

Exegetical Notes – 1 Kings 7:13-51

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen for Cornerstone Fellowship

101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19320

610-384-1375

charleshjensen@aol.com

1 Kings 7:13-51

Verses 13-14

¹³ King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram, ¹⁴ whose mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali and whose father was from Tyre and a skilled craftsman in bronze. Hiram was filled with wisdom, with understanding and with knowledge to do all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him.

- Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram, an expert in bronze work, to Jerusalem. Hiram's mother was a Jewess from the tribe of Naphtali, in this passage, but from the tribe of Dan in 1 Chronicles 2:14. She may have been from one of the tribes but lived in the other before her marriage. Hiram's father was not Jewish. The family lived in Tyre. Hiram was brought to Jerusalem to do work in the Temple.

Verses 15-22

¹⁵ He cast two bronze pillars, each eighteen cubits high and twelve cubits in circumference. ¹⁶ He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars; each capital was five cubits high. ¹⁷ A network of interwoven chains adorned the capitals on top of the pillars, seven for each capital. ¹⁸ He made pomegranates in two rows encircling each network to decorate the capitals on top of the pillars. He did the same for each capital. ¹⁹ The capitals on top of the pillars in the portico were in the shape of lilies, four cubits high. ²⁰ On the capitals of both pillars, above the bowl-shaped part next to the network, were the two hundred pomegranates in rows all around. ²¹ He erected the pillars at the portico of the temple. The pillar to the south he named Jakin and the one to the north Boaz. ²² The capitals on top were in the shape of lilies. And so the work on the pillars was completed.

- Hiram made two pillars of bronze. Each was 27 feet high by 18 feet around. On top were capitals that were about 7 and ½ feet high. The pillars

and the capitals were highly decorated. They stood at the entrance to the Temple.

- He named them Jakin and Boaz. Jakin means “he establishes” and Boaz means “in him is strength.” The names were the messages worshippers received as they entered the Temple.

Verses 23-26

²³ He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits high. It took a line of thirty cubits to measure around it. ²⁴ Below the rim, gourds encircled it—ten to a cubit. The gourds were cast in two rows in one piece with the Sea.

²⁵ The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were toward the center. ²⁶ It was a handbreadth in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It held two thousand baths.

- Hiram made a great basin for the priest to wash in. It stood 14 and ½ feet wide and 52 and ½ feet around. It held 2000 baths of water, about 12,000 gallons.
- It stood on 12 bronze bulls. Three bulls faced in each direction. Each bull represented one of Israel’s twelve tribes.
- It, too, was highly decorated.

Verses 27-40a

²⁷ He also made ten movable stands of bronze; each was four cubits long, four wide and three high. ²⁸ This is how the stands were made: They had side panels attached to uprights. ²⁹ On the panels between the uprights were lions, bulls and cherubim—and on the uprights as well. Above and below the lions and bulls were wreaths of hammered work. ³⁰ Each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles, and each had a basin resting on four supports, cast with wreaths on each side. ³¹ On the inside of the stand there was an opening that had a circular frame one cubit deep. This opening was round, and with its basework it measured a cubit and a half. Around its opening there was engraving. The panels of the stands were square, not round. ³² The four wheels were under the panels, and the axles of the wheels were attached to the stand. The diameter of each wheel was a cubit and a half. ³³ The wheels were made like chariot wheels; the axles, rims, spokes and hubs were all of cast metal.

³⁴ Each stand had four handles, one on each corner, projecting from the stand. ³⁵ At the top of the stand there was a circular band half a cubit deep. The supports and panels were attached to the top of the stand. ³⁶ He engraved cherubim, lions and palm trees on the surfaces of the supports and on the panels, in every available space, with wreaths all around. ³⁷ This is the way he made the ten stands. They were all cast in the same molds and were identical in size and shape. ³⁸ He then made ten bronze basins, each holding forty baths and measuring four cubits across, one basin to go on each of the ten stands. ³⁹ He placed five of the stands on the south side of the temple and five on the north. He placed the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner of the temple. ⁴⁰ He also made the pots and shovels and sprinkling bowls.

- Hiram made 10 moveable stands of bronze. They were all made from the same mold, so they were identical. The stands had wheels so that they could be moved easily.
- Each stand had a basin on top. Each basin held 240 gallons of water.
- He also made the implements needed for the priest to offer sacrifices.

Verses 40b-47

So Hiram finished all the work he had undertaken for King Solomon in the temple of the Lord:

⁴¹ ***the two pillars;***

the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars;

the two sets of network decorating the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars;

⁴² ***the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars);***

⁴³ ***the ten stands with their ten basins;***

⁴⁴ ***the Sea and the twelve bulls under it;***

⁴⁵ ***the pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls.***

All these objects that Hiram made for King Solomon for the temple of the Lord were of burnished bronze. ⁴⁶ The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Sukkoth and Zarethan. ⁴⁷ Solomon left all these things unweighed, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

- Hiram made all of the bronze items needed for the Temple. The bronze he used was highly polished. The weight of the bronze he used was not measured.

Verses 48-50

⁴⁸ Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in the Lord's temple:

the golden altar;

the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence;

⁴⁹ the lampstands of pure gold (five on the right and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary);

the gold floral work and lamps and tongs;

⁵⁰ the pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers; and the gold sockets for the doors of the innermost room, the Most Holy Place, and also for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

- Other items needed in the Temple were made of pure gold. These verses list those items.

Verse 51

⁵¹ When all the work King Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of the Lord's temple.

- When all was done, the treasures dedicated to God by King David were placed in the Temple treasury in the Temple.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 1 Kings 7:13-51. 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.)