

Solomon's Contract With Hiram

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I, Solomon, was made King of Israel in Jerusalem in the stead of David, my father. And when my father would have built an house unto the LORD our God, he would not allow him, saying, "Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hath shed blood."

Nevertheless, because it pleased the LORD that it was in my father's heart to build him a house, he gave him the pattern for the house and its chambers and treasuries, its parlors, the oracle, the porch, and the courts thereof. Moreover, he gave him the orders of service for the priests and the Levites, and the pattern for the fashioning of the furniture of the house and for all the vessels of the ministry. He gave him the measure of the weight of gold for those things to be made of gold and the measure of the weight of silver for the things to be made of silver, for all the instruments of all manner of service before the LORD. "All this", said my father David, "The LORD made me to understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern." To this my father David added thousands of instruments of music which he cunningly invented to be used for the praise of our God, who dwells with his people, Israel.

And though the LORD forbade my father to build him an house, yet my father, according to the abundance of the wealth with which he was prospered of God, did gather together for the building of the house a great store of gold and silver and brass and iron and wood. And more, he gathered for the work of the house all manner of precious stone and marble stone in abundance. Also, of the spoils won in battles did my father dedicate to maintain the house of the LORD. And all that Samuel the seer, and Saul the son of Kish, and Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah, and all that the people had dedicated unto the LORD, was secured under the hand of Shelomith and his brethren. And even of his own goods did my father dedicate to the LORD much gold and silver, and he provoked by his example many of the elders and princes and captains and rulers in Israel to do the same. To wit, willingly of their own store to offer gold, silver, brass, iron, and precious stones to the treasure of the house of the LORD.

Then when my father had died, after that he had given me commandment concerning the building of the house of the LORD, I, Solomon, set about with my whole heart to build the house according to the pattern which was given to my father David by the LORD God of Israel.

And when I had sent messengers to Hiram, ruler of Tyre and friend of David my father, who built for my father a house, when he had begun to be king over all Israel, then did I, Solomon, agree with Hiram, ruler of Tyre, to the terms of the contract now described.

Contract

Solomon, the King of Israel, and governor of the inheritance of the LORD, the LORD God, whose mercy endureth forever, shall, for the business described, provide year by year to the household of Hiram, King of Tyre 20,000 measures of wheat and 20,00 baths of pure oil.

And for the laborers of the King of Tyre,
20,000 measures of beaten wheat,
20,000 measures of barley,
20,000 baths of wine,
20,000 baths of oil.

And at the completion of all the labor shall Solomon the King secure to the King of Tyre, even Hiram, the friend of David, **20 cities** of the territory of Galilee.

Furthermore, to accomplish with the servants of Hiram the labor required, shall Solomon the king provide:

10,000 Israelite servants each month to labor with the servants of Hiram in the manner of work as shall be determined.

70,000 Slaves from among the strangers who dwell among the Israelites to hew timber in the mountains of Lebanon.

80,000 Slaves from among the strangers who dwell among the Israelites to bear burdens, to such an extent and in such places as shall be determined, whether bearing sustenance for the laborers, or whether bearing trees of Lebanon from the mountains to the coast or from Joppa to Jerusalem, or whether bearing algum trees and gold from Ezion-geber, or whether bearing the great stones from their place to Mount Moriah, or the brass works of Hiram from the clay ground between Succoth and Zarathan, or whatever burdens there may be.

3,600 Overseers over these slaves, from among the strangers which dwell in Israel, shall be available.

IT SHALL BE OF HIRAM'S PART to provide, from the mountains of Lebanon, cedar and fir trees for the house of the LORD God of Israel. The servants of the King of Tyre shall with the servants of Solomon, King of Israel, hew down and carry the trees to the sea, and from there shall Hiram's servants float them along the coast southward to the coast of Israel, to the port Joppa, where Hiram's servants shall discharge them. And from Joppa shall the servants of Solomon the King transport the cedar and fir trees to the place which God has chosen to put his name there, even Jerusalem, the city of the great king.

For the algum trees and for gold which the pattern of the house requires, Hiram shall provide ships and shipmen sufficient to the task, and shall by that means effect the delivery of algum wood and gold of Ophir to Ezion-geber, from which port shall the servants of Solomon direct the transport of the goods into the land of Israel.

Solomon shall also provide Israelite servants to go with the shipmen of Hiram that have knowledge of the sea, to sail to Ophir for the alghum wood and gold required. Also shall Solomon provide a navy of ships and shipmen to sail with the navy of Hiram to go to Tharshish for the goods there to be obtained.

Solomon shall also provide artisans, wise men cunning in their craft, to labor as Hiram's master craftsman shall direct in the castings and carvings of gold and silver, of brass and of iron, and in the weaving of cunning work in purple, crimson, and blue.

So shall Hiram, King of Tyre, direct his own master craftsman to the labor of work with brass, for the works of brass which the pattern of the house requires is great. The measure of the weight of brass which must be used cannot be found out.

So also shall Hiram employ the Giblites, renowned workers in stone, to labor with Solomon's builders in the hewing of great, hewed stones, and in costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house, and for the rows of stone in the great court and for the inner court and for the porch which is before the house of the LORD. The stones shall be sawed and shaped in another place and afterwards transported to the place of the house. There shall no hammer or axe or tool of iron be heard in the house while it is in building.

It shall be the part of Solomon's servants to fashion the furniture and vessels of ministry within the house, with the brass altar which is before the house, seeing all those things are holy unto the LORD. Hiram's servant shall not labor upon the furniture of the house, nor the vessels of the ministry, nor the altar that is before the house, nor yet upon the doors or hinges of the doors of the holy place and of the most holy. They are holy. Therefore Hiram's servants shall not labor thereon, but the servants of Solomon shall fashion them according to the pattern which by the LORD was given to David for Solomon his son.

So shall all things be accomplished for the house; all things shall be done according to the pattern given to David by the LORD. There shall nothing be added to nor taken from the pattern.

Such was the manner of the agreement which I, Solomon, made with Hiram concerning the building of the house of my God. In the fourth year of my reign, in the second month, on the second day, I Solomon began to build the house of my God to worship him and to praise him for his greatness, and to offer sacrifices unto his name. And in the eleventh year of my reign, in the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, according to the pattern which was given.

Thus have I, Solomon, done as the LORD commanded my father David. As the LORD has commanded, so I have done. In the house and the oracle, in the porch and in the courts of the LORD, whose name shall be called there. There is nothing left undone of all that the LORD God of Israel commanded. And the LORD God accepted the labor of my hands and sanctified it to himself and received the dedication sacrifices which were offered, with fire from heaven, and has dwelled in his house as he has said, that all the people may know that the LORD is the God of heaven and of earth, and that he has chosen Israel as his portion forever, even Israel, for his mercy endureth forever.

שֶׁנֶחֱמַד לְבָנוֹת הַבַּיִת
וְהַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְהַמִּקְדָּשׁ
וְהַמִּשְׁכָּן וְהַמִּשְׁכָּן