

2 Chronicles 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Huram 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 Huram 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

עָבֵד	אֹנוֹ	וְת	עָבֵד	י	עָבֵד	וְת	עָבֵד	י	עָבֵד	וְת	עָבֵד	י	
sent	וְ	And Huram	him by the hands	and servants	ships	and servants							
H7971	H2361	H3027	H5650	H591	H5650								
וְדַעַי	עָבֵד	וְת	עָבֵד	י	שְׁלָמָה:	עָבֵד	וְת	עָבֵד	י	שְׁלָמָה:	עָבֵד	וְת	
that had knowledge	of the sea	and brought		and servants		Solomon							
H3045	H3220	H935	H5973	H5650	H8010								
אֶלְעָמָן	מֵשֶׁב	מִלְחָמָה	אֶלְעָמָן	מֵשֶׁב	מֵשֶׁב	כֶּבֶשׂ	תְּחִמָּשׂ	יָמִים	מֵא	וְת	אֶלְעָמָן	יָבָה	
to Ophir	and took	H8033	thence four	hundred	and fifty	talents							
H211	H3947	H702	H3967	H2572	H3603								
שְׁלָמָה:	בְּפָנָי	לְרַבְבָּעָה	מֵא	וְת	אֶלְעָמָן	בְּפָנָי	לְרַבְבָּעָה	מֵא	וְת	אֶלְעָמָן	בְּפָנָי	לְרַבְבָּעָה	
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 Huram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought al gum 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;

