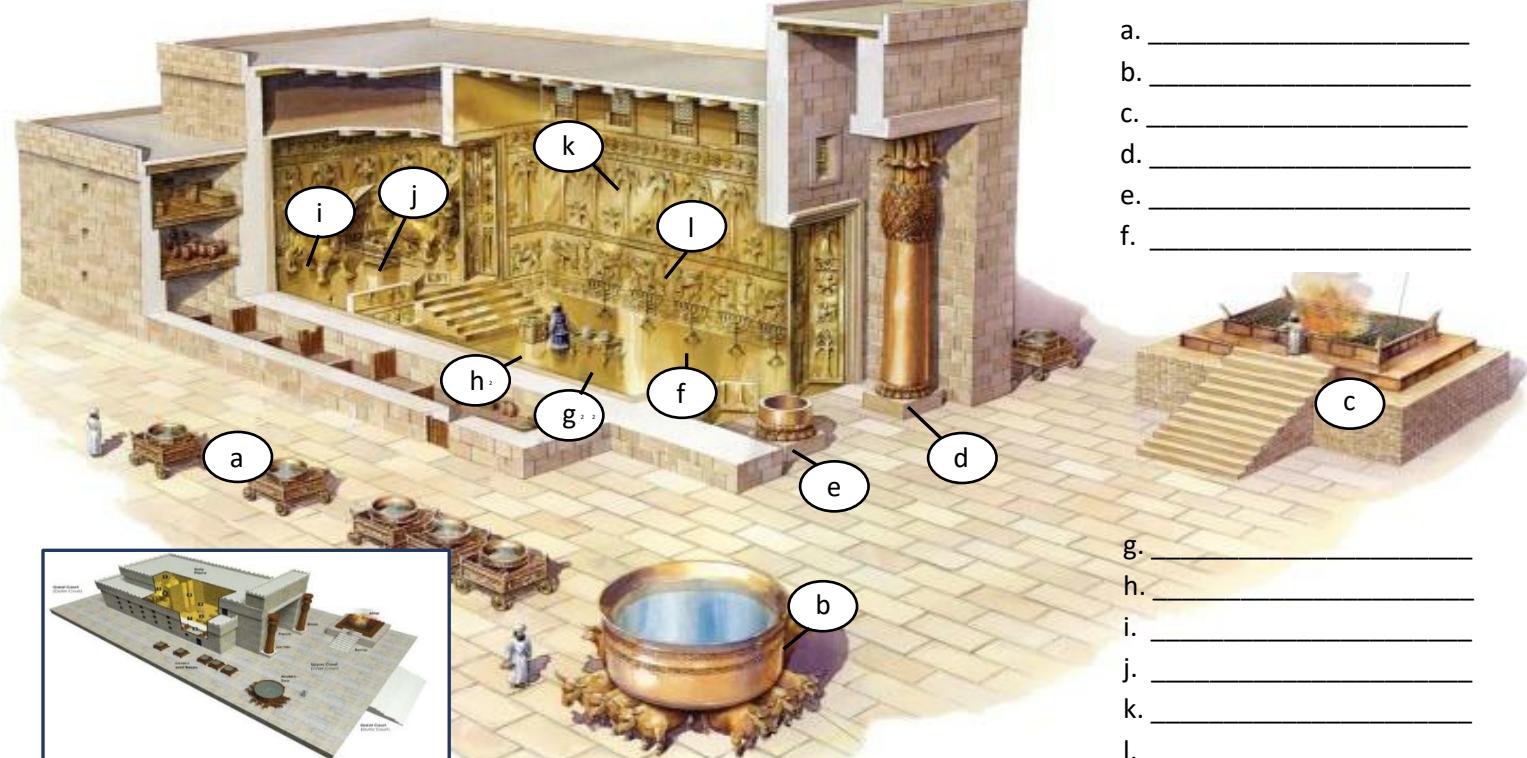


INTRODUCTION David and Bathsheba named their 2nd child Solomon (Shelomoth) which means peaceful one. The prophet Nathan was sent by the LORD to call him Jedidiah (Jedidyah), that is, the darling (or loved) of the LORD (2 Sam 12:24-25). Years before David's death, he collected materials for building a temple in Jerusalem for the Ark of the Covenant (1 Chr 29). He was not permitted to build the house of God (1 Chr 22:8), that honor was reserved to Solomon. The Temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. The entry room at the front of the Temple was 30 feet wide, running across the entire width of the Temple. It projected outward 15 feet from the front of the Temple (1 Kings 6:1-38). How much did Solomon's temple cost? In total, over 108,002.5 talents of gold, 1,017,000 talents of silver, and quantities of bronze too great to be weighted. A great quantity of cedar trees were so many, in fact, that Solomon had to pay King Hiram with 20 towns in Galilee! (1 Kings 9:11). The amount of gold, silver, and bronze, along with other precious metals are recorded in various places in the Bible.

- (1 Chr 22:14) 100,000 talents of gold, 1 million talents of silver, bronze, and iron too great to be weighted
- (1 Chr 29:3) 3,000 talents of gold, 7,000 talents of silver from David's personal treasures
- (1 Chr 29:7) 5,002.5 talents of gold (5000 gold talents and 10,000 gold darics), 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze, 100,000 talents of iron from the leaders of Israel
- (1 Kings 5:10) King Hiram of Tyre gave Solomon many cedar trees for the temple

The temple of Solomon required the efforts of about 183,000 laborers (30,000 Jews by rotation 10,000 a month; 153,600 foreigners which consisted of 70,000 bearers of burdens, 80,000 hewers of wood and stone, and 3600 overseers - 2 Chr 2:17-18, 1 Kings 5:13-14). When the Temple was completed, Solomon inaugurated it with prayer and sacrifice. He urged God to pay heed to their prayers: "Thus all the peoples of the earth will know Your name and revere You, as does Your people Israel; and they will recognize that Your name is attached to this House that I have built" (1 Kings 8:43).



a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____
f. _____
g. _____
h. _____
i. _____
j. _____
k. _____
l. _____

1. What does Solomon's name mean?
2. What was the name the LORD gave him? What does that name mean?
3. Why did David want to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant? What was Ark important in the Old Testament?
4. Why wasn't David allowed to build the temple? How big was the temple that Solomon built?
5. How much did David donate of his personal treasures for the building of the temple?
6. How many laborers were required to build the temple?
7. Research assignment. Read 2 Chronicles 2-4 and watch 5-minute YouTube video (<https://youtu.be/oIF-wObznd>). Identify the 12 (A thru L) figures in the temple drawing above.
8. Research question. How much would Solomon's temple be worth in today's currency?

2 Chronicles 5 New Living Translation

1 So Solomon finished all his work on the Temple of the Lord. Then he brought all the gifts his father, David, had dedicated—the silver, the gold, and the various articles—and he stored them in the treasuries of the Temple of God. **6** There, before the Ark, King Solomon and the entire community of Israel sacrificed so many sheep, goats, and cattle that no one could keep count! **7** Then the priests carried the Ark of the Lord's Covenant into the inner sanctuary of the Temple—the Most Holy Place—and placed it beneath the wings of the cherubim. **11** Then the priests left the Holy Place. All the priests who were present had purified themselves, whether or not they were on duty that day. **12** And the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and all their sons and brothers—were dressed in fine linen robes and stood at the east side of the altar playing cymbals, lyres, and harps. They were joined by 120 priests who were playing trumpets. **13** The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the Lord with these words: “He is good! His faithful love endures forever!” At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. **14** The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God.

1. Where did the priests place the Ark in the temple? Why did the priests carry the Ark?
2. How many animals did Israel sacrifice according to 2 Chr 5? What was the purpose of these sacrifices?
3. What does the following statement mean? All the priests who were present had purified themselves.
4. The Levite musicians were joined by the 120 priests playing trumpets, singing, praising, and thanking the Lord in unison.
 - a. What does unison mean?
 - b. Is unison (being in unison) important in the house of the Lord?
 - c. What was the result of their singing, praising, and thanking the Lord in unison?
5. Why couldn't the priests continue their service and stand to minister?
6. Why do you believe God chose to manifest Himself in Solomon's temple in the Old Testament?
7. Where is the New Testament temple? How does God manifest Himself in this temple?

2 Chronicles 6 New Living Translation

12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the entire community of Israel, and he lifted his hands in prayer. **13** Now Solomon had made a bronze platform 7 1/2 feet long, 7 1/2 feet wide, and 4 1/2 feet high and had placed it at the center of the Temple's outer courtyard. He stood on the platform, and then he knelt in front of the entire community of Israel and lifted his hands toward heaven. **14** He prayed, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven and earth. You keep your covenant and show unfailing love to all who walk before you in wholehearted devotion. **15** You have kept your promise to your servant David, my father. You made that promise with your own mouth, and with your own hands you have fulfilled it today.

8. Why did Solomon pray in front of the entire community of Israel?
9. Why did Solomon kneel down and lift his hands toward heaven?
10. Solomon began his dedicatory prayer:
 - a. He recounts God's faithfulness.
 - b. He acknowledged that the LORD God of Israel was unlike any of the gods of other nations.
 - c. He extolled the LORD as the one who keeps His covenants and mercy to those who walk before Him in obedience.

2 Chronicles 7 New Living Translation

1 When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple. **2** The priests could not enter the Temple of the Lord because the glorious presence of the Lord filled it. **3** When all the people of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glorious presence of the Lord filling the Temple, they fell face down on the ground and worshiped and praised the Lord, saying, "He is good! His faithful love endures forever!"

11. Solomon finished praying, God showed His acceptance of the king's actions in 2 ways:

- By sending fire from heaven to consume the sacrifices and
- By filling the temple with His glory.

12. In the Bible, fire communicates:

- God's holiness, and His judgment

- Aaron (the priesthood) sacrificed and blessed the people - fire came from the presence of the Lord to consume sacrifices already placed on altar (**Lev 9:23-24**)
- David was forgiven for conducting a census and halted a plague in Israel. God was also choosing the place where the future temple would be built (the threshing floor of Araunah (Ornan) the Jebusite) (**1 Chr 21-22 ; 2 Chr 3:1**).
- Elijah against the false prophets of Baal. God sent fire confirming He was the title as Lord God of Israel. The people on Mt. Carmel "fell prostrate and cried, 'The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!' " (**1 Kings 18:20-40**).
- Nadab and Abihu were killed by fire from the presence of the Lord for offering strange fire (wrong kind of fire, different than he had commanded) (**Lev 10:1-7**)

- God's very presence:

- Burning bush from which God spoke to Moses (**Exo 3:2-6**).
- God's descent upon Mount Sinai "in fire" (**Exo 19:18 ; Deu 4:11-15 ; Deu 4:33-36**).
- The Lord went ahead of the Israelites and guided them with a pillar of cloud during the day and He provided light at night with a pillar of fire (**Exo 13:21-22**)

13. God was consecrating that location as the place where His name would dwell forever (**2 Chr 7:16**).

(2 Chronicles 7:16 AMP) For now I have chosen and sanctified and set apart for My purpose this house that My Name may be here forever, and My eyes and My heart will be here perpetually.

Special use of fire imagery in the New Testament relates to baptism with fire. John the Baptist predicted that Jesus would baptize "with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (**Matt 3:11 ; Luke 3:16**), a promise that was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Then "tongues of fire" rested upon those gathered in the upper room with the result that they "were filled with the Holy Spirit" (**Acts 2:3-4**).

The fire and Spirit here is a manifestation of God to and within human temples. (**1 Cor 6:19 AMP** Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own).

Fire is also used in judgment in the New Testament. The Lord will test all believers' works at the Judgment Seat of Christ by fire (**1 Cor 3:11-15**). Also, all unbelievers will be punished with eternal fire (**Jude 7 ; Rev 20:14-15**). Even the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the [material] elements will melt with intense heat (**2 Pet 3:10-13**) on the day of the Lord.