

2 Chronicles 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hiram sent him by the hands of his servants ships, and servants that had knowledge of the sea; and they went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and took thence four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

Analysis

And Hiram sent him by the hands of his servants ships, and servants that had knowledge of the sea; and they went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and took thence four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on Consolidating the kingdom and establishing worship. 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

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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 Solomon's Other Building Projects point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁלַח	לֹא	חֹרֵם	בְּיָד	עֲבָדֵי	אֲוֹנֵי	עֲבָדֵי
sent	H0	And Hiram	him by the hands	and servants	ships	and servants
H7971		H2361	H3027	H5650	H591	H5650
יָדְעִי	יָם	וַבַּיָּא	עִם	עֲבָדֵי	שְׁלֹמֹה:	
that had knowledge	of the sea	and brought	H5973	and servants	Solomon	
H3045	H3220	H935		H5650	H8010	
אֹפִיר	וַיִּקַּח	מִשָּׁם	אַרְבַּע	מֵאֹת	וְחִמְשֵׁים	כִּפְרֵי
to Ophir	and took	H8033	thence four	hundred	and fifty	talents
H211	H3947		H702	H3967	H2572	H3603
זָהָב	וַבַּיָּא	אֶל	הֵם לְךָ	שְׁלֹמֹה:		
of gold	and brought	H413	them to king	Solomon		
H2091	H935		H4428	H8010		

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 9:10 (Parallel theme): And the servants also of Hiram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought algarum trees and precious stones.

2 Chronicles 9:13 (Parallel theme): Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold;

