

The Temple of Solomon: Certain Historical Facts

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The Temple of Solomon is a central feature of Masonic doctrine. Every Freemason who goes through the degrees embarks on a symbolic journey through the Temple that, although it no longer physically exists, is still remembered with reverence.

Below is information about the Temple of Solomon:

- 1. The Lord told David, King of Israel, that his son Solomon would build the Temple. The Lord said to David: "It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever if he is steadfast to observe my My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day." (1 Chronicles 28: 2-7)**
- 2. King Solomon built the Temple for the name of the Lord. (2 Chronicles 2:1)**
- 3. The Temple was built in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to Solomon's father, David. (2 Chronicles 3:1)**
- 4. The Temple was built by 153,600 workers: 70,000 bearers, 80,000 quarrymen, and 3,600 men to make the laborers work. This workforce were aliens in the land of Israel. (2 Chronicles 2:1,17)**
- 5. King Solomon asked King Hiram of Tyre to provide cedar and cypress and algum logs from Lebanon and the master craftsman to build the Temple. (2 Chronicles 2:7)**
- 6. The master craftsman was named Hiram. He was the son of a Danite woman and a Tyrian father. Hiram was skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen, and crimson, and to make any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him. (2 Chronicles 2:7-13)**
- 7. The physical dimensions of the Temple were as follows:**
 - The foundation was 60 cubits in length and the width 20. (2 Chronicles 3:3)**
 - The vestibule in the front of the Temple was 20 cubits long, spanning the whole breadth of the Temple and 120 cubits in height. Its inside was overlaid with pure gold. (2 Chronicles 3:4)**

- The Most Holy Place was 20 cubits long and 20 cubits in width. (2 Chronicles 3:8)

- The two pillars at the front of the Temple were 35 cubits high, with a capital 5 cubits on top of each. (2 Chronicles 3:15)

- The Temple's alter was made of bronze 20 cubits long, 20 cubits in width, and 10 cubits high. (2 Chronicles 4:1)

8. It took 20 years to build the Temple. (2 Chronicles 8:1)

9. In the Temple, King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep, so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. (2 Chronicles 7:4)

10. After the Temple was built, King Solomon built several cities. He built Tadmor in the wilderness and storage cities in Hamath. He built Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horon, fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars, also Baalath and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the chariot cities and the cities of the calvary, and all that Solomon desired to build in in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion. These edifices were built with forced labor raised from the people left from the Hittites, Amorites, Perrizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not of Israel. Some Israelites served as men of war, captains of King Solomon's chariots, and his calvary. And others served as chiefs of the officials of King Solomon, two hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people. King Solomon also built a house for the daughter of Pharaoh, who was relocated from the house of David king of Israel because the places to which the ark of the Lord had come was holy. (2 Chronicles 8:4-11)

11. The Temple of Solomon was destroyed by Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard and servant of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. He burned the house of the Lord and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great he burned with fire. And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around. (2 Kings 25:8-10). The Temple was plundered, and Judah was carried away captive from its own land. (2 Kings 25:11-21)

Sources

Below is a link containing illustrations of the Temple of Solomon.

<https://search.yahoo.com/search?fr=mcafee&type=E211US1451G0&p=King+Solomon%27s+Temple+pics>

Note: a cubit is about 18 inches in length.

The Bible (The New King James Version)
