

Solomon's Palace; Hiram the Architect

1 Kings 7

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Solomon's Palace	7	1-5	Solomon's Palace
		6	Hall of Pillars
		7	Solomon's Throne
		8	House for Pharaoh's daughter, Solomon's wife
		9	Constructed of saw-cut stones
		10-12	The foundations of the Solomon's Palace
Hiram's Work in the Temple		13-14	Hiram from Tyre—mother: widow from Naphtali; father: man of Tyre—a bronze worker
		15-22	The two pillars of the temple—right: Jachin, left: Boaz—their capitals and decorations
		23-26	The sea and its base
		27-37	Ten bronze stands and its decorations
		38-39	Ten bronze basins
		40-47	Hiram's work summarized
		48-50	Solomon had the furniture of the temple, the utensils, and the doors made of gold
	51	Solomon concludes his construction projects	

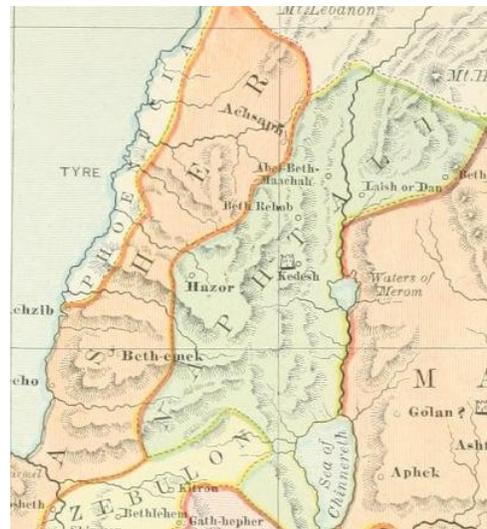
In this chapter we find the description of Solomon's palace and the work of Hiram of Lebanon. This man Hiram was an interesting man. Let's get to know him a little better since he played such an important role in Solomon's building projects.

We discover from the text, verses 13-14, that he was born to a widow from the tribe of Naphtali who had married a man from the city of Tyre. We also learn that he was a bronze worker, like his father. It was common for sons to follow in the footsteps of their father occupationally, although not as common today. The tribe of Naphtali was one of the northern tribes, just inland from the city of Tyre.

We are first introduced to Hiram when David commissioned him to build a house for himself in Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 5:11 NASB Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees and carpenters and stonemasons; and they built a house for David.

1 Chronicles 14:1 NASB Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees, masons and carpenters, to build a house for him.



Rand-McNally Bible Atlas

¹ (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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The next time we encounter Hiram is when he contacts Solomon in 1 Kings 5 after David had died and Hiram sent messengers to Solomon because of his friendship with David. At that time Solomon recalls the agreement between David and Hiram and promises to uphold the agreement. So Hiram begins preparing the materials.

In the present chapter, and its related ones in 2 Chronicles, we learn of Hiram's ability to work in bronze, as mentioned before, and that the work was performed in the plains of the Jordan river, midway between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. The IVP Bible Background Commentary gives some further information regarding this location from its comments on the related passage in 2 Chronicles.

2Ch 4:17. geography. Zarethan is located "in the plain of the Jordan," east of the river and halfway between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee in [Jos 3:16](#) and [1Ki 4:12](#). The exact site is not yet determined, although Tell es-Sa'idiyeh and Tell el-Meqberah are among the suggested locations. Succoth is located at Tell Deir Allah about a mile north of the Jabbok River and about three miles east of the Jordan River. Remains from this period have been found on the site. The area on the top of the tell is comparable to one football field, about one and a quarter acres. It was a small settlement that was involved in a bronze smelting industry.

The text tells us of all that he built of bronze and the basics of how things are cast in bronze, by using molds. The method hasn't really changed all that much over the years.

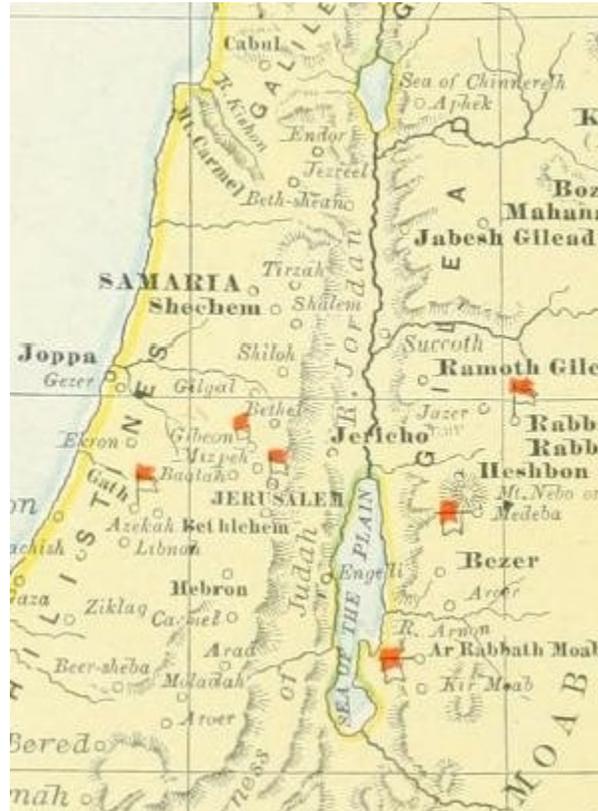
This partnership was not limited to just construction and bronze work. We find in 1 Kings 9-10 that Solomon and Hiram were trade partners and that Hiram's ships were used to transport goods to Solomon's kingdom. The variety of things Solomon brought into the kingdom ranged from precious metals, in particular gold, and included exotic animals, gems, ivory, etc. We'll more about that in the coming weeks.

God kept His promise to Solomon to make him wealthy and give him a long life as a result of his desiring wisdom to rule God's people well.

Thus Solomon ended his building projects after twenty years. Yet we discover in Ecclesiastes 2, that this pursuit, along with many others, didn't satisfy him and left him empty.

Ecclesiastes 2:11 NASB Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-20 NASB 18 Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had



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labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. 19 And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity. 20 Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 NASB 24 There is nothing better for a man *than* to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. 25 For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him?

There are discussions these days of self-made men, men who set out to build a fortune and accomplish great things, which many did. Yet in the end it leaves them unsatisfied and wanting more. The more they pursue other things the more they are unsatisfied. It is only when they turn to God to find satisfaction in Him first, that they are able to apply their intellect and skill to work that will give satisfaction. It won't be found in the accomplishments, but in God who gave to each one different abilities to do whatever they desire to do, all the while honoring God in the process.

Remember, with God, it is all about relationships first, then the work. Just like the relationship that was forged between Hiram and Solomon resulted in both being blessed, so too can you be blessed in whatever you do by partnering with others—each person committed to loving God with everything they have available to them and loving others as much as they love themselves, as you all grow closer to God.

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