

Terumah: 1 Kings 5:26-6:13

After a tumultuous half millenium, the Israelite kingdom was finally prosperous and at peace under its king, Solomon. Succeeding his father, David, he solidified his rule, was blessed with divine wisdom during a prophetic encounter, organized the nation within, and struck alliances with neighbors¹. Solomon starts to fulfill David's greatest desire: to build a permanent House for God, as commanded in the Parashah. Continuing David's alliance with King Hiram of Tyre to the north, Solomon contracts for Hiram's skilled lumbermen to work with Israelites to cut and transport massive trees from "the Lebanon" to the sea for transport to Israel's Mediterranean coast.

The Haftarah begins by relating how Solomon's divine wisdom, like Bezalel's divine wisdom in building the Mishkan (Tabernacle), guides his work. In the spring of his fourth year as king, Solomon musters a massive workforce- more than 180,000 men²- to transport materials from across Israel and beyond. He covered the Temple in fine stones, high-quality wood, and precious metals. As in the Parashah, the Temple's size, campus, features, and materials are meticulously detailed. The Haftarah concludes as God enjoins Solomon to follow His laws. In turn, God will fulfill His promises to David, sustain the monarchy, and protect and, as stated in the Parashah, dwell among His people.³

Haftarah Breakdown

Verses 5:26-28: Solomon sends Israelite men to "the Lebanon" to work with Hiram's lumbermen.

I Kings 5:28	מלכים א ה:כ"ח
[Solomon] sent [30,000 men] to the Lebanon, in shifts of 10,000 per month. They were in the Lebanon for a month, and two months at home. Adoniram was over the levy.	וַיִּשְׁלַחֵם לְבָנוֹנָה עֲשָׂרַת אֲלָפִים בְּחֹדֶשׁ קְלִיפֹת חֹדֶשׁ יִהְיוּ בַלְבָּנוֹן שְׁנַיִם חֳדָשִׁים בְּבֵיתוֹ וְאֲדֹנִירָם עַל־הַמַּסִּ: {ס}

Verses 5:29-32: Solomon sends 150,000 other workers, along with 3,300 supervisors to enforce their work, to the mountains to quarry and transport large, valuable stones. His, Hiram's and other workers hew them for the Temple.

I Kings 5:31	מלכים א ה:ל"א
The king commanded, and they transported great stones, costly stones- to lay the foundation of the House with hewn stones.	וַיִּצְוֵה הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּסְעֻוּ אַבְנֵי־גְדֹלוֹת אַבְנֵי־יָקָרוֹת לִיסֹד הַבַּיִת אַבְנֵי־גִזִּית:

Verses 6:1-6: 480 years after the Exodus and four years into his reign, Solomon builds the Temple. The dimensions and windows of its main building are detailed, as are the dimensions of its interior and exterior walls.

I Kings 6:2	מלכים א ו:ב
The House which King Solomon built for the Lord- its length was sixty cubits, its breadth was twenty cubits, and its height was thirty cubits.	וְהַבַּיִת אֲשֶׁר בָּנָה הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה לַיהוָה שִׁשִּׁים־אַמָּה אָרְכוֹ וְעֶשְׂרִים רְחָבּוֹ וְשָׁלֹשִׁים אַמָּה קוֹמָתוֹ:

¹ See Haftarah Helper on [Chayei Sarah](#) and [Vayechi](#) for the contested transition of power from David to Solomon.

² For perspective, a recent [Study trac\[ing\] worldwide Jewish population from Exodus to modern age](#) estimates the total Israelite population at this time at 2,00,000.

³ With emendations, all translations are from [Sefaria.org](#). All images under Creative Commons license. To dedicate, comment, or subscribe, email haftarahhelper@gmail.com.

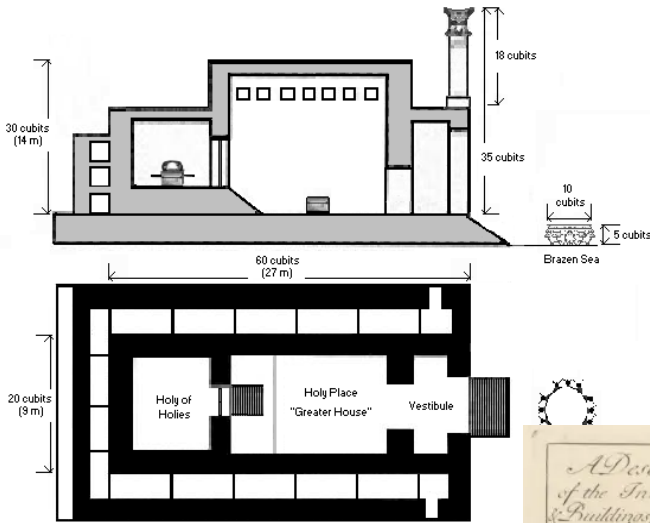
Verses 6:7-10: Expanding on the prohibition to use hewn stone for an Altar (Ex. 20:22), Solomon built his Temple of materials fashioned elsewhere. Additional building dimensions and the use of cedar wood are described.

I Kings 6:7	מלכים א ו:ז
As the House was being built, it was built of completed [and then] transported stone. Neither hammer nor ax nor iron tool was heard in the House as it was being built.	והבית בהגנתו אבן־שלמה מסע נבנה ומקבות והגרזן כל־כלי ברזל לא־נשמע בבית בהגנתו:

Verses 6:11-13: God tells Solomon that if he follows God’s ways, He will fulfill His promises to David, sustain the monarchy, and protect and dwell among His people.

I Kings 6:12	מלכים א ו:י"ב
[Regarding] this House you are building: If you follow My laws, perform my judgments, and keep all My commandments, walking in [their ways, then] I will fulfill for you the word [i.e., promise] that I spoke unto your father, David.	הבית הזה אשר־אתה בונה אם־תלך בקמתי ואת־משפטי תעשה ושמרת את־כל־מצותי ללכת בהם והקמתי את־דברי אלה אשר דברתי אל־דוד אביך:

Haftarah Architecture



As did the Mishkan before it, the Temple’s construction fulfilled the command, “Let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8) In both cases, this command is elaborated with great detail, including building dimensions, materials, building methods, and more. To the left is one presentation (a side view and a top view) of the building’s main features and dimensions. Other presentations differ in various ways, given uncertainties in the Biblical text.

Solomon’s Temple has captured the imaginations of countless Jews and gentiles over the millennia. To the right, for example, is its depiction, with accompanying notes, by famed mathematician and scientist, Issac Newton. His extensive writings about Solomon’s Temple are stored at the National Library of Israel.⁴

⁴ [The little known fascination Newton had with the Jewish Temple \(The Jerusalem Post\)](#)

