

2 Chronicles 2

King James Version (KJV)

2 And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

²And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them. (The workers were forced labor by conquered peoples in servitude. The overseers were Hebrews)

NOTE: (This concludes the 11th setter of 25, in the original manuscripts. Chapters were invented arbitrarily when the Hebrew manuscripts were translated into Greek. The Chronicles in the Hebrew were one Book, not two)

³And Solomon sent to Huram the king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, even so deal with me. (Hiram is called Hiram in the Book of Kings) see 1Kings-5:11

⁴Behold, 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. (All of these feasts and offerings were set up by God; not by man)

(That is why they should not have been changed over the years. They were changed by evil kings and false priests, during the latter years. Also, when these kings and priests brought idol worship into the temple, it angered God. HE took away Israel's blessings and eventually their nation)

NOTE: (When Jesus came into the world as Savior, He did away with all of these blood ordinances forever. Today our sacrifice to God is our love and our obedience to His Ten Commandments)

⁵And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.

⁶But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him

an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him? (Solomon was humble before God in his younger days)

(The temple was not built to contain God. God created the universe. HE doesn't need a house. The temple was built to offer man a place to commune with God and as a place to worship Him. Its purpose was to offer the daily and holyday sacrifices to God. Today, we take communion. It is our way of sharing a sacrificial meal with God)

⁷Send me now therefore a man cunning to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and that can skill to grave with the cunning men that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide. (cunning = skillful, in old English; it was a positive attribute then; unlike today where it is a negative attribute)

(The Phoenicians had very skilled craftsmen, artisans, stone cutters and carpenters. Solomon hired these people from Hiram to make the temple and all of its furniture and utensils)

⁸Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon: for I know that thy servants can skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and, behold, my servants shall be with thy servants, (Algum trees here are called almug trees in Kings. Israel also imported algum from Ophir. It is thought to be rosewood or sandalwood) 1Kings-5:13-14

(The cedars of Lebanon were prized by many nations as the best wood for building. In Kings, we learn that Solomon assigned 30,000 men of Israel to help in the harvesting of the cedar trees. They rotated in and out in shifts of 10,000 for one month each)

⁹Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great. (wonderful great = wonderful and great – better translation)

¹⁰And, behold, I will give to thy servants, the hewers that cut timber, twenty thousand measures of beaten wheat, and twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil. (This food is for the workers. This amount was provided annually)

(In 1Kings-5 the amounts of food stated there was for Hiram and his nation of Lebanon)

¹¹ Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, Because the LORD hath loved his people, he hath made thee king over them. (Hiram, a heathen king knows of the God of Israel. It was known throughout the region that the God of Israel was blessing them greatly)

¹² Hiram said moreover, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who hath given to David the king a wise son, endued with prudence and understanding, that might build an house for the LORD, and an house for his kingdom. (Hiram was wise enough to realize that God is great and that He has blessed Israel beyond all other nations. It was in his best interest to cooperate with Solomon, as he had done with David)

¹³ And now I have sent a cunning man, endued with understanding, of Hiram my father's, (cunning= skillful, in old English)

(Father also means counselor or advisor in Hebrew. In Genesis, Pharaoh referred to Joseph as father, meaning counselor or adviser)

(This man, Hiram, is not the king. He is the skillful man being sent to Jerusalem by Hiram, the king of Tyre)

¹⁴ The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and in timber, in purple, in blue, and in fine linen, and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my lord David thy father. (The skillful man's mother was of Dan. His father was of Naphtali. After his father died, this other man of Tyre married Hiram's mother and became his step father) see 1Kings-7:14

(So, the master craftsman is an Israelite, with a step father from Tyre)

¹⁵ Now therefore the wheat, and the barley, the oil, and the wine, which my lord hath spoken of, let him send unto his servants: (You have a deal. Send the food and we will get to work)

¹⁶ And we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as thou shalt need: and we will bring it to thee in floats by sea to Joppa; and thou shalt carry it up to Jerusalem. (Floats were huge rafts made of the trees, tied together for transport. It was easier than transporting them by land)

¹⁷ And Solomon numbered all the strangers that were in the land of Israel, after the numbering wherewith David his father had numbered them; and they were found an hundred and fifty thousand and three thousand and six hundred. (The strangers were conquered people, living in Israel – Edomites, Moabites, Ammonites, Canaanites, etc)

¹⁸ And he set threescore and ten thousand of them to be bearers of burdens, and fourscore thousand to be hewers in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred overseers to set the people a work. (They were assigned work for the building of the temple)