

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 6:1-13

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1 Kings 6:1-13

Verse 1

¹ In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord.

- The construction of the Temple began in April/May in the year 967 B.C. This dating places the time of the Exodus from Egypt around 1445 B.C.

Verses 2-3

² The temple that King Solomon built for the Lord was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high. ³ The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple extended the width of the temple, that is twenty cubits, and projected ten cubits from the front of the temple.

- The cubit was the standard unit of measurement used in ancient times. It was about 18 inches in length. However, in the construction of important public buildings, the "ROYAL" cubit was used. The royal cubit measured 20.9 inches. 2 Chronicles 3:33 indicates the "old standard was used" in building the Temple. Scholars believe that this implies that the royal cubit was used in the construction of the Temple.
- The Temple would have measured about 100' by 30'. It would have been about 50' high. It was about the size of Cornerstone's gym.
- At the entrance was a portico that extended outward from the main hall. The portico was 20 cubits by 10 cubits.

Verses 4-5

⁴ He made narrow windows high up in the temple walls. ⁵ Against the walls of the main hall and inner sanctuary he built a structure around the building, in which there were side rooms.

- High up on the walls of the main hall were narrow windows. This is called a “clerestory.” Again, this is much like the gym at Cornerstone.
- Around the outer walls of the building, under the clerestory, was a structure which contained side rooms. Again, this is like the construction of the gym at Cornerstone.

Verse 6

⁶The lowest floor was five cubits wide, the middle floor six cubits and the third floor seven. He made offset ledges around the outside of the temple so that nothing would be inserted into the temple walls.

- The outside walls of the building appeared to be flat. However, built into the walls was a system of internal buttresses which would keep the weight of the roof from pushing the walls of the Temple outward. Inside the surrounding structure, the width of the rooms in the walls varied in size. There were three floors of rooms inside the structure surrounding the main hall of the Temple. The rooms on the first floor were 5 cubits wide. The width of the rooms on the second floor was 6 cubits wide. The width of the rooms on the third floor was 7 cubits wide.
- The walls of the surrounding structure protected the walls of the main hall. Nothing was inserted into the temple walls. The beams that supported the roof were seated on top of the Temple wall, not inserted into them.

Verses 7-8

⁷In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built. ⁸The entrance to the lowest floor was on the south side of the temple; a stairway led up to the middle level and from there to the third.

- The stone blocks from which the Temple was built were not prepared at the Temple site but were fashioned to fit properly together at the place where they were quarried.

Verses 9-10

⁹So he built the temple and completed it, roofing it with beams and cedar planks. ¹⁰And he built the side rooms all along the temple. The height of each was five cubits, and they were attached to the temple by beams of cedar.

- A roof of cedar beams and cedar planks spanned the building and bound it together.

Verses 11-13

¹¹ The word of the Lord came to Solomon: ¹² “As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. ¹³ And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel.”

- YHWH made it clear that even the great work of building the Temple would not redeem Israel. They would need to be obedient to His word to please Him. If they were obedient, He would bless them and live among them. But history shows that they could not or would not obey the Lord. In 586 B.C., Solomon’s Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians.

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