

1 Kings 5

King James Version (KJV)

(Building the temple in Jerusalem)

(This is back in time to the first years of Solomon's reign)

5 And Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David. (He was a good friend and ally to King David)

² And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying,

³ Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.

1Chronicles-22 & 29 (David gathered a lot of materials for the temple, but it was no everything that was needed)

⁴ But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent. (Israel is at peace)

⁵ And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name. 2Samuel-7:12-13

⁶ Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians. (Sidonians were the Phoenicians. They were known for their woodworking & ship building skills)

⁷ And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people. (Hiram was possibly a believer in Yahoveh – as well as his own gods. He knew how God had blessed David; and now, Solomon) 2Chronicles-2:12

⁸ And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. (fir – probably cypress)

⁹ My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household. (The timber was shipped by sea to Joppa, Israel. Joppa is the nearest seaport to Jerusalem) (floats = rafts made from binding the trees together)

(Hiram was trading lumber for food. Israel had plenty of food, Hiram had plenty of lumber)

¹⁰ So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire.

¹¹ And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year. (1 measure = approx 8 bushels) (Pure oil = the best quality extra virgin olive oil)

(These items were payment for the lumber. Israel needed the lumber; the Sidonians needed the food supplies)

¹² And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

¹³ And King Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men. (People agreed to this in order to build God's temple in Jerusalem)

(The problem is that after the temple was completed, Solomon never stopped this forced labor, project after project. People eventually resented this forced labor, year after year. God predicted this would happen if Israel had a man king, instead of God as their King)

1Samuel-8:10-18 <read this here> (this is what God thinks of a man king)

¹⁴ And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses: a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home: and Adoniram was over the levy. (Free men were put to forced labor- 1 of every three months)

¹⁵ And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains; (70,000 and 80,000 more – these were slaves who were descended from Canaanite tribes that had been defeated by Israel. God told Israel to destroy the Canaanites, but they made slaves of them instead)

¹⁶ Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought in the work. (3,300 supervisors)

¹⁷ And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house. (brought = quarried)

¹⁸ And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house. (stonesquarers - Men from Gibal, just north of Sidon, that were known for their skills in stone and wood cutting. They were also great ship builders. These stones and timbers were cut to size and fully finished off-site; because hammers and cutters were not allowed on the temple premises in respect to God)