

THE STORY... HIS STORY

Chapter 13

The King Who Had It All



THE STORY

Plot Points

- The temple is completed and filled with the Glory of God.
- Solomon's wisdom was a gift from God.
- Israel prospered and grew in reputation through Solomon's leadership.
- Solomon's many foreign wives were a snare, leading him into idolatry, costing him the kingdom.



Cast of Characters

- **Solomon-** Son of David and Bathsheba; followed David as King; responsible for building Israel's first temple; writer of many proverbs, poems and philosophical reflections; acquired great power and wealth; ultimately led astray and followed other gods.



Cast of Characters

- **Hiram-** King of Tyre; provided labor and materials for the building of the temple.
- **Queen of Sheba-** Probably from the region near Yemen and the western edge of Arabia.



Chapter Overview

- If David was a warrior, Solomon was a builder.
- If David cleared the ground, Solomon filled it.



THE STORY

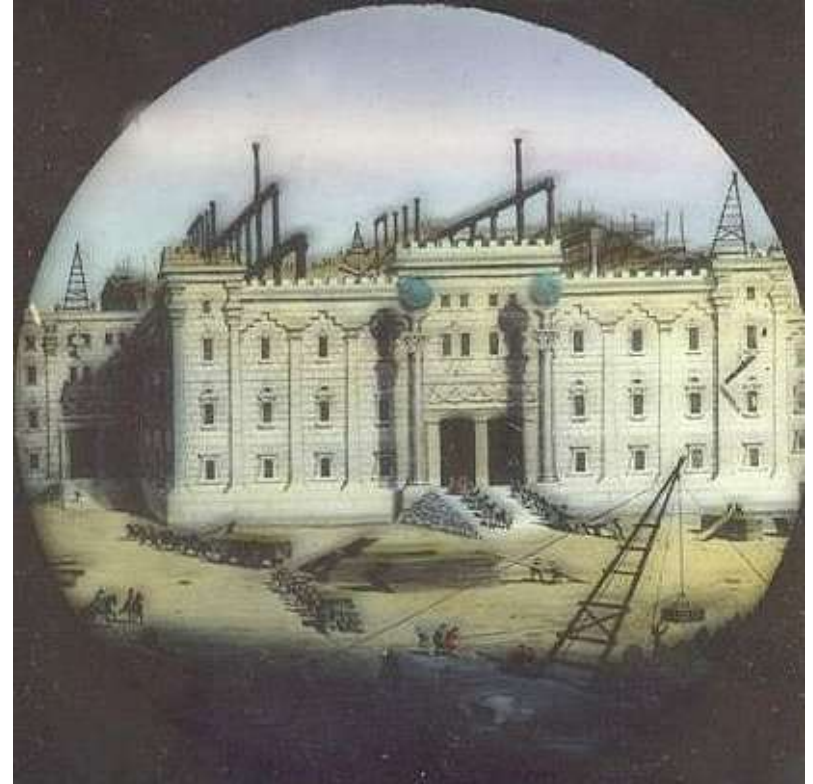
Chapter Overview

- Solomon built buildings:
 - Temple for the Lord
 - Stables for the horses
 - Storehouses for his wealth



Chapter Overview

- Solomon also built alliances:
 - Married the daughter of a pharaoh (and many other foreign women)
 - Worked with Hiram the king of Tyre on a mutually beneficial program to build the temple and feed the people of Tyre.



Chapter Overview

- Solomon built a bureaucratic system:
 - Division of Israel into 12 districts
 - Imposed taxes
- Solomon build a body of intellectual work:
 - Authored proverbs, love poems and great works of philosophy
- Solomon built a reputation for being Wise.



Chapter Overview

- Solomon also built altars to foreign gods.
- He build a harem and family of wives that led him to sacrifice on those altars.
- Even as he was building structures and systems that could strengthen his kingdom, he was also building practices that would destroy it.



What are you building on?

- Matthew 7:24-27



THE STORY

Except that...

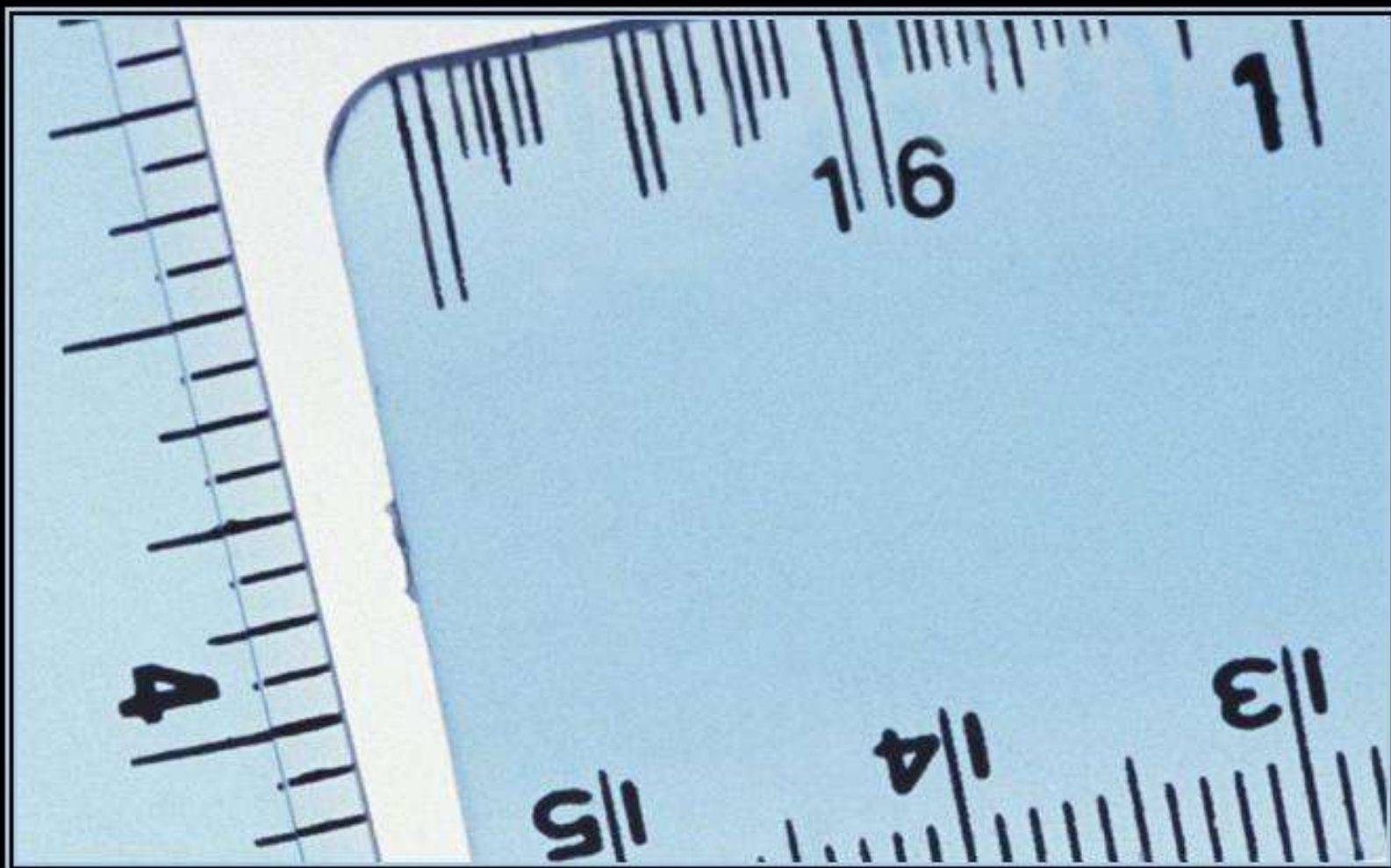
- At the very beginning of Solomon's story, we read that he, "showed his love for the LORD by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, **except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.**" (The Story, p. 176)



Except that...

- Solomon's talent, wisdom, and leadership were undoubtedly exceptional.
- We even see a genuine desire to please God.
- However it was the "***except thats***" in his life that ultimately defined him.





EXCEPTIONS

There Is an Exception to Every Rule,
and Most People Think They Are It

Except that...



- Ephesians 4:25-5:21
- James 1:19-25
- Matthew 5:48
- Where are the **“except that”** parts of your life?



Except that...

- John 14:6
- Romans 5:6-11
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-3
- Galatians 6:14
- Colossians 3:1-17



Ask

- The Lord said to Solomon, “*Ask for whatever you want me to give you.*” (The Story, p. 176)





ASK FOR WHAT YOU WANT

The worst you can get is "no."

Ask



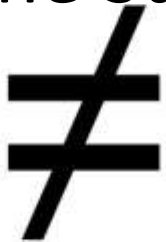
- Luke 11:9-10
- John 15:1-8
- James 1:5



THE STORY

No equal...

- What does Solomon's answer say about his character?
- *"I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings."*
(The Story, p. 177)



No equal...

- Throughout his proverbs, Solomon extols the treasure of wisdom. It is more precious than gold or jewels.
- Perhaps no other person in history has occupied such a position to speak of the benefits of wisdom more than Solomon.
- He had great wealth, but wisdom was more important.



Proverbs



- Definition
 - A short, pithy, axiomatic saying designed primarily for the young
 - A form of teaching using repetition of practical thoughts that would stick in the mind



Proverbs

- Solomon's proverbs represent an effort to insert the law of God into all life.
- It is a demonstration of wisdom (i.e. knowledge rightly applied).



The Temple

- The Old Testament is filled with the motif of God's presence with humanity.
- It begins in the garden of Eden and moves through the accounts of Abraham and Moses.
- Time and again we see God's intention to make his home with his people.

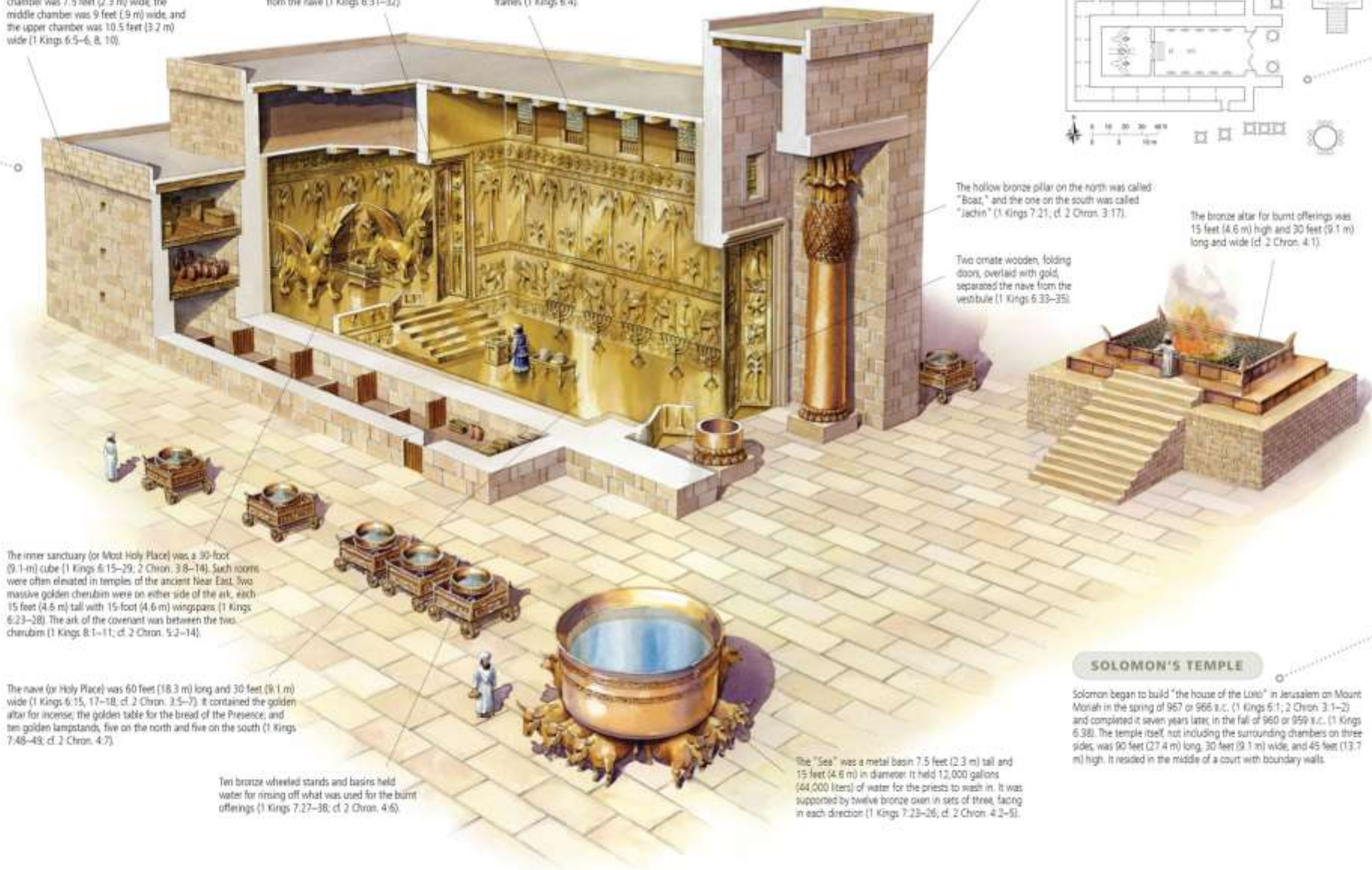


A structure was built around the walls of the temple containing three levels. The lower chamber was 7.5 feet (2.3 m) wide, the middle chamber was 9 feet (2.7 m) wide, and the upper chamber was 10.5 feet (3.2 m) wide (1 Kings 6:5–6, 8, 10).

Two ornate wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the inner sanctuary from the nave (1 Kings 6:31–32).

The nave had clerestory windows with recessed frames (1 Kings 6:4).

The vestibule was 30 feet (9.1 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep (1 Kings 6:3; cf. 2 Chron. 3:4).



The inner sanctuary (or Most Holy Place) was a 30-foot (9.1 m) cube (1 Kings 6:15–29; 2 Chron. 3:8–14). Such rooms were often elevated in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubim were on either side of the ark, each 15 feet (4.6 m) tall with 15-foot (4.6 m) wingspans (1 Kings 6:23–28). The ark of the covenant was between the two cherubim (1 Kings 8:1–11; cf. 2 Chron. 5:2–14).

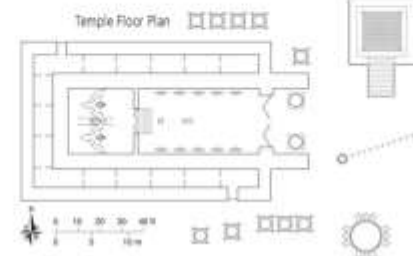
The nave (or Holy Place) was 60 feet (18.3 m) long and 30 feet (9.1 m) wide (1 Kings 6:15, 17–18; cf. 2 Chron. 3:5–7). It contained the golden altar for incense, the golden table for the bread of the Presence, and ten golden lampstands, five on the north and five on the south (1 Kings 7:48–49; cf. 2 Chron. 4:7).

Ten bronze wheeled stands and basins held water for rinsing off what was used for the burnt offerings (1 Kings 7:27–38; cf. 2 Chron. 4:6).

The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "Boaz," and the one on the south was called "Jachin" (1 Kings 7:21; cf. 2 Chron. 3:17).

Two ornate wooden, folding doors, overlaid with gold, separated the nave from the vestibule (1 Kings 6:33–35).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet (4.6 m) high and 30 feet (9.1 m) long and wide (cf. 2 Chron. 4:1).



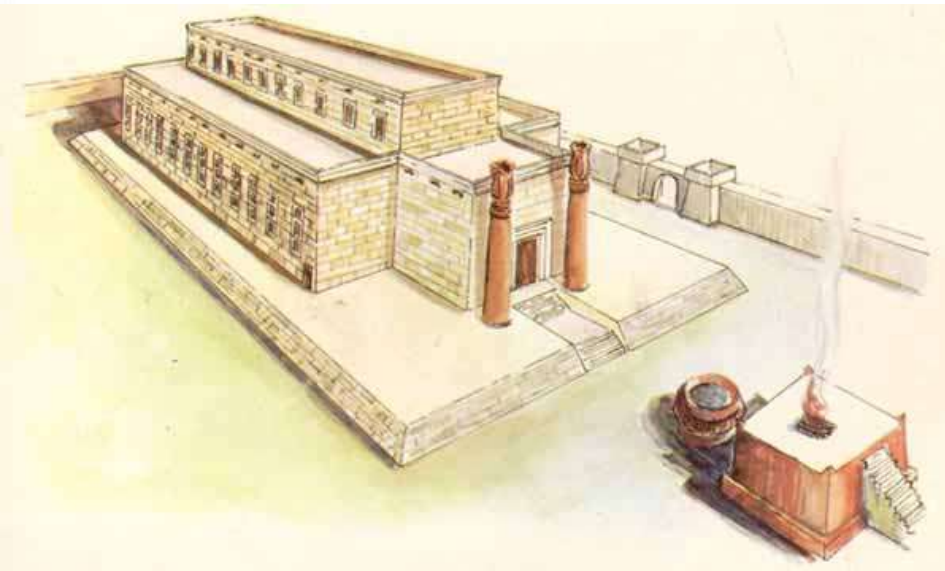
SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build "the house of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the spring of 967 or 966 B.C. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chron. 3:1–2) and completed it seven years later in the fall of 960 or 959 B.C. (1 Kings 6:38). The temple itself, not including the surrounding chambers on three sides, was 90 feet (27.4 m) long, 30 feet (9.1 m) wide, and 45 feet (13.7 m) high. It resided in the middle of a court with boundary walls.

The "Sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet (2.3 m) tall and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons (44,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kings 7:23–26; cf. 2 Chron. 4:2–5).

The Temple

- The building and filling of the temple with the presence of God is a foreshadowing of the incarnation, when the Son of God became man and God himself walked among us.
– John 1:14



THE STORY

The Temple

- It also hints at the nature of the church, our identity as a living temple filled with the presence of God's spirit.
 - 1 Peter 2:4-5

Like living stones,
let yourselves be built
into a spiritual house...
1 Peter 2:5



THE STORY

The Temple

- It also points us to the hope and the promise of the new heaven and new earth, when God will make his dwelling with his people forever.
 - Revelation 21:1-3

