

# 1 Kings 6:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of construction of the temple, within the book's focus on Solomon's wisdom, temple building, and tragic apostasy. The sacrificial system points forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling all temple offerings (Hebrews 10:1-18).

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

## Historical Context

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First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Solomon's reign (c. 970-930 BCE) represented Israel's golden age of

peace and prosperity.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the temple as God's dwelling place help us understand Christ's incarnation and the church as God's temple today?
2. What does Solomon's prayer and dedication teach about approaching God in worship and prayer?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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וְלִפְנֵי י	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	אֶמֶה	אֶל כֶּךָ	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם		
in the forepart	And the oracle	and twenty	cubits	in length	and twenty	
H6440	H1687	H6242	H520	H753	H6242	
אֶמֶה	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם
cubits	in breadth	and twenty	cubits	in the height	and so covered	gold
H520	H7341	H6242	H520	H6967	H6823	H2091
סָג וֹר	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם	וְעֶשְׂרֵי יָם
it with pure	and so covered	the altar	which was of cedar			
H5462	H6823	H4196	H730			

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