–Save This Page as a PDF–

Hiram, a Master Craftsman
First Kings 7:13-14 and Second Chronicles 4:11

Hiram, a master craftsman DIG: Who was Hiram? Why was he an ideal worker for this project? Who else does he sound like in the Bible? What does that say about the Ruach Ha'Kodesh?

REFLECT: What is your spiritual gift? How are you currently using it? How do you feel when exercising your gift? Has God given you any "heavenly assignments lately? Are you willing?

Solomon sent for Hiram and brought him from Tyre.

The people of **Tyre** were famous for their skill in working with metal. The most famous of them all was **Hiram** – not the king, but a different man of the same name. Strangely enough, although **Hiram** was from **Tyre, his** mother was Jewish. **He was the son of a widow who was of the daughters of Dan (Second Chronicles 2:13),** but **her** deceased first husband was **from the tribe of Naftali, but he** had remarried and **his father-in-law was from Tyre.** This detail may have been provided to reassure us that **Hiram** was not simply a Gentile with no Israelite roots. The fact that **his** mother was **a widow**, indeed, leaves open the possibility that **he** was a child of her first marriage, and therefore completely Jewish. But the most important thing to know about **him** is not **his** ethnic background, or **his** family connection to **the people of God**, but **his** gift as **a** master **craftsma**n who designed the furniture in **Solomon's Temple. Solomon sent for Hiram and brought him from Tyre.**[133]

He was a bronze-worker filled with wisdom, understanding and skill for all kinds of bronze craftsmanship. Second Chronicles 2:14 adds that **he was likewise skilled in working with gold, silver, iron, wood and various dyes of fine linen. He came to King Solomon and did all his bronze work (First Kings 7:13-14).** Notice that **Solomon** not only utilized the finest materials, but **he** also spared no expense in hiring the finest workmen, and **Hiram's** craftsmanship was a **God**-given talent.[134]



The language that **First Kings** uses to describe **his** artistic gift is virtually identical to the language **Exodus** uses to describe two other famous artisans: **Bezalel and Oholiab**, who were the leading architects and interior designers for **the Tabernacle** that **Moses** built in the wilderness. **Bezalel and Oholiab** were **filled with the Spirit of God, with the ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft (Exodus 31:3-5).** The author wanted his readers to know that a man of similar skill was now on the job.



Hiram made a bronze altar thirty feet square and fifteen feet high (Second Chronicles 4:11). As you approached **the Temple** from the east, you came to the entrance to the courtyard of the priests. It was to this entrance, at the Nicanor Gate, that the people brought their sacrifices and offerings to be presented to **the LORD**.

On the right, toward the north, stood **the bronze altar**, where the fire was kept burning and the priests offered the sacrifices **(First Kings 8:64** and **9:25; Exodus 27:1-8)**.[135] As the population of the nation grew, so did the size of the bronze altar. In **the Tabernacle, the bronze altar** was only **seven-and-a-half feet square and four-and-a-half-feet high (Exodus 27:1).** But the time Herod's **Temple** was built **the bronze altar** had grown to an incredible **fifty-two-and-a-half feet square and sixteen-and-a-half feet high**. This was necessary because of the sheer volume of sacrifices and offerings being made daily by the whole nation.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Wow! **The bronze altar** of sacrifice was **thirty feet square** – the size of some homes! When planning the layout of a building – if something is important – it is given much space. You guided **Solomon** in **the Temple** design. **You** placed much emphasis on being clean from sins by making **the altar** so huge. People could smell the burning of the sacrificial animals in the Temple Court. It would have left a big impression on the mind as to how awful sin is and that only thru the shedding of blood could it be forgiven. It clearly showed that no one may approach a holy **God** without their sins covered by a sacrifice. **He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, so that it will be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf (Leviticus 1:4).***

*Too often today, people do not respect **Your** Holiness and Almighty power. They think they can talk to **You** as if **You** are just one of us. They forget how powerful **You** are and that **You** are **King of Kings (Revelation 19:16). Your** ways are so far above our thoughts and understandings **(Isaiah 55:9). You** are perfectly Holy, All-knowing, All-Wise and an All-Caring **God**! I bow in wonder and in awe of **You**!*

*How grateful we are that **You** choose to make **Yourself** the lamb of sacrifice to take the punishment for our sins. **The next day, John sees Yeshua coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)!** What great love **You** have to give me **Yeshua's** righteousness so that I could come to live with **You** in **Your** holy home in heaven! **He made the One who knew no sin to become a sin offering on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Second Corinthians 5:21).** I love **You** and delight to follow and obey **You**. In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

Whenever it was time to build a house for **God**, be it **the Tabernacle** or **the Temple**, **ADONAI** gave certain people the gift and calling to do the job. Today, **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** gives each believer at least one spiritual gift when we are

saved. Usually it ends up being one strong gift and a lesser secondary gift (see the commentary on **First Corinthians, to see link click Ci – The Source and Purpose of Spiritual Gifts**). You know you are operating within the giftedness of **the Spirit** by the joy it brings you and the fruit it produces.

Hiram fulfilled his **God**-given calling as an artist by making beautiful furniture for **Solomon's Temple** in Jerusalem. We do not know enough about him to be certain whether he had saving faith in **the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**. But what we do know is that everything **Hiram** made testified to the goodness of **ADONAI** and can help us understand how **the Spirit of God** wants to furnish our souls with **His** grace.[136]