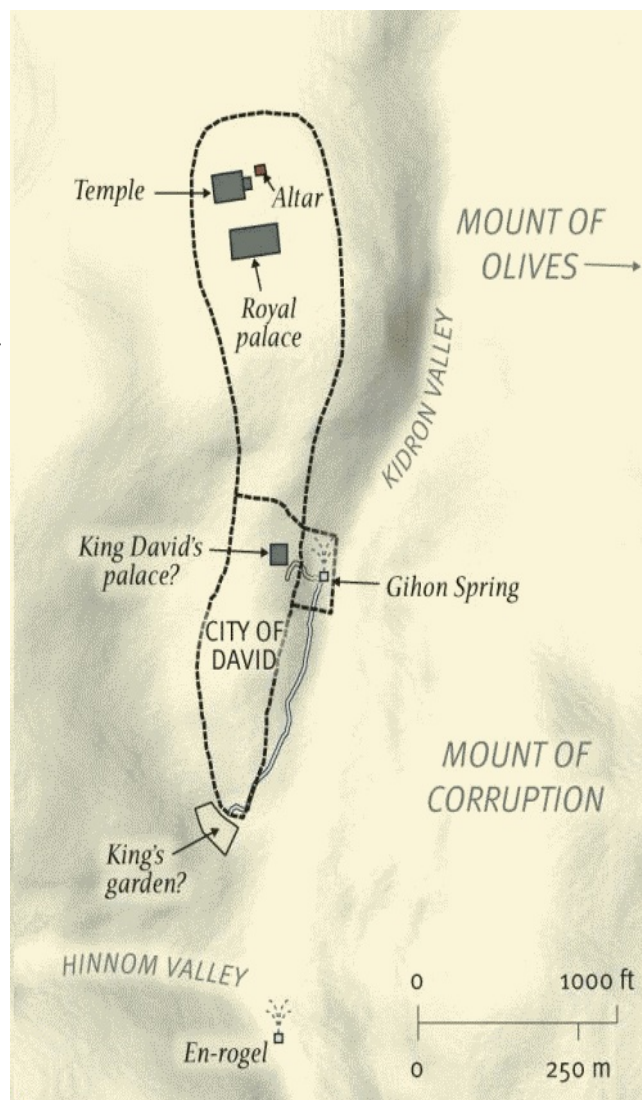


1 Kings 6:1-38

With preparation for the Temple complex complete, the narrative moves on to a detailed description of the building itself and its furnishings, interrupted in by a description of the building of Solomon's royal palace complex (7:1-12). The authors seem to suggest that Solomon's concern for his own house delayed the completion of the Temple.

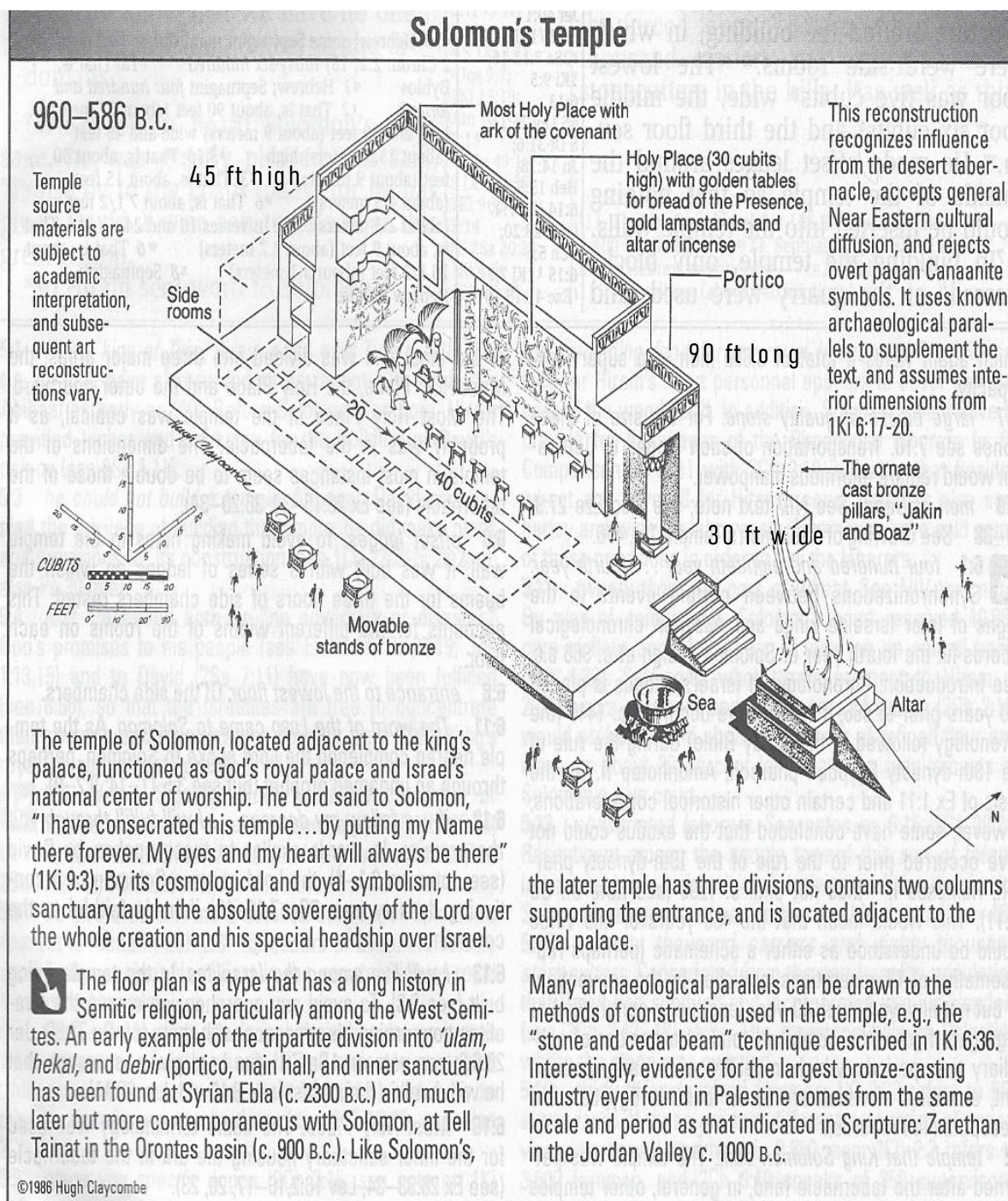
Through various building projects Solomon began to transform the small military stronghold of the city of David into a full-scale city that would be the geographical center of the Worship of YAHWEH God and of the nation of Israel. He built the Temple of the LORD and the royal palace complex on the hill to the north of the stronghold and encircled it with a wall. Ironically, Solomon will also allow his many foreign wives to establish pagan shrines on the hill to the east of the city, which will later be called the Mount of Corruption.

1. If your home was left in tact for several centuries and someone from several centuries in the future examined it, what would they learn about you? Your values and beliefs?
2. Why is the Temple smaller than most churches?
3. Why was the building of the Temple dated in reference to the Exodus (6:1)? **Relating the construction of the Temple to Israel's release from captivity emphasizes how momentous this was. A long series of events have led to this place and time, this peace and prosperity they enjoyed, this relationship they possessed with YAHWEH God, all of which began with deliverance from slavery in Egypt.**



4. Why such a large portico? **Beautiful entrance to the beautiful God's House.**
 Why such small windows? **Wide on the inner side of the walls, these windows would gradually slope to form a slit on the outer wall. Some believe this was for protection from the weather. However, it is fitting that the Temple windows were designed to allow Israel's spiritual Light to radiate outward and to convey the wisdom and enlightenment of the LORD to the world.**
 What were the side rooms? **Priest cells, treasure and storage rooms.**
 What was the inner sanctuary (6:16,19)? **The Most Holy Place was constructed as a perfect cube, 30 ft². It was the most sacred portion of the Temple, the place where God manifested His presence, the place that contained the ark of the covenant (the most important symbol of Israel's communion with YAHWEH God, which contained the two tablets of the covenant that structured the Divine-human relationship) and the cherubim. Only the high priest was allowed to enter this room and only on one day each year, the Day of atonement (*Yom Kippur*) (Lev 16; 23:26-32).**

5. Why was no iron tool heard at the construction site (7)? **This was to honor God and His dwelling place. The sound of construction can be annoying even to us, so greater concern is expressed for God. This meant that the stone had to be “refinished” (cut and shaped) miles away at the quarry. This detail was recorded not to teach us how to build a church but to show us the importance of demonstrating care, concern, honor, and respect for God. The LORD is worth such effort!**



6. Regarding the promise in (6:12-13), how, when and why is the promise fulfilled? **These verses summarize the Temple's main purpose: God promised that His eternal presence would never leave the Temple, and by extension the people, as long as one condition was met: trusting Him, and living a life obedient to His commands based on that trust. The volume of laws did not automatically disqualify the Israelites from obedience; there was ample forgiveness available (and that forgiveness was well known) for sins both large and small. *Kings* details the reality that lawbreaking was the *result* not the *cause* of estrangement from God. The people abandoned God in their hearts first and *then* failed to keep His laws.**
7. Why is so much value give to this building by covering so much of it with pure gold? **Gold symbolized the glory and beauty of God and His heavenly Temple.**
8. What art adorned the Inner Sanctuary of the Temple and why (6:23-29)? **Large cherubim (Gen 3:24); these represented the angels that stood guard before the ark. This was not a violation of the second commandment which prohibited making anything to serve as a representative of God.**
 What adorned the walls "all around the Temple" and why (29-30)? **Palm trees and open flowers. Early Jewish synagogues were adorned with similar motifs, together with cherubim, remind of the Garden of Eden, from which man had been driven as a result of sin ((Gen 3:24). In symbolism, readmission to the paradise of God is now to be found only by means of atonement for sin at the Sanctuary — Who is Jesus.**
 Why does Jewish art avoid any human renderings (Dt 5:8)? **Over concern about idol worship.**
 In addition to concerns about idol worship, why are there no depictions of God in Israel's Temple or places of worship? **It is impossible to represent God with an image; also, He was is visibly present with His people and associated Himself in a special way in this place of worship.**
9. Does the Temple say anything about the character of God ... if so, what about Him? **The imagery is almost too much to describe. The building speaks of His beauty (in all its adornments and art and precision), His goodness (the Most Holy Place, the gold and precision) and His Truth (the tablets of the Law). It speaks of His forgiveness (the altar) and His presence to name a few.**
10. Are church buildings today as important as the Temple was in Solomon's time?
11. Is God's promise in (6:12-13) relevant today? **God's promise to us in Jesus is unconditional — there is no sense at all that His Spirit will depart from us if we fail to keep His commandments. "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). God will love us even if we never get any better (thanks Steve). With that said, our obedience or lack there of to God's commands will directly impact our experience of God's presence and power. That presence and power is reinvigorated after sin by going to God in repentance for cleansing.**

12. Some believe it is eschatologically essential that the Jews build another Temple in Jerusalem. What do you think? **God allowed the Romans to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. because after Jesus' incarnation, life, death, resurrection and ascension, its spiritual significance was gone, and it was instead being used blasphemously, almost as an idol, by people practicing a non-Biblical religion. It was a blessing of God that it was destroyed, and it is His grace that keeps it from being rebuilt.**
13. What kind of Temple has God been building since the coming of Jesus? **“For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His Own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.**
So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through Him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit” (Eph 2:14-22).
14. What do you think of Christian art? Is it ok to depict Jesus in paintings, statues, etc?

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE - ILLUSTRATED

1 KINGS 6

Three level structure built around the temple.
Lower level is 7.5 ft. wide.
Middle level is 9 ft. wide.
Upper level is 10.5 ft. wide

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

The nave with clerestory windows

Vestibule - 30 ft. wide and 15 ft. deep.

Hollow bronze pillar on north called "Boaz" and one on the south called "Jachin".

Wooden Doors overlaid with gold

Bronze altar 30 ft. by 15 ft., for burnt offerings.

Inner sanctuary is a 30' cube.
Ark of the Covenant in the middle with two massive 15' golden cherubim on either side.

The nave was 60' long and 30' wide.
There is a golden altar and golden table.
There are five golden lampstands on the north and five on the south.

Ten bronze wheeled stands with basins of water to rinse off ashes from burnt offerings.

Metal basin 15 ft. in diameter and 7.5 ft. high holding 12,000 gallons of water, supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build the "House of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the Spring of 967 or 966 B.C. and completed it seven years later. It resided in the middle of a court with boundary wall.

