**The Furnishings Completed, God Moves into His House**

**A picture containing text

Description automatically generatedI Kings 7:27-8:1 & II Chr 5:12-14 (Lesson #7)**

***23Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. 24Under its brim were gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast. 25It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward. 26Its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held two thousand baths.***

***27He also made the ten stands of bronze. Each stand was four cubits long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high. 28This was the construction of the stands: they had panels, and the panels were set in the frames, 29and on the panels that were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the frames, both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled work. 30Moreover, each stand had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and at the four corners were supports for a basin. The supports were cast with wreaths at the side of each. 31Its opening was within a crown that projected upward one cubit. Its opening was round, as a pedestal is made, a cubit and a half deep. At its opening there were carvings, and its panels were square, not round. 32And the four wheels were underneath the panels. The axles of the wheels were of one piece with the stands, and the height of a wheel was a cubit and a half. 33The wheels were made like a chariot wheel; their axles, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all cast. 34There were four supports at the four corners of each stand. The supports were of one piece with the stands. 35And on the top of the stand there was a round band half a cubit high; and on the top of the stand its stays and its panels were of one piece with it. 36And on the surfaces of its stays and on its panels, he carved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, according to the space of each, with wreaths all around. 37After this manner he made the ten stands. All of them were cast alike, of the same measure and the same form.38And he made ten basins of bronze. Each basin held forty baths, each basin measured four cubits, and there was a basin for each of the ten stands. 39And he set the stands, five on the south side of the house, and five on the north side of the house. And he set the sea at the southeast corner of the house.***

In your mind you should be picturing an ornate wagon, with side panels, with engravings of lions, oxen, and cherubim.

These ornate bronze wagons had four wheels and axels and there is an opening and a pedestal. The wheels were made like chariot wheels with spokes and hubs.

He made ten of these ornate bronze wagons, each wagon had a basin of bronze. The basin measured four cubits (across) **(6 1/2 feet)** and each of these basins held 40 baths.

Five of these were place at the north side and five at the south side. These are identical to the larger sea, except they were smaller, each held roughly 200 gallons of water and are likely how the priests actually washed themselves and the sacrifices.

We imagine that the bronze sea was used to refill the ornate trolleys with the basins, through some plumbing that is not described.

The bronze sea normally held 2000 baths, while each smaller basin held 40 baths. So, if you filled all 10, that would be 400 baths, that is only ¼ of the normal amount of water kept in the bronze sea.

**MESSIAH:** I cannot help but wonder what the Hebrew priests made of all this. This ritual cleaning of an animal that they were getting ready to roast on a fire. But I hope you see how this perfectly pictured Jesus, who was priest, prophet, and King, and who was also the sacrifice. Jesus was perfectly clean, not ceremonially done with water, but morally, because he is holy, perfect, and pure.

**MESSIAH:** The cleansing in the tabernacle and the temple, happened over, and over, and over again. It must have been exhausting. The cleansing that Jesus Christ offers is a once and forever cleansing!

*“how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” (Heb 9:14 ESV)*

*“"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” (Isa 1:18 ESV)*

This pictured, the need for a permanent cleansing that is accomplished only in Christ. For the blood of bulls and goats could never atone for man’s sins, and the washing of water could never remove the pollution. It all points us to what Jesus can and will do!

**APPLICATION:** You and I, as believers in Christ are priests of the living God.

*“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1Pe 2:9 ESV)*

*“you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1Pe 2:5 ESV)*

**APPLICATION:** Here at the Bronze Sea, we see the initial cleansing that Jesus accomplishes by faith (salvation) and we see pictured the continual cleaning up (sanctification).

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1Jo 1:9 ESV)*

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***40Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished all the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of the Lord: 41the two pillars, the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars, and the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars; 42and the four hundred pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars; 43the ten stands, and the ten basins on the stands; 44and the one sea, and the twelve oxen underneath the sea. 45Now the pots, the shovels, and the basins, all these vessels in the house of the Lord, which Hiram made for King Solomon, were of burnished bronze. 46In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan. 47And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because there were so many of them; the weight of the bronze was not ascertained.***

**Vs 40 -** Here we see other important items that Hiram made to be used in the temple.

**Vs 41–43** -The writer reminds us of the pillars and the bronze sea, both magnificent and technological marvels.

**Vs 44-47 -** Various bronze items needed in the House of Yahweh that were cast in the plain of Jordan.

Before we leave the courtyard and go inside the temple, these is one thing the writer of Kings does not discuss. It will come up next week as Solomon stands before it, but I want to at least mention it now:

**The Bronze Altar:** *“He made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high.” (2Ch 4:1 ESV)*

Hiram also made a massive bronze altar for offerings. It was 20 cubits long (30 feet), 20 cubits wide (30 feet), and 10 cubits high (15 feet). The length and width were identical dimensions to the Holy of Holies (30 by 30). This is where burnt offerings occurred.

The Brazen Altar reminded every priest, every Levite, and every worshipper that sin bars the way into the holy place unless there is first a sacrifice.

Sinners can approach God and be assured of their acceptance by God only through a blood sacrifice.

**MESSIAH:** We clearly see of picture of Jesus and his offering of himself for us.

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***48So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of the Lord: the golden altar, the golden table for the bread of the Presence, 49the lampstands of pure gold, five on the south side and five on the north, before the inner sanctuary; the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of gold; 50the cups, snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and fire pans, of pure gold; and the sockets of gold, for the doors of the innermost part of the house, the Most Holy Place, and for the doors of the nave of the temple. 51Thus all the work that King Solomon did on the house of the Lord was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and the vessels, and stored them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord.***

**As you read verse 48, something should arrest our attention.** Up until now the writer of Kings has been carefully describing the things that Hiram made. Then we read in verse 48: ***So Solomon made…***

Here in the wrap up of a discussion of the furnishings of the House of Yahweh. The writer of Kings tells us about some other important furnishings that are worthy of our attention:

1. **The Golden Altar (Vs – 48) – This is the golden altar of incense.**

This altar stood directly outside the Holy of Holies and the smoke from the incense that burned on this golden altar rose up to God continually, this was and is a picture of the **people of God’s prayers**.

**APPLICATION:** If we have become the temple of God, by believing in Jesus, then our lives should be filled with prayer, like incense constantly rising up to God in the original temple.

**MESSIAH:** Yet this was also a picture of the Lord who intercedes for His people.

1. **The Golden Table for the bread of the Presence (Vs 48).**

In the tabernacle these was one of these, in the temple, the writer of Chronicles actually tells us there were ten:

*“He also made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. And he made a hundred basins of gold.” (2Ch 4:8 ESV)*

*“So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of God: the golden altar, the tables for the bread of the Presence,” (2Ch 4:19 ESV)*

**APPLICATION:** This physical bread was to point us forward to the bread of life, the true bread that *“comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” (Joh 6:33, 35).*

1. **The lampstands of pure gold**

We are told that five on the south side and five on the north, before the inner sanctuary. Like the Golden Table, in the tabernacle there was one of these in the tabernacle and 0 in the temple with 5 on each wall of the Holy Place or the Nave.

First the lampstands were functional, they provided light in the Holy place.

**MESSIAH:** But these lampstands were pointing us to a greater reality. That greater reality is contained within Psalm 27: where David wrote, *the Lord is our light* and foreshadowed things that John would write about Jesus:

*“****6*** *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.* ***7*** *He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.* ***8*** *He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.* ***9*** *The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” (Joh 1:6-9 ESV)*

**The Messiah:** is the **ultimate light**, he is the **true light**, that illuminates not just the temple, but the light that provides light to every man!

**APPLICATION:** Of course, Jesus is the light for His temple, he provides us this light in the Person of the Holy Spirit, but also in the Word:

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Ps 119:105 ESV)*

Vs 50-51 - All the instruments were completed, the Holy Place is completed, and the doors to the Holy Place are completed.

Solomon brought in all the things that his father had dedicated, silver, gold, and placed them in the treasuries of the House of Yahweh. As you think about the temple furnishings, imagine them with me and how they picture Jesus and salvation.

**Yes, the temple was beautiful. What you and I posses by faith is much, much, much more beautiful!** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***“1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers’ houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. 2 And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. 3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. 4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. 5 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. 6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. 7 For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 8 And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. “9 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 10 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.”*** *“ 12 and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters; 13 and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.”**(1Ki 8:1-11 & 2Chr 5:121-14, ESV)*

To set the stage, it is the seventh month, and according to (II Chr 5:3) it is a feast day. The Feast in question is likely the Feast of Booths also known as the Feast of Tabernacles.

Solomon assembles the elders, the heads of tribes, and the leaders of fathers houses to bring up the ark from the city of Jerusalem.

But notice verse 2, Solomon assembled **“all the men”** to the feast itself. As you will see in a few verses this also appears to include women and children.

**This would have been a massive celebration; this would have been an amazing day for the nation.**

Keep in mind, we were told in (I Kings 6:37), that the temple was completed in the **eight month of the eleventh year of Solomon’s reign**. This means more than likely they spent 11 months planning this event and planned for it to land on the Feast of Booths or the Feast of Tabernacles.

**Vs 3** - So all of the leaders mentioned in verse 1came and met somewhere in Jerusalem…

And the priests “took up the ark” in the presence of Solomon and all of these leaders.

**APPLICATION:** Keep in mind, the temple for all its glory is just a beautiful building without the ark. Likewise, if God does not show up here in church or here in our Sunday School, it just a nice meeting. Like the Jews, we need God to show up and show out!

The priests take up the ark the way that was prescribed by God. Carrying it on its polls that were made of wood and overlaid with gold.

Imagine in your mind this processional forming at the tent of David, to bring the ark of the covenant home, to the House of Yahweh, to the Holy of Holies.

So that pack everything up (all the holy vessels that had been here in the “tent of David”) and began to march through the streets to move it to the top of Mt Mariah, to the House of Yahweh!

**Vs 5 -** We can now imagine that “all the congregation” is involved with many waiting at the temple mount.

We don’t know what this looked like, so they are marching with the ark, and at the same time the priests are sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they ***could not be counted or number***.

When David brought up the ark to Jerusalem we are told in (2Sam 12:14): *“And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal.”*

**Application and** **Messiah:** God cannot be approached **without the shedding of blood**. Sinful man cannot approach God unless there is an **atoning sacrifice. Mans’ sins have separate us from a Holy God.**

**Messiah:** Please do not miss the position we enjoy because of the sacrifice of Jesus, because he shed his life’s blood for us:

*“****11*** *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)* ***12*** *he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.” (Heb 9:11-12 ESV)*

*“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him.” (Ro 5:9 ERV)*

*“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,” (Eph 1:7 ESV)*

*“For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” (Heb 10:4 ESV)*

**APPLICATION:** As you think about this, you should see that the sacrifice on the brazen altar, points forward to Jesus, the blood sprinkled on the altar points forward to Jesus as well as the High Priest points forward to Jesus.

**Vs 6-7** Imagine as this massive processional arrived at the temple complex. The crowd poured into the temple courtyard.

Then the priest proceeded into the temple. Through the vestibule (only one way into the temple), across the nave, as they saw flowers, palm trees, and cherubim reminding them of Eden.

Then, into the Most Holy place, we can picture in our minds the veil is likely pulled back and they place the ark, their underneath the wings of the Cherubim.

This beautiful building that was called the House of Yahweh has now become the place where God will meet his people, at least for a time.

The Holy of holies, was the throne room of God, and in some way it was an earthly copy of the place where God rules in heaven:

*“For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.” (Heb 9:24 ESV)*

**Vs 8 -** Once the veil was pulled shut, the poles poked through the veil, or more than likely, you could see them in that they cause the veil to bulge out.

But you could not see this when you simply viewed from the front door (vestibule).

But when the priest entered the Holy Place, the Nave, he would have been constantly reminded that God’s manifest presence, at least for that age, was there behind that veil!

**Vs 9 –** Here, as just a matter of fact, we are told that there was nothing else in the ark with the exception of the two tables of the law written in stone, by the finger of God.

**Vs 10 -** In our minds, we can picture them pouring out of the temple and people watching in awe from the courtyard.

God descends in a cloud (like he had led the nation with) during the Exodus and it fills the House of Yahweh with His glory. Even the priests are forced to leave God’s house as He “moves in”, if you will.

**Now there was something that actually happened, that at least in part, brought about God descending in the cloud, we read about it in II Chronicles 5.** Picking up at the same account:

**Vs 12 -** All the Levitical singers, arrayed in fine lined, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the alter, with 120 priests who had trumpets!

Levitical singers with many different instruments and 120 priests with trumpets.

**Vs 13-14 -** Their job was to **“make themselves heard”** in unison praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

The song was raised, with all the instruments and they began to sing **Yahweh is good! His steadfast love endures forever. Yahweh is good! His steadfast love endures forever.** As they were singing this.

It is then, that the house of Yahweh, was filled with a cloud, with the presence of Yahweh, and it drove the priest out of His house.

The glory of the Lord filled the house!

We often say, “God was in the house.” They would have had a clear visible representation, that God had moved into his new house. It had been vacant for 11 months a shell of a building.

God is now in the house and the glory of God easily overshadows the glory of the golden building.

**APPLICATION:** God lives in you and me, we cannot lose sight of this grand and glorious TRUTH! God is in the house!

**APPLICATION:** It was true then. It is true today. God inhabits the praise of His people (PS 22:3)! When we praise God is corporate worship, there is something special, something unique, something supernatural that happens as God meets us corporately in our worship to Him.

Matthew Henry:*“The temple, through richly beautiful, yet while it was without the ark was like a body without a soul, or a candlestick without a dandle or (to speak more properly) a house without an inhabitant. All the cost and pains bestowed on this stately structure are list if God does not accept them; and, unless he pleases to own it as the place where he will record his name, it is after all but a ruinous heap.”*

WHAT A DAY!

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