

## Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 7:1-12

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### 1 Kings 7:1-12

#### Verses 1-5

***<sup>1</sup> It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace. <sup>2</sup> He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high, with four rows of cedar columns supporting trimmed cedar beams. <sup>3</sup> It was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the columns—forty-five beams, fifteen to a row. <sup>4</sup> Its windows were placed high in sets of three, facing each other. <sup>5</sup> All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in the front part in sets of three, facing each other.***

- The word that connects this passage with the passage preceding it is “however.” It took seven years to build the Temple, but thirteen years for Solomon to build his own house. Solomon’s Palace was a complex of buildings, not a single house. This complex included the buildings from which the government was conducted, the king’s residence and the residences of his first wife, the daughter of Pharaoh, the King of Egypt.
- The first part of the palace complex was known as the Palace of Lebanon, essentially because it was built from cedar that came from the forests of Lebanon. It was slightly larger than the Temple (11,250 sq.ft.) and it seems that it was primarily used as an armory (see 10:16-17).

#### Verse 6

***<sup>6</sup> He made a colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty wide. In front of it was a portico, and in front of that were pillars and an overhanging roof.***

- The colonnade was, apparently the entrance to the Palace of Lebanon.

#### Verse 7

***<sup>7</sup> He built the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge, and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling.***

- The throne hall and the Hall of Justice may have been names for the same place. Chapter 10:18-19 describes Solomon's throne which would have been in this building.
- It is uncertain if these were separate buildings or sections of the Palace of Lebanon.

### Verse 8

***<sup>8</sup> And the palace in which he was to live, set farther back, was similar in design. Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.***

- The palace that the king lived in and the palace he built for Pharaoh's daughter (see 3:1) completed the palace complex.

### Verses 9-12

***<sup>9</sup> All these structures, from the outside to the great courtyard and from foundation to eaves, were made of blocks of high-grade stone cut to size and smoothed on their inner and outer faces. <sup>10</sup> The foundations were laid with large stones of good quality, some measuring ten cubits and some eight. <sup>11</sup> Above were high-grade stones, cut to size, and cedar beams. <sup>12</sup> The great courtyard was surrounded by a wall of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams, as was the inner courtyard of the temple of the Lord with its portico.***

- The buildings of the Palace complex were built of fine stone. They were roofed with cedar beams.
- They were apparently built around a courtyard which was like the courtyard of the Temple.
- While the Temple was grand inside because it was lined with gold, the seat of government described here was impressive.

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