

# 2 Chronicles 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

## Analysis

**Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on Mobilizing resources for God's house. The Chronicler presents Solomon's faithfulness in temple building and worship as paradigmatic for post-exilic Israel. Unlike the Kings account which includes Solomon's failures, Chronicles emphasizes his positive example during his faithful years.

Theologically, the passage demonstrates that wholehearted seeking of God results in His manifest blessing and presence. The temple construction and dedication represent the climax of God's dwelling with Israel, foreshadowing the incarnation when God would dwell among humanity in Christ. The elaborate preparations and careful adherence to divine pattern emphasize that worship must occur on God's terms.

Cross-references to the tabernacle (Exodus 25-40), Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7, 1 Chronicles 17), and Messianic prophecies illuminate how Solomon's temple points toward Christ as the true meeting place between God and humanity. The material glory of Solomon's kingdom anticipates the greater glory of the Messianic age.

## Historical Context

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The reign of Solomon (970-930 BCE) represents Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity. The temple construction began in Solomon's fourth year (966 BCE), exactly 480 years after the Exodus according to 1 Kings 6:1. The Chronicler writes from a post-exilic perspective (450-400 BCE), emphasizing themes relevant to the restored community: temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Archaeological evidence confirms Solomon's extensive building projects and international trade relationships. The temple's design incorporated Phoenician architectural elements, evidenced by parallel structures discovered in Syria and Lebanon. Solomon's alliance with Hiram of Tyre provided both materials (Lebanese cedar) and craftsmen for the construction.

The post-exilic audience, having returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple, needed encouragement that God's presence and blessing could be restored through faithful worship. The Chronicler presents Solomon's reign as paradigmatic—when leaders and people seek God wholeheartedly, He dwells among them and prospers them.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

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

1. How does this verse deepen understanding of God's presence as the source of true blessing and success?
2. What does this passage teach about the importance of following God's prescribed patterns in worship and service?
3. How does Solomon's example in Preparation for Temple Building point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

אֶלֶּה יְנוּ	יְהוָה ה	לִשְׁמֹן	בֵּית	בֹּנֶה	אֲנִי הִנֵּה
my God	of the LORD	to the name	an house	Behold I build	
H430	H3068	H8034	H1004	H1129	
סָמִים	קִטְרֶת	לִפְנֵי יו	לְהִקְטִיר	ל	לְהַקְדִּי
him sweet	incense	before	it to him and to burn		to dedicate
H5561	H7004	H6440	H6999	H0	H6942
לַבֹּקֶר	וְעֹלֹת	תָּמִיד	וּמִנְחָה	כֶּתֶב	
morning	and for the burnt offerings	and for the continual	shewbread		
H1242	H5930	H8548	H4635		
וּלְמוֹעֵד י	וְלַחֲדָשִׁים	לַשַּׁבָּתוֹת	וּלְעֶרֶב		
and on the solemn feasts	and on the new moons	on the sabbaths	and evening		
H4150	H2320	H7676	H6153		
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	עַל זֹאת	לְעוֹלָם	אֶלֶּה יְנוּ	יְהוָה ה	
to Israel		This is an ordinance for ever	my God	of the LORD	
H3478	H5921	H5769	H430	H3068	

**Exodus 30:7** (Parallel theme): And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning; when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

**Exodus 25:30** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.

**2 Chronicles 2:1** (References Lord): And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

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