

1Ki 7:1 ¶ "But Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished all his house. 2 He built also the house of the forest of Lebanon; the length thereof was an hundred cubits, and the breadth thereof fifty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits, upon four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams upon the pillars. 3 And it was covered with cedar above upon the beams, that lay on forty-five pillars, fifteen in a row. 4 And there were windows in three rows, and light was against light in three ranks. 5 And all the doors and posts were square, with the windows: and light was against light in three ranks. 6 And he made a porch of pillars; the length thereof was fifty cubits, and the breadth thereof thirty cubits: and the porch was before them: and the other pillars and the thick beam were before them."

It took Solomon seven years to build the house of God, and it took him thirteen years to build his own house, which is almost twice as long. Solomon first built the house of God, then he built his own house. This gives us a prophetic picture of the work of salvation wrought by Jesus Christ. You see Christ established the church of salvation by grace first, then He began the work preparing the stones and timbers of the bodies of the individual members, which together will be the church complete. When the work of the salvation of Christ is manifested in our personal lives, we are babes in Christ. However, we are not to remain babes in Christ, but to grow in the knowledge of Christ and his word of truth, until we become fully mature. The same thing that happens in nature gives us this picture. The scripture teaches this principle in **Eph 4:11-16; 11 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."** This is not an instantaneous event as the new birth, but it is a lifelong event for every disciple of Christ.

We notice that Solomons house was set upon pillars. Likewise, the life of the child of God is established upon the pillar of truth as seen in **1Ti 3:15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."**

Well, what about the lights in the house? We notice that each section has three lights, and the opposing section has three lights. This points us to the belief that when we are born again, we are to believe completely in the three figures of the godhead, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The opposing lights tell us that whatever direction we look in, we should see and stand firm upon the trinity of the godhead, and expect the Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, to sustain us in our trials and tribulations in life, that our house may be lit by the light of God, and we would be a light unto all around us. After all, the light of God shining in us is the image, of the light of God coming in through the windows of our house.

What do windows do? They allow the light of God to shine into the house. This tells us that we are to expect the light of God to shine into our hearts, minds, and souls, or rather, body, soul, and spirit as identified in scripture in **1Th 5:23; 21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. 23 ¶ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."** When Jesus was upon the earth in his prepared body, he told us in **Joh 9:5 "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."** Jesus also told us in **Mt 5:14-16; 14 "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."** From this text we understand: we are not to block the light of God from coming through our windows with the curtains of sin and darkness. Do you think that God causes you to be born again, and gives you the light of Christ, to be hidden from the world? The answer is

absolutely not. You are to let the light of God shine forth by your words and actions, so that God receives the glory due to his holy name.

Well, what about the doors and door post being square with the windows? This speaks to us of Jesus. Do you remember that Jesus told us that he is the door? seen in **Joh 10:7-9; 7 "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."** Remember that Jesus is also the chief corner stone, seen in **Eph 2:20; 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."** Now, when this text tells us of the holy temple of God, we are reminded of the most holy place in the temple, which was a perfect cube. This tells us that Jesus, the chief corner stone, was a perfect cube by which all the building of God is aligned. Therefore, the corner stone had ninety-degree corners and was square, as the lights of the widows and the doors were aligned in direct relationship to one another. This reminds us that if we are blessed to enter through the door, Christ, then the light that shines through the windows will also be the light of Christ, and both are agreed, in their relationship to one another.

The doors are aligned with the windows, by Christ the corner stone, by which all the building is fitly framed together, so the light of God coming through the windows is aligned with the Word of God, Jesus, which is the door by which we enter in. In other words, as we have Christ in us, thus, our walks and talks should always be found to be aligned with the truth of the word of God, and the principles of rightness laid down for us therein.

A door is an entrance by which people may enter a house. Who are you letting in your house? Is the door of your house reserved for the witness of God and Jesus, or is it open to the darkness of sin and Satan? We surely are to guard our doors and the only ones given entrance into our house should be those who testify and witness that Jesus is the Christ, and our salvation. This is why God warned Israel about not mixing with strangers, unless those strangers were seeking to be as Israel was, and to worship and obey the LORD God of heaven and earth.

7 "Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, even the porch of judgment: and it was covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other."

Solomon's house had a porch of judgment. Why? That as king he may judge the people from there. What does this tell us about our own houses? We also should have a porch of judgment. For what purpose? To judge the people that wish to enter our houses. Now preacher, we are told in the bible to **"judge not."** I encourage you to go and read all those **"judge not"** texts, with prayer asking discernment from God, and I believe you will find they are telling us that we do not judge a person's eternal standing with God, but rather we judge in timely judgment. When we judge in timely judgement, we are to judge according to the standards of God, and not of our own will. We are to inspect the tree to verify that it is bringing forth good fruit. If the fruit is good, we let them in. If the fruit is bad, we keep them out lest they defile our house.

How can you explain this? I ask you this question: Do you believe that God wants you to allow Satan, or any of his minions, into your house, which He occupies? Absolutely not. The only way that you can do this is to use right judgment as given to us by the word of God. We are not judging the eternal destination of people, which is reserved for God, but we are judging who we are letting into our house. We do not want anyone in our house who is not in total agreement with and aligned by the chief cornerstone. Else, we let in ruin and disaster into our home.

But preacher, Solomon's porch of judgement was to judge the people of Israel that brought their causes before him. This is true, but the above still applies. As disciples of Christ, we are to use spiritual discernment in accordance with the Word of God, and judge as seen **Mt 18:15-17; 15 ¶ "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."**

8 "And his house where he dwelt had another court within the porch, which was of the like work."

I am not sure that I fully understand the descriptions in this verse, but believe that this porch of Solomons house, which contained the judgment throne, had this other court area designated for his attendees to use while he was on the throne judging and those who were waiting for their cases to be heard.

This I cannot prove by scripture, but historical architectural renderings of the house of Solomon in relationship to the temple affirm it is true, that Solomon's porch of judgment was on the side of the house facing the temple. Why? So, when Solomon was on the throne he would be facing the temple of God, which exemplified where his knowledge and wisdom to do judgment came from, and looking upon the temple of God would remind Solomon to judge with the righteous judgment of God, according to God's revealed word of truth.

8 "Solomon made also an house for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken to wife, like unto this porch. 9 All these were of costly stones, according to the measures of hewed stones, sawed with saws, within and without, even from the foundation unto the coping, and so on the outside toward the great court. 10 And the foundation was of costly stones, even great stones, stones of ten cubits, and stones of eight cubits. 11 And above were costly stones, after the measures of hewed stones, and cedars. 12 And the great court round about was with three rows of hewed stones, and a row of cedar beams, both for the inner court of the house of the LORD, and for the porch of the house."

Solomon also built a house for his wife, Pharaoh's daughter, which was of the same design and materials as the porch herein described, which we believe means it was built after the same fashion as Solomon's house of the same materials as Solomon's house, but built in a different place than the porch of judgment and Solomon's house. We believe that this was a totally separate house for Pharaoh's daughter, because of what we find in **2Ch 8:11 "And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto 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 are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come."**

From these descriptions, we get the sense that the wall was constructed using three rows of hewn stone, then a row of cedar beams. What significance did this have? This method of building has two purposes. Where the rows of cedar beams were, would give a place for the beams that went outward and inward a resting place in the wall. Secondly, the row of beams in the wall would function as expansion joints in the wall and prevent the stone walls from cracking. According to historians, this was an accepted standard of building practice in those times.