

2 Chronicles 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents.

Analysis

And he made the most holy house, the length whereof was according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on Building according to divine pattern on consecrated ground. 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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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 Temple Construction Begins point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַשׂ	אֶת	הַבַּיִת	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	יֵם	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	יֵם	אָרְכוֹ	וְ	עַל
And he made		house	holy		holy		the length		
H6213	H853	H1004	H6944		H6944		H753		H5921
פָּנָיו		וְרֹחְבוֹ		הַבַּיִת	אֵם	וְ	עֶשְׂרֵים		
whereof was according to		and the breadth		house	cubits		thereof twenty		
H6440		H7341		H1004	H520		H6242		
וְרֹחְבוֹ	אֵם	וְ	עֶשְׂרֵים	וַיַּחַפּוּ	זָהָב	בְּ	טוֹב		
and the breadth	cubits		thereof twenty	and he overlaid	gold		it with fine		
H7341	H520		H6242	H2645	H2091		H2896		
לְכַפֵּר	שֵׁשׁ	מֵאוֹת							
talents	amounting to six	hundred							
H3603	H8337	H3967							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 26:33 (Holy): And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

Hebrews 10:19 (Parallel theme): Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 9:3 (Parallel theme): And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

Hebrews 9:9 (Parallel theme): Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

1 Kings 6:16 (Holy): And 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.

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