1 Kings 6

King James Version (KJV)

6 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD. (Zif = blooming – approx. our May) (Bollinger puts the year at – 917 BC) (They had left Egypt at approx 1490 BC)

²And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits. (Approx 21-25 in. per cubit – 2 ft)

³And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

⁴And for the house he made windows of narrow lights. (Towards the top of the walls, near the ceiling to ventilate the temple, due to burning incense)

⁵And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about: (oracle - the Holy of Holies)

(These chambers were where the people would go when making sacrifices to God. Peace offerings, for example, were a meal shared with God)

1Chronicles-28:19 (God designed the temple)

⁶The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house. (The walls got thinner with each floor to make a space for the floor joists to rest on)

⁷And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. (No noise, no scraps in the vicinity of the temple. That work was all done at the quarries)

Deuteronomy- 27:5-6 (No tools on God's altar either)

⁸The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third. (Appendix-68-5 of the Companion Bible)

(They built buildings on 3 sides of the temple. Each had 3 stories of rooms or chambers to be used by people making sacrifices to God)

⁹So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar. (the roof)

¹⁰And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house with timber of cedar. (10 foot ceilings)

¹¹And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying, (possibly in a dream, like the last time – or possibly via a prophet)

¹²Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: (if - God put a condition on His promises to Solomon. Solomon didn't meet the conditions. In his later years as king, he became one of the worst idolators in the history of Israel) see 1Chronicles-22:10, 2Samuel-7:13

¹³And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel. Leviticus-26:11

¹⁴So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

¹⁵And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling: and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. (Probably cypress wood) (the walls = the beams – probably a copyist error)

¹⁶And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place. (the oracle = dabar<Hebrew> = to speak – this is where God spoke to the priests – the Holy of Holies)

¹⁷And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long.

¹⁸ And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen. (Knops= ornamental gourds) (Flowers were symbolic for bringing forth fruit)

¹⁹ And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD. (oracle= the Holy of Holies – means “to speak”; This is where God spoke to the people through the Urum and Thumum)

²⁰ And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar. (The oracle was a perfect cube shape, the same as the New Jerusalem described in Ezekiel-41 in the eternity) (the altar - The altar of incense burning)

(In Exodus-26, the tabernacle that Moses built was also in the shape of a cube)

²¹ So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold.

²² And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold. (The altar of incense)

²³ And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high. (cherubim - means protection or overlay) (olive tree - wild olive trees; the wood is very hard and durable) (The cherubims were winged creatures set as an honor guard on each side of the Ark of the Covenant) Exodus-37:7-8

²⁴ And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits.

²⁵ And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size. (Wingtip to wingtip, the two cherubims went from one wall to the other)

²⁶ The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub.

²⁷ And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. (The wings would be symbolic for covering or protecting the Ark of the Covenant; as an eagle covers its young with its wings)

²⁸ And he overlaid the cherubims with gold. (Hammered sheets of gold formed over the wooden statues)

²⁹ And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without. Ezekiel-41:18 (similar to the Millennial Temple)

³⁰ And the floors of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without.

³¹ And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall. (The doors that closed on this room were 4 cubits <8 ft>)

Verse-21, there were gold chains and a veil of fine linen still separating the Holy of Holies from the outer chamber when the doors were open, to stop people from looking in. Jesus rent the veil in half in the re-built temple when He was crucified)

³² The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees. (Palm tree = tamar <Hebrew> = to give life)

³³ So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall. (This is the outer door entering the outer room from the porch)

³⁴ And the two doors were of fir tree: the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding.

³⁵ And he carved thereon cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work.

(Centuries later, Hezekiah would take the gold off of these doors and use it to bribe the king of Babylon – trying to buy peace. It didn't work)

³⁶ And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams. (This is where the Altar of burnt offerings and the lavers were. This is outside of the temple, in the inner court. There was also an outer court)

³⁷ In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif: (Our month of May, the 2nd month of the Hebrew calendar, 4th year of Solomon's reign)

³⁸ And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it. (It took another 3 years to complete the furnishings and instruments that were inside the temple)