
2CHRONICLES 2: 1 Now Solomon decided to build a house for the LORD's name, and a house for his kingdom.

Solomon determines to build a temple, 2Chr 2:1. The number of his workmen, 2Chr 2:2. Sends to Hiram for artificers and materials, 2Chr 2:3-10. Hiram sends him a favorable answer, and makes an agreement with him concerning the labor to be done, and the wages to be paid to his men, 2Chr 2:11-16. The number of strangers in the land, and how employed, 2Chr 2:17, 2Chr 2:18.

Verse 1

A house for the name of the Lord - A temple for the worship of Jehovah.

A house for his kingdom - A royal palace for his own use as king of Israel.

2CHRONICLES 2: 2 Solomon counted out seventy thousand men to bear burdens, and eighty thousand men who were stone cutters in the mountains, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.

2CHRONICLES 2: 3 Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, "As you dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build him a house in which to dwell, so deal with me.

Verse 3

Solomon sent to Hiram - This man's name is written חִירָם Chiram in Kings; and in Chronicles, חוּרָם Churam: there is properly no difference, only a ' yod and a | vau interchanged. See on 1Kgs 5:2 (note).

2CHRONICLES 2: 4 Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him incense of sweet spices, and for the continual show bread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the set feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel.

2CHRONICLES 2: 5 "The house which I build is great; for our God is great above all gods.

2CHRONICLES 2: 6 But who is able to build him a house, since heaven and the heaven of heavens can't contain him? who am I then, that I should build him a house, except just to burn incense before him?

Verse 6

Seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens - "For the lower heavens, the middle heavens, and the upper heavens cannot contain him, seeing he sustains all things by the arm of his power. Heaven is the throne of his glory, the earth his footstool; the deep, and the whole world, are sustained by the

spirit of his Word, [ברוח מימריה beruach meqmereih]. Who am I, then, that I should build him a house?" - Targum.

Save only to burn sacrifice - It is not under the hope that the house shall be able to contain him, but merely for the purpose of burning incense to him, and offering him sacrifice, that I have erected it.

2CHRONICLES 2: 7 "Now therefore send me a man skilful to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and who knows how to engrave engravings, to be with the skilful men who are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

Verse 7

Send me - a man cunning to work - A person of great ingenuity, who is capable of planning and directing, and who may be over the other artists.

2CHRONICLES 2: 8 "Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon; for I know that your servants know how to cut timber in Lebanon: and behold, my servants shall be with your servants,

2CHRONICLES 2: 9 even to prepare me timber in abundance; for the house which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful.

2CHRONICLES 2: 10 Behold, I will give to your servants, the cutters who 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."

2CHRONICLES 2: 11 Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon, "Because the LORD loves his people, he has made you king over them."

Verse 11

Answered in writing - Though correspondence among persons of distinction was, in these early times, carried on by confidential messengers, yet we find that epistolary correspondence did exist, and that kings could write and read in what were called by the proud and insolent Greeks and Romans barbarous nations. Nearly two thousand years after this we find a king on the British throne who could not sign his own name. About the year of our Lord 700, Withred, king of Kent, thus concludes a charter to secure the liberties of the Church: Ego Wythredus rex Cantiae haec omnia suprascripta et confirmavi, atque, a me dictata propria manu signum sanctae crucis pro ignorantia literarum expressi; "All the above dictated by myself, I have confirmed; and because I cannot write, I have with my own hand expressed this by putting the sign of the holy cross +." - See Wilkins' Concilta.

2CHRONICLES 2: 12 Hiram continued, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, that made heaven and earth, who has given to David the king a wise son, endowed with discretion and understanding, that should build a house for the LORD, and a house for his kingdom.

2CHRONICLES 2: 13 Now I have sent a skilful man, endowed with understanding, of Hiram my father's,

Verse 13

I have sent a cunning man - His name appears to have been Hiram, or Hiram Abi: see the notes on 1Kgs 7:13, 1Kgs 7:14.

2CHRONICLES 2: 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 engrave any kind of engraving, and to devise any device; that there may be a place appointed to him with your skilful men, and with the skilful men of my lord David your father.

2CHRONICLES 2: 15 "Now therefore the wheat and the barley, the oil and the wine, which my lord has spoken of, let him send to his servants:

2CHRONICLES 2: 16 and we will cut wood out of Lebanon, as much as you shall need; and we will bring it to you in floats by sea to Joppa; and you shall carry it up to Jerusalem."

Verse 16

In floats by sea to Joppa - See the note on 1Kgs 5:9, and on the parallel places, for other matters contained in this chapter.

2CHRONICLES 2: 17 Solomon numbered all the foreigners who were in the land of Israel, after the numbering with which David his father had numbered them; and they were found one hundred fifty-three thousand six hundred.

2CHRONICLES 2: 18 He set seventy thousand of them to bear burdens, and eighty thousand who were stone cutters in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred overseers to set the people at work.
