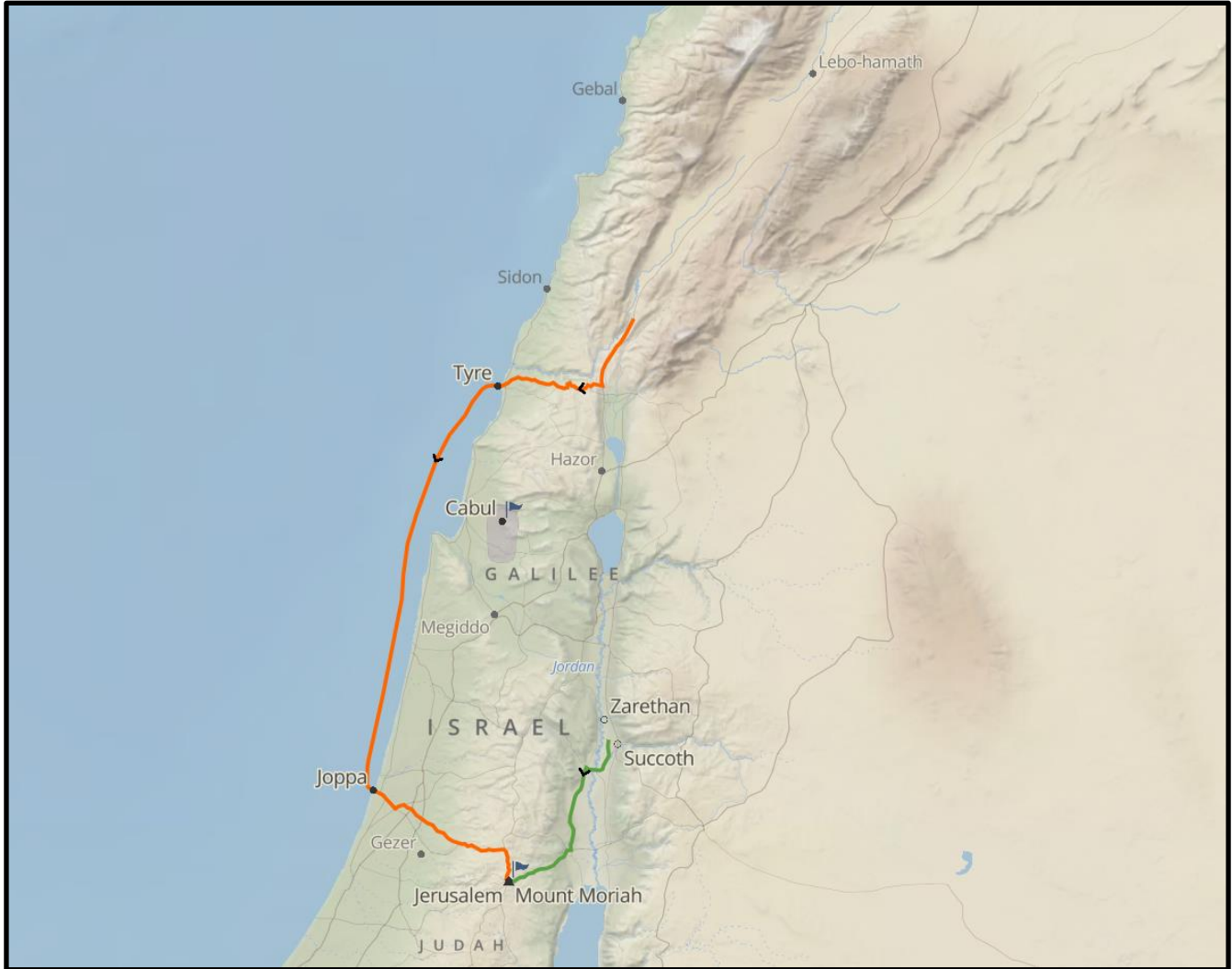


Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

Solomon Builds the Temple

- Solomon made an alliance with King Hiram to obtain materials for the temple [1 Kgs 5:1-12].
 - Hiram, king of Tyre, sent envoys to Solomon [v. 1].
 - ✦ Hiram heard that Solomon had succeeded David.
 - ✦ Hiram was a friend and ally of David [2 Sam 5:11].
 - Solomon sent the men back with a message that he intended to build the temple which his father had been unable to build [vv. 2-5].
 - Solomon asked King Hiram to have cedars from Lebanon cut for the temple [v. 6].
 - ✦ The cedars of Lebanon were excellent for construction since they were not readily subject to rot or decay.
 - ✦ Solomon offered servants to help with the cutting.
 - ✦ Solomon offered to pay Hiram's servants (the Sidonians) whatever he thought was a fair wage.
 - King Hiram enthusiastically agreed to provide the lumber for the temple [vv. 7-9].
 - ✦ Hiram knew the Lord, likely through David [v. 7].
 - ✦ Hiram recognized Solomon's wisdom [v. 7].
 - ✦ Hiram would deliver the lumber by boat [vv. 8-9].
 - ✦ Hiram asked for food for his royal household [v. 9].
 - King Hiram and Solomon entered into a covenant agreement, and both men fulfilled the terms of the agreement [vv. 10-12].
 - ✦ Hiram delivered cedar and cypress lumber [v. 10].
 - ✦ Solomon delivered the food (wheat and oil) [v. 11].
 - ✦ This covenant between Hiram and Solomon contributed to years of peace between Israel and Tyre [vv. 11-12].
- Solomon recruited laborers to prepare materials for the temple [1 Kgs 5:13-18].
 - Three "shifts" of 10,000 men were sent to Lebanon to help cut the lumber [vv. 13-14].
 - 150,000 men worked on cutting and transporting stone [v. 15].
 - 3,300 foremen (under Adoniram [v. 14]) supervised the project [v. 16].
 - By Solomon's command the stones were cut for the temple's foundation [v. 17].
 - Some men of Gebal, along with Solomon's and Hiram's craftsmen, did the final preparation of the stones and lumber for the temple [v. 18].



- In the fourth year of Solomon's reign the building of the temple began [1 Kgs 6:1-10].
 - Verse one is particularly important because it establishes firm dates in Israel's history.
 - ✦ The time of Solomon's reign is well established, and the fourth year of his reign was in 966 B.C.
 - ✦ This verse states that the Exodus took place 480 years earlier which would be 1446 B.C.
 - The temple was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high [v. 2].
 - ✦ A cubit is roughly 18 inches (1.5 feet).
 - ✦ Solomon's temple was relatively small.
 - The temple had a porch that added 15 more feet to its length [v. 3].
 - Three stories of side rooms were built around the main building [vv. 4-6].
 - ✦ There were windows in the main building, apparently above the side rooms [v. 4].
 - ✦ The main building contained the Holy Place (nave) and Holy of Holies (inner sanctuary) [v. 5].

- The materials for the temple were all prepared elsewhere made ready to assemble [v. 7].
 - ✦ The stones were precut at the quarry.
 - ✦ The lumber was precut and fitted as well.
 - ✦ This shows that Solomon had reverence for this project and did not want it to be a noisy construction site.
- The three floors of side rooms were connected by winding stairways and attached to the main building with timbers of cedar [vv. 8-10].
 - ✦ The temple faced east and the doorway to the side rooms was on the south side [v. 8].
 - ✦ The cedar beams that attached the side rooms did not go inside the main building [vv. 6, 10].
- During the construction of the temple God reaffirmed to Solomon the promise He had made to David [1 Kgs 6:11-13].
 - The promise made to David was to establish the throne of David's kingdom forever [2 Sam 7:13].
 - God will fulfill His promise to David through Christ.
 - God also promised Solomon fellowship and protection if Solomon obeyed the Lord [v. 13].
- The inside of the temple was covered with cedar and cypress wood [1 Kgs 6:14-18].
 - The walls were made of cedar and the floor was overlaid with cypress [v. 15].
 - The Holy of Holies was 30 feet long and the Holy Place was 60 feet long [vv. 16-17].
 - The cedar covered the entire walls inside and had carvings of gourds and flowers [v. 18].
- The inside of Holy of Holies was overlaid with pure gold [1 Kgs 6:19-22].
 - The Ark of the Covenant would be placed in the Holy of Holies [v. 19].
 - Gold chains were drawn across the front of the Holy of Holies [v. 21].
 - The Altar of Incense placed outside the Holy of Holies was also overlaid with gold [v. 22].
- Two cherubim were fashioned and placed in the Holy of Holies [1 Kgs 6:23-28].
 - The cherubim were 15 feet tall and made of olive wood [v. 23].
 - The wings of the cherubim stretched all the way across the Holy of Holies [v. 27].
 - The cherubim were also overlaid with gold [v. 28].
- The temple walls and floor were finished, and doors were added [1 Kgs 6:29-35].
 - The walls were decorated with carvings [v. 29].
 - The floor was overlaid with gold [v. 30].
 - Doors of olive wood were made for the Holy of Holies [vv. 31-32].
 - Doorposts of olive wood and doors of cypress were made for the Holy Place [vv. 33-35].
- A wall was constructed for the inner courtyard that surrounded the temple [1 Kgs 6:36].
 - This was the "courtyard of the priests" and was surrounded by an outer courtyard [2 Chr 4:9].
 - This wall separated the two courtyards.
- All-in-all, the construction of the temple took 7 1/2 years to complete [1 Kgs 6:37-38].