

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 6:14-38

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

1 Kings 6:14-38

Verses 14-18

¹⁴ So Solomon built the temple and completed it. ¹⁵ He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of juniper. ¹⁶ He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. ¹⁷ The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long. ¹⁸ The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen.

- Having described the exterior construction of the Temple (see 1 Kings 6:1-13), the text now turns to the inside of the building. Inside, the walls were covered with cedar boards from floor to ceiling. The ceiling was also made of cedar boards and beams (see 1 Kings 6:9). The floor was covered with juniper planks. Though the building was made of huge blocks of stone, no stone was visible inside the Temple.
- 20 cubits from the rear wall of the Temple, he built a wall which divided the Temple into two rooms. The smaller room was known as the Most Holy Place. The larger room was called the main hall.
- The cedar walls were carved with gourds and open flowers.

Verses 19-22

¹⁹ He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the Lord there. ²⁰ The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar. ²¹ Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, which was overlaid with gold. ²² So he overlaid the whole interior with gold. He also overlaid with gold the altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.

- The “inner sanctuary,” the “Most Holy Place,” was the place where the Ark of the Covenant” was kept.

- The walls of this room were lined with pure gold as was the cedar altar contained therein.
- The walls of the main hall were also lined with pure gold. Gold chains separated the main hall from the Most Holy Place. Everything inside the Temple was lined with pure gold.

Verses 23-28

²³ For the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim out of olive wood, each ten cubits high. ²⁴ One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip. ²⁵ The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. ²⁶ The height of each cherub was ten cubits. ²⁷ He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. ²⁸ He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

- Inside the Most Holy Place, Solomon placed two golden cherubim. Cherub is the singular form of the Hebrew word cherubim. Cherubim are mentioned several places in the Bible. They are winged angelic (non-human) creatures, but they are not the cherubs which appear on Valentine's Day cards. They are first mentioned in Genesis 3:24. They are best described in Ezekiel 1:4-21, although they are not specifically named in this passage. In Psalm 18:10, we are told that God rides on them. They are the protectors of the throne of God and always circle near it waiting to obey God's command. Ezekiel 28 gives the most information about them.
- Two statues of Cherubim were placed inside the Most Holy Place. Each was ten cubits high. Their wings spread out over the Ark of the Covenant and touched the outer walls of the Temple. Both were overlaid in pure gold.
- The statues of the cherubim did not violate the Second Commandment because these objects were not worshipped. They were decorative elements. In fact, since they were in the Most Holy Place, they could not be seen by those worshipping God in the Temple.

Verses 29-30

²⁹ On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. ³⁰ He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.

- There were carved cherubim, palm trees, and blooming flowers carved into the walls of the temple.

- The floors, too, were covered in pure gold.

Verses 31-35

³¹ For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors out of olive wood that were one fifth of the width of the sanctuary. ³² And on the two olive-wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold. ³³ In the same way, for the entrance to the main hall he made doorframes out of olive wood that were one fourth of the width of the hall. ³⁴ He also made two doors out of juniper wood, each having two leaves that turned in sockets. ³⁵ He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

- The doors of the Temple and the door frames were covered in hammered gold. They also were overlaid with gold.

Verse 36

³⁶ And he built the inner courtyard of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams.

- Surrounding the Temple building was the inner courtyard. The wall that separated the inner courtyard from the outer courtyard was made of three courses of dressed stone and one course of cedar beams. This was the space in which the priests offered sacrifice. It contained the bronze altar, the bronze sea, and the ten lavers.

Verses 37-38

³⁷ The foundation of the temple of the Lord was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv. ³⁸ In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.

- The Temple was begun in April/May in 967 AD (see 1 Kings 6:1), and it was finished in October/November seven years later. It was built in 7 years. However, it took Solomon 13 years to build his own house (see 1 Kings 7:1).

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 1 Kings 6:14-38. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by Cornerstone Fellowship & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)