

# 2 Chronicles 9:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

## Analysis

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**For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on International recognition of God's blessing. 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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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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 Queen of Sheba and Solomon's Wealth point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

## Interlinear Text

|                 |              |                       |                 |                    |                     |                          |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| פִּי            | אֲנִי וְ     | לִמָּ לְךָ            | הָלַכְתָּ וְ    | תַרְשִׁישׁ יָשׁ    | עַם                 | עַבְדֵי יָ               |
| H3588           | <b>ships</b> | <b>For the king's</b> | <b>went</b>     | <b>of Tarshish</b> | H5973               | <b>with the servants</b> |
|                 | H591         | H4428                 | H1980           | H8659              |                     | H5650                    |
| חֹרֵב הַ        | אַחַת        | לְשָׁל וְשׁ           | שָׁנָה יָמִים   | בָּא וְאֵנָה       | אֲנִי וְ            | תַרְשִׁישׁ יָשׁ          |
| <b>of Hiram</b> | <b>once</b>  | <b>every three</b>    | <b>years</b>    | <b>came</b>        | <b>ships</b>        | <b>of Tarshish</b>       |
| H2361           | H259         | H7969                 | H8141           | H935               | H591                | H8659                    |
| בְּשִׂאוֹת      | זָהָב        | וְכֶסֶף               | שִׁנְהָב יָמִים | וְקֹפֵי יָמִים     | וְתוֹכִים:          |                          |
| <b>bringing</b> | <b>gold</b>  | <b>and silver</b>     | <b>ivory</b>    | <b>and apes</b>    | <b>and peacocks</b> |                          |
| H5375           | H2091        | H3701                 | H8143           | H6971              | H8500               |                          |

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