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2CHRONICLES 8: 1 At the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the LORD's house, and his own house,

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Solomon's buildings, conquests, and officers, 2Chr 8:1-10. He brings Pharaoh's daughter to his new-built palace, 2Chr 8:11. His various sacrifices, and arrangement of the priests, Levites, and porters, 2Chr 8:12-16. He sends a fleet to Ophir, 2Chr 8:17, 2Chr 8:18.

Verse 1

At the end of twenty years - He employed seven years and a half in building the temple, and twelve and a half, or thirteen, in building his own house. - Compare this with 1Kgs 7:1.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 2 the cities which Hiram had given to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there.

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Verse 2

The cities which Hiram had restored - See the note on 1Kgs 9:11.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 3 Solomon went to Hamath Zobah, and prevailed against it.

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Verse 3

Hamath-zobah - "Emessa, on the river Orontes." - Calmet.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 4 He built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the storage cities, which he built in Hamath.

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Verse 4

Tadmor - Palmyra. See the note on 1Kgs 9:18, for an account of this superb city.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 5 Also he built Beth Horon the upper, and Beth Horon the lower, fortified cities, with walls, gates, and bars;

2CHRONICLES 8: 6 and Baalath, and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the cities for his chariots, and the cities for his horsemen, and all that Solomon desired to build for his pleasure in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.

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Verse 6

All the store cities - See the note on 1Kgs 9:19.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 7 As for all the people who were left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of Israel;

2CHRONICLES 8: 8 of their children who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel didn't consume, of them Solomon conscripted forced labour to this day.

2CHRONICLES 8: 9 But of the children of Israel, Solomon made no servants for his work; but they were men of war, and chief of his captains, and rulers of his chariots and of his horsemen.

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Verse 9

But of the children of Israel - See the note on 1Kgs 9:21.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 10 These were the chief officers of king Solomon, even two-hundred fifty, who ruled over the people.

2CHRONICLES 8: 11 Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David to the house that he had built for her; for he said, "My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places where the LORD's ark has come are holy."

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Verse 11

The daughter of Pharaoh - "And Bithiah, the daughter of Pharaoh, Solomon brought up from the city of David to the palace which he had built for her." - T.

Because the places are holy - Is not this a proof that he considered his wife to be a heathen, and not proper to dwell in a place which had been sanctified? Solomon had not yet departed from the true God.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch,

2CHRONICLES 8: 13 even as the duty of every day required, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the set feasts, three times in the year, in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tents.

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Verse 13

Three times in the year - These were the three great annual feasts.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 14 He appointed, according to the ordinance of David his father, the divisions of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their offices, to praise, and to minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required; the doorkeepers also by their divisions at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded.

2CHRONICLES 8: 15 They didn't depart from the commandment of the king to the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures.

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Verse 15

The commandment of the king - The institutions of David.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared to the day of the foundation of the LORD's house, and until it was finished. So the LORD's house was completed.

2CHRONICLES 8: 17 Then went Solomon to Ezion Geber, and to Eloth, on the seashore in the land of Edom.

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Verse 17

Then went Solomon to Ezion-geber - See the notes on 1Kgs 9:26-28 (note), for conjectures concerning Ezion-geber and Ophir.

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2CHRONICLES 8: 18 Hiram sent him ships and servants who had knowledge of the sea by the hands of his servants; and they came with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and fetched from there four hundred fifty talents of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

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Verse 18

Knowledge of the sea - Skilful sailors. Solomon probably bore the expenses and his friend, the Tyrian king, furnished him with expert sailors; for the Jews, at no period of their history, had any skill in maritime affairs, their navigation being confined to the lakes of their own country, from which they could never acquire any nautical skill. The Tyrians, on the contrary, lived on and in the sea.