

1 Kings Chapter 06 Commentary

1Ki 6:1 ¶ "And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD."

We are given here a timeline from when Israel was brought out of Egypt until King Solomon begins to build the house of the Lord. As we think back over all that we have studied since Israel came out of Egypt, it is astonishing how time has transpired so quickly in four hundred and eighty years. We saw they spent 40 years in the wilderness before they entered the land of promise. Then, under the leadership of Joshua, who took Moses's place, they entered the land of promise, and they spent a long time conquering a large portion of the land of promise, though they never finished the task as God commanded. Herein is a picture of the life of a child of God today under the reign of salvation by the grace of God. How? Do we ever completely conquer all our inherited sin nature, which is a picture of the places that Israel did not conquer and possess. It is only now, under the reign of King Solomon that all the land of promise is in the possession and/or under the rule of the king of Israel. There is coming a time for all of God's chosen people, when they shall enter into that eternal rest, under the leadership of our eternal King, Jesus the Christ. It will be manifested at the time of the resurrection of the dead in Christ. Praise God! Hallelujah! Amen!

They spent a long time under the rule of Judges that God set up over them. Then, they demanded of God a king, which God gave them, after God told them theirs was a bad idea, and he would be a bad king. Yet God gave them their way and gave them Saul as king, who everly rebelled against God. God replaced Saul with his own chosen king, David, and we have studied up to his death and now his son Solomon is upon the throne as God had promised: who begins to build the house of God. Thus, we see King Solomon as a type of King Jesus.

2 "And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits. 3 And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house. 4 And for the house he made windows of narrow lights. 5 And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about: 6 The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house. 7 And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. 8 The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third. 9 So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar. 10 And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house with timber of cedar."

If you compare the size of the tabernacle and the temple, you see that Solomon doubled the size of the tabernacle dimensions to build the temple. As we read this chapter: we will find that Solomon added to the temple rooms and porches and even extended to border fence to include his own house. Since the temple is a permanent place: some of the additional rooms were for the priests' quarters as they were serving: some were for storage of the things they needed to perform their daily rituals: some were for changing rooms as they changed their garments to perform in their office as priest.

As we continue our study of the temple dimensions: we will find that the Most Holy Place was a perfect cube, meaning that its width, length, and height were equal. What significance could this have to us? What was the purpose of the temple? It was to be the one single place where all of God's people came to worship God. Remember that in the Most Holy Place was the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat, which is representative of Jesus Christ. Wherefore, the Most Holy Place is a prophetic picture of the New Testament worship of God being centered upon the fulfillment of the covenant promise between God the Father and God the Son that Jesus would be the true sacrifice for the eternal remission of all of God's people. It also points our worship to one single place, which is Jesus Christ our Saviour.

We find the Most Holy Place is a prophetic picture of the New Jerusalem in **Re 21:16** where we find the dimensions of the New Jerusalem are those of a cube also: "**And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.**" In the New Jerusalem, we will not find the ark of the covenant or the mercy seat: what we will find is our once crucified, but now, risen, and exalted, Saviour and King, Jesus Christ the Son of God, toward whom all worship is directed.

In verse 7 we are told: "**And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.**" This gives us the prophetic picture of the building of the church of God on earth. How? As the stones and the timbers of the temple were shaped and sized far away from the place of erection of the temple: thus, we see; every Child of God that will be in the eternal heaven must be shaped and formed here on earth, far away from the place we are to fit into in the eternal kingdom of God.

There will not be any chance of conversion in heaven because there will be no sin there. It all must happen here on earth in time. This is why our lives as Children of God are so important. What do you mean? The only Jesus many people will see here on earth is the Jesus residing in us. Remember, God only has sinners to work with here on earth. Yes, I know that God can just speak, and all his people will be converted, and that it is God that does the work of making a new creature in Christ from a dead and alienated sinner: however, God uses people to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world, as well as his creation, so that in the day of eternal judgment; there will be none who have an excuse or can say, but I never heard about God or Jesus.

11 ¶ And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying, 12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: 13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel. 14 So Solomon built the house, and finished it."

What an encouragement the word of God to Solomon must have been. Not only to be enthusiastic in the work, but in living in accordance with God's statutes, judgments, and commandments. What a great prophetic picture of the Saviour coming to earth and establishing the New Testament church. Did you notice that God told Solomon "if" he did as God commanded, God would dwell among Israel, and never forsake Israel? Do we not have the same promise today, as Children of God, in the New Testament Church?

The conditions of the "if" statement of God is applicable to us today, in time, as we live out our lives as disciples of Christ. If we do not live according to God's statutes, judgments, and commandments, we should expect that we shall suffer under God's judicial judgments here in time. Remember, all the shaping of the stones, the timbers, and the furnishings of the temple were done afar off from the place the temple was built.

15 ¶ "And he built the walls of the house within with boards of cedar, both the floor of the house, and the walls of the ceiling: and he covered them on the inside with wood, and covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. 16 And he built twenty cubits on the sides of the house, both the floor and the walls with boards of cedar: he even built them for it within, even for the oracle, even for the most holy place. 17 And the house, that is, the temple before it, was forty cubits long. 18 And the cedar of the house within was carved with knobs and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen. 19 And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD. 20 And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so, covered the altar which was of cedar."

All the woods used inside the temple are woods that have unique properties. They are all resistant to rot. They are all resistant to infestation by bugs that destroy wood. What does that have to do with us you ask? When we are born again, we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit, which is absolutely resistant to bug infestation and rot. It is Christ in us, pure and holy. It typifies the kind of life we are to live as Christians. It reminds us to follow the example set by Jesus, who lived a completely sinless life. Our striving should be to live sinless lives also.

As we continue our study of the temple dimensions: we find that the oracle, which is the Most Holy Place, was a perfect cube, meaning that its width, length, and height were equal. What significance could this have to

us? What was the purpose of the temple? It was to be the one single place where all of God's people came to worship God. Remember that in the Most Holy Place was the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat, which is representative of Jesus Christ. Wherefore, the Most Holy Place is a prophetic picture of the New Testament worship of God being centered upon the fulfillment of the covenant promise between God the Father and God the Son that Jesus would be the true sacrifice for the eternal remission of all of God's people. It also points our worship to one single place, which is Jesus Christ our Saviour.

We are reminded here: the tabernacle was a movable object, but the temple was a fixed place that prophesied of the eternal place of worship, which is in the eternal heaven. Before the world was: the eternal heaven was a place worship of God. While the world is: the worship of God is here and in the eternal heaven. When the world is gone worship of God will continue to be in the eternal heaven.

The temple was founded upon a rock, and the temple, our bodies, is where we worship today. We are the New Testament church, and we are founded on Christ Jesus the solid rock.

We find the Most Holy Place is a prophetic picture of the New Jerusalem in **Re 21:16** where we find the dimensions of the New Jerusalem are those of a cube also: "**And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.**" In the New Jerusalem, we will not find the ark of the covenant or the mercy seat: what we will find is what they represented: our once crucified, but now, risen, and exalted, Saviour and King, Jesus Christ the Son of God, toward whom all worship is directed for all of eternity.

21 "So, Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold. 22 And the whole house he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the house: also, the whole altar that was by the oracle he overlaid with gold. 23 And within the oracle he made two cherubims of olive tree, each ten cubits high. 24 And five cubits was the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other were ten cubits. 25 And the other cherub was ten cubits: both the cherubims were of one measure and one size. 26 The height of the one cherub was ten cubits, and so was it of the other cherub. 27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. 28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold. 29 And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without."

Think about the size of these cherubims. Remember, the most holy place of the temple is twice the size of the most holy place of the tabernacle. The ark of the covenant and the mercy seat that Moses built were to be placed in the most holy place of the temple built by Solomon. Had not Solomon added the large cherubims in the Most holy place, The ark and the mercy seat built by Moses would have been dwarfed by the size of the room, and made to look small and insignificant, without these large cherubim. We believe God divinely inspired Solomon to add these cherubim, so that the ark and the mercy seat were not dwarfed and made to look insignificant. Likewise, we should never let anything minimize Christ in our lives.

Solomon even overlaid the most holy place with pure gold, even the floor was of pure gold, which tells us that our walks and actions before God should be pure and holy. The most holy place lined with pure gold also reminds us of the New Jerusalem as seen in **Re 21:18 "and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass."** Even the streets were of pure gold seen in: **Re 21:21 "and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass."**

We believe these two cherubims and the two cherubims on the mercy seat, all four with their faces and gaze fixed upon the mercy seat, speak to us prophetically of how all of God's people, both of the Old and New Testaments, have their faces and gaze fixed upon Christ Jesus, with the belief that Jesus is our one source of Salvation by the grace of God. It points us to the grace and mercy of God to all generations of people.

How can the Old Testament saints be included, when they did not have a crucified Saviour to worship, to give thanks to, and to praise? Because we are told in **Joh 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."** The coming of Jesus, the Messiah, was a prophetic picture of Jesus coming to earth for the Old Testament saints. So, it is today with the New Testament saints,

both the Old and New Testaments tell us of the second coming of Christ, which we look forward to, as the Old Testament saints looked for the first coming of Christ.

Just as the temple was a prophetic picture of our Saviour, so was the body of Jesus, as seen in **Joh 2:21 "But he spake of the temple of his body."** Today the temple is a picture of the bodies of every child of God as seen in **1Co 3:16 ¶ "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"**

Everything in this temple being overlaid with gold, and the most holy place with pure gold, is a picture of the purity of the finished work of Jesus Christ, which picture will be fulfilled in the resurrection of the dead in Christ at the coming of Christ.

30 "And the floor of the house he overlaid with gold, within and without. 31 And for the entering of the oracle he made doors of olive tree: the lintel and side posts were a fifth part of the wall. 32 The two doors also were of olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees. 33 So also made he for the door of the temple posts of olive tree, a fourth part of the wall. 34 And the two doors were of fir tree: the two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding. 35 And he carved thereon cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work. 36 And he built the inner court with three rows of hewed stone, and a row of cedar beams. 37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif: 38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it."

Jesus finished the work of building, of the house of God, when he said, "**it is finished**" and then gave up the Ghost. The seven years (seven being the number for completeness) that Solomon spent building the "**house of God**" is a picture of the completed work of Christ. The house of God that Jesus has established here on earth will be manifested, in the fullness of the glory of Christ, in eternity.

Some will say: the building of the temple is not yet completed because people are still being born again. From our earthly perspective this is true, however, remember the scripture in **Eph 1:3-6; 3 ¶ "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."** Before the world was, we were already accepted in the beloved Son of God.

As was the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, and all the furnishings, a picture that directs our worship heavenward: so was the temple that Solomon built. Many souls came to both the tabernacle and the temple to worship God. The same is true today of the New Testament church. Many souls come to it to worship God. We are given the total perspective of the salvation of God's people, from the Old and New testaments, in **Eph 2:21-22; 11 ¶ "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 ¶ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."**

Remember, that we too have the promise of God's blessings here on earth, "**if**" we are obedient to him. May we ever be found faithful and true in following our Lord and Saviour; we ask in the name above every name, Jesus the Christ. Amen!