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BIBLE STUDY

Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.

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“MINISTRY AT MOUNT MORIAH”

2 Chronicles 3:1-17

II Chronicles 3:1 "Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where [the Lord] appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite."

The record of Solomon's temple construction begins with a very important geographical identifier, its location on Mount Moriah. Ministry at Mount Moriah is very significant in Israel's history because three memorable ministry events happened there. These are the only places where Moriah is mentioned by name in the Bible.

1. Moriah is the place where Abraham had offered Isaac in obedience to God.
2. Moriah is the place where David had gone to sacrifice in the threshingfloor of Ornan.
3. Moriah is the place the LORD had chosen, and David said this was the place for the house of the LORD.

Symbolically, Moriah represents the place where ministry requires personal sacrifice to God in strict obedience to His word. It also reminds us that unintentional and innocent ministry violation of God's commands can have fatal consequences.

Genesis 22:2 "And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."

1 Chronicles 21:15-18

15 And God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it: and as he was destroying, the Lord beheld, and he repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed, It is enough, stay now thine hand. And the angel of the Lord stood by the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

16 And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the Lord stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

17 And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O Lord my God, be on me, and on my father's house; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.

18 Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up, and set up an altar unto the Lord in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

1 Chronicles 21:26-28

26 And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called upon the Lord; and he answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt offering.

27 And the Lord commanded the angel; and he put up his sword again into the sheath thereof.

28 At that time when David saw that the Lord had answered him in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there.

II Chronicles 3:2 "And he began to build in the second [day] of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign."

Solomon began to build in the spring of the year. April, on our calendar, is the same as their first month, so this is in May. The temple was begun somewhere near the 1,000 years before Christ. Some believe about 980 years prior to Christ. It appears, that Solomon spent some of the 4 years in preparation of the beginning of the work. It would have been a tremendous job just to gather all of the materials, and the men to do the work.

II Chronicles 3:3 "Now these [are the things wherein] Solomon was instructed for the building of the house of God. The length by cubits after the first measure [was] threescore cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits."

II Chronicles 3:4 "And the porch that [was] in the front [of the house], the length [of it was] according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the height [was] an hundred and twenty: and he overlaid it within with pure gold."

This is speaking of the building being 30 feet wide and 90 feet long, if we agree that each cubit is 1 1/2 feet long. This porch would be 30 feet wide. The height is 180 feet high. This is extremely high. Pure gold is 24 kt. To cover this entire area would be a fortune in gold. Some question this height. It is not my place to question, just to explain what each Scripture is saying.

II Chronicles 3:5 "And the greater house he ceiled with fir tree, which he overlaid with fine gold, and set thereon palm trees and chains."

The greater house is speaking of the holy place. When we compare this with the other Scriptures on the same subject, we find the following.

I Kings 6:15 "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."

The structure was made of stone, but the wood covered the stone and the wood was covered over with pure gold. The palm trees were engravings. The chains were, probably, wreaths of chains in the gold.

II Chronicles 3:6 "And he garnished the house with precious stones for beauty: and the gold [was] gold of Parvaim."

II Chronicles 3:7 "He overlaid also the house, the beams, the posts, and the walls thereof, and the doors thereof, with gold; and graved cherubims on the walls."

The stones were mounted in the gold for beauty. The meaning of Parvaim is not known. (It could be speaking of a place, where the gold came from). It is, sometimes, thought to mean oriental. All of the wood within the temple used for beams, posts, or walls were covered with 24 kt. gold.

There were cherubims engraved in the gold on the walls. Hiram's men would be skilled in this type of engraving. Their part of the world had been renowned for just this type of beauty.

II Chronicles 3:8 "And he made the most holy house, the length whereof [was] according to the breadth of the house, twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits: and he overlaid it with fine gold, [amounting] to six hundred talents."

The most holy place, where the ark and the mercy seat was measured thirty feet by thirty feet. The gold used in covering the walls and all of the boards in this place alone, took 900,000 ounces of gold. At present prices of \$400.00 per ounce, this gold would be worth \$360,000,000.00. The details of the temple's size, utensils, and furniture that fill these chapters are highlighted by the description of the most holy place also known as the holy of holies. This was the inner sanctuary containing the ark of the covenant with its lid, or mercy seat. The high priest would enter that room once a year, on the Day of Atonement, to offer a sacrifice for the people's sins.

II Chronicles 3:9 "And the weight of the nails [was] fifty shekels of gold. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold."

II Chronicles 3:10 "And in the most holy house he made two cherubims of image work, and overlaid them with gold."

II Chronicles 3:11 "And the wings of the cherubims [were] twenty cubits long: one wing [of the one cherub was] five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing [was likewise] five cubits, reaching to the wing of the other cherub."

II Chronicles 3:12 "And [one] wing of the other cherub [was] five cubits, reaching to the wall of the house: and the other wing [was] five cubits [also], joining to the wing of the other cherub."

II Chronicles 3:13 "The wings of these cherubims spread themselves forth twenty cubits: and they stood on their feet, and their faces [were] inward."

A shekel is a half ounce of gold, so just the nails weighed 25 ounces of gold, or \$10,000.00. The wings of the two cherubims covered the entire area of thirty feet. The wings left no room on the outside on either side, and they met in the middle over the ark. They were in the presence of the ark and had to be covered with pure gold. The two cherubims were standing at the back of the ark looking with bowed heads to the ark. It was as if they were in constant worship and protection of the presence of God. The sight of the two gold cherubim standing over the ark, with a combined wingspan of 30 feet, touching each other and the walls of the most holy place, must have been truly awe-inspiring.

II Chronicles 3:14 "And he made the veil [of] blue, and purple, and crimson, and fine linen, and wrought cherubims thereon."

This is the veil that separated the holy place from the most holy place. Linen speaks of righteousness. The three colors are godly colors. "Blue" means heavenly. "Purple" means royalty. The crimson is speaking of "red" which means blood, or life. Even the curtains had cherubims woven into the cloth.

II Chronicles 3:15 "Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits high, and the chapter that [was] on the top of each of them [was] five cubits."

These two pillars were 52 1/2 feet high with chapters on top of them that were 7 1/2 feet.

II Chronicles 3:16 "And he made chains, [as] in the oracle, and put [them] on the heads of the pillars; and made an hundred pomegranates, and put [them] on the chains."

These decorations were engraved in the front of the pillars. The 100 pomegranates were on each of the pillars.

II Chronicles 3:17 "And he reared 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."

It is very unusual for pillars to have names. We must look for a spiritual meaning behind these names. These two pillars had messages on them spoken of as an oracle. "Jachin" means God establishes, so the message on that pillar would mean that. "Boaz" means fleetness. This one would speak of the strength of God. We do not know the exact wording of what was on the pillars, but we do know they both glorified God. Boaz was in the ancestry of Jesus. The message for the Christians, here, is that we will be established in the Lord Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Where did Solomon begin to build the temple?
2. What three things had happened at this location?
3. About how long before Christ was this?
4. What was the size of the temple?
5. How tall was the porch?
6. The porch was overlaid with _____.
7. What is the greater house speaking of?
8. What type of wood was used in the greater house?
9. The wood covered over what?
10. The gold was garnished with what?
11. What was the size of the most holy place?
12. What was the weight of the nails of gold?
13. How many cherubims were in the most holy place?
14. The cherubims were covered with what?
15. How long was the wing span of the cherubims?
16. The cherubims were standing where?
17. Where were they looking?
18. Where was the veil?
19. What was it made of?
20. What does the color "blue" mean?
21. What does "purple" mean?
22. What does "red" mean?
23. What was embroidered on the veil?
24. How tall were the two pillars at the entrance?
25. What were the two pillars named?
26. What does "Jachin" mean?
27. What does "Boaz" mean?