
2CHRONICLES 3: 1 Then Solomon began to build the LORD's house at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared to David his father, which he prepared in the place that David had appointed, in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Solomon begins to build the temple in the fourth year of his reign on Mount Moriah, 2Chr 3:1, 2Chr 3:2. Its dimensions, ornaments, and pillars, 2Chr 3:3-17.

Verse 1

In Mount Moriah - Supposed to be the same place where Abraham was about to offer his son Isaac; so the Targum: "Solomon began to build the house of the sanctuary of the Lord at Jerusalem, in the place where Abraham had prayed and worshipped in the name of the Lord. This is the place of the earth where all generations shall worship the Lord. Here Abraham was about to offer his son Isaac for a burnt-offering; but he was snatched away by the Word of the Lord, and a ram placed in his stead. Here Jacob prayed when he fled from the face of Esau his brother; and here the angel of the Lord appeared to David, at which time David built an altar unto the Lord in the threshing-floor which he bought from Araunah the Jebusite."

2CHRONICLES 3: 2 He began to build in the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign.

2CHRONICLES 3: 3 Now these are the foundations which Solomon laid for the building of God's house. The length by cubits after the first measure was sixty cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.

Verse 3

The length - after the first measure was threescore cubits - It is supposed that the first measure means the cubit used in the time of Moses, contradistinguished from that used in Babylon, and which the Israelites used after their return from captivity; and, as the books of Chronicles were written after the captivity, it was necessary for the writer to make this remark, lest it should be thought that the measurement was by the Babylonish cubit, which was a palm or one-sixth shorter than the cubit of Moses. See the same distinction observed by Ezekiel, Eze 40:5 (note); Eze 43:13 (note).

2CHRONICLES 3: 4 The porch that was in front, its length, according to the breadth of the house, was twenty cubits, and the height one hundred twenty; and he overlaid it within with pure gold.

Verse 4

The height was a hundred and twenty - Some think this should be twenty only; but if the same building is spoken of as in 1Kgs 6:2, the height was only thirty cubits. Twenty is the reading of the Syriac, the Arabic, and the Septuagint in the Codex Alexandrinus. The MSS. give us no help. There is probably a mistake here, which, from the similarity of the letters, might easily occur. The words, as

they now stand in the Hebrew text, are **מאה ואשרים** meah veesrim, one hundred and twenty. But probably the letters in **מאה** meah, a hundred, are transposed for **אמה** ammah, a cubit, if, therefore, the **א** aleph be placed after the **מ** mem, then the word will be **מאה** meah one hundred; if before it the word will be **אמה** ammah, a cubit; therefore **עשרים אמה** esrim will be twenty cubits; and thus the Syriac, Arabic, and Septuagint appear to have read. This will bring it within the proportion of the other measures, but a hundred and twenty seems too great a height.

2CHRONICLES 3: 5 The greater house he made a ceiling with fir wood, which he overlaid with fine gold, and ornamented it with palm trees and chains.

2CHRONICLES 3: 6 He garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold was gold of Parvaim.

Verse 6

Gold of Parvaim - We know not what this place was; some think it is the same as Sepharvaim, a place in Armenia or Media, conquered by the king of Assyria, 2Kgs 17:24, etc. Others, that it is Taprobane, now the island of Ceylon, which Bochart derives from taph, signifying the border, and Parvan, i.e., the coast of Parvan. The rabbins say that it was gold of a blood-red color, and had its name from **פרים** parim, heifers, being like to bullocks' blood.

The Vulgate translates the passage thus: Stravit quoque pavementum templi pretiosissimo marmore, decore multo; porro aurum erat probatissimum; "And he made the pavement of the temple of the most precious marble; and moreover the gold was of the best quality," etc.

2CHRONICLES 3: 7 He overlaid also the house, the beams, the thresholds, and its walls, and its doors, with gold; and engraved cherubim on the walls.

2CHRONICLES 3: 8 He made the most holy house: its length, according to the breadth of the house, was twenty cubits, and its breadth twenty cubits; and he overlaid it with fine gold, amounting to six hundred talents.

2CHRONICLES 3: 9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold. He overlaid the upper rooms with gold.

Verse 9

The weight of the nails was fifty shekels - Bolts must be here intended, as it should be preposterous to suppose nails of nearly two pounds' weight.

The supper chambers - Probably the ceiling is meant.

2CHRONICLES 3: 10 In the most holy house he made two cherubim of image work; and they overlaid them with gold.

2CHRONICLES 3: 11 The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits long: the wing of the one was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house; and the other wing was five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub.

2CHRONICLES 3: 12 The wing of the other cherub was five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house; and the other wing was five cubits, joining to the wing of the other cherub.

2CHRONICLES 3: 13 The wings of these cherubim spread themselves out twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces were toward the house.

2CHRONICLES 3: 14 He made the veil of blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and ornamented it with cherubim.

2CHRONICLES 3: 15 Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty-five cubits high, and the capital that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.

2CHRONICLES 3: 16 He made chains in the oracle, and put them on the tops of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates, and put them on the chains.

2CHRONICLES 3: 17 He set up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand, and the other on the left; and called the name of that on the right hand Jachin, and the name of that on the left Boaz.

Verse 17

He reared up the pillars - "The name of that on the right hand was Jachin, because the kingdom of the house of David was established; and the name of the left was Boaz, from the name of Boaz the patriarch of the family of Judah, from whom all the kings of the house of Judah have descended." - Targum. See on 1Kgs 7:21 (note); and see the parallel places for other matters contained in this chapter.