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Ten Mobile Bronze Wash-Carts First Kings 7:27-39 and Second Chronicles 4:6

Ten mobile bronze wash-carts **DIG**: What was the purpose of the ten mobile bronze wash-carts? Why did God require so much washing? What did water represent in such an arid land?

REFLECT: If you could tackle any task for ADONAI, what would you like to do and why? Does your place of worship offer everything you need to use your spiritual gift(s)?

We need God's cleansing every day.



Hiram's third project was to make **ten** beautifully decorated **bronze mobile wash-carts** to be filled with **water** from the **Bronze Sea** (to see link click [Bf - The Bronze Sea](#)) that was needed for various **Temple** rituals. **Each one is seven feet long, seven feet wide, and five-and-a-quarter feet high** (to see a video of **Solomon's Temple in 3D** click [here](#)). They were designed with panels that were set between the corner-posts, and on the panels between the corner-posts were lions, oxen and priests and cherubim. The corner-posts above were similarly designed. Below the lions and oxen were wreaths of hammered work. Every wash-cart had four bronze wheels and bronze axles, and its four legs each had cast supports which were under the bronze basin,

with wreaths next to each. The opening was a circular ring on top **of the wash-cart into which an eighteen inch basin was inserted; the stand was round, resembling a pedestal, and it was two-and-a-half feet in diameter (First Kings 7:27-33).**

On the stand were carvings, and the outside was square, not round. The four wheels were under the panels, and the axles for the wheels were attached to the wash-carts; each wheel was two-and-a-half feet. The wheels were made like chariot wheels; their axles, rims, spokes and hubs were all cast metal. Since the wash-carts were on wheels, they could be used in different parts of the Temple court. There were four supports at the four corners of each wash-cart; the supports were attached to the wash-cart itself. In the top of the wash-cart was a circular support ten-and-a-half inches high, and the wash-cart's corner-posts and panels were attached to its top. Even these utterly functional objects were given elegance, style, and beauty. **Hiram decorated the sides of the panels with carved cherubim, lions and palm trees, with wreaths surrounding. According to this design he made the ten mobile bronze wash-carts; all of them were cast from a single mold, so that they had the same size and shape.** Holy objects in **Solomon's Temple** were useful *and* attractive **(First Kings 7:34-37).**¹⁴³

Hiram designed the wash-carts to hold a smaller basin for washing; each basin's capacity was two-hundred-twenty gallons of water and had a diameter of seven feet; there was a basin for each of the ten wash-carts. The wash-carts were kept in the Court of the Priests right next to the Temple, five of the wash-basins on the south side of the house and five on the north side. The dirty water could then be wheeled away and disposed of in a proper place and the wash-carts could then be filled again with clean water from the Bronze Sea. Their purpose was to supply water for the ritual rinsing of animal sacrifices and the removal of blood and refuse from the area around the Bronze Altar. But the Bronze Sea itself was to be used by the priests for washing. Solomon placed it on the right side of the Temple, toward the southeast (First Kings 7:38-39; 2 Chronicles 4:6). Notice that in **Ezeki'el's Temple** the river flows from the **southeastern corner (Ezeki'el 47:1-2).**¹⁴⁴

The huge amount of **water** in all these **basins** shows that **ADONAI** has an all-encompassing concern for personal **holiness**. At **the Temple**, cleanliness really was "next to godliness," because in order to perform their sacred duties, **Solomon's** priests had to keep themselves ceremonially pure through ritual **cleansing**. So in order to do their kingdom work at **the Temple of God**, both the priests and the sacrifices needed to be **washed in water**. First, they **washed** themselves **(Leviticus 16:4)**, but they also **washed** the animals they

presented as clean offerings to **the LORD** (see the commentary on [Leviticus Ah](#) - **The Offerings from the People's Perspective**).

God's priests still need **cleansing** today, except that there are two major differences. The first difference is that now all of **God's** people are priests. In the days of **Solomon** only the descendants of Aaron could perform priestly duties, but today **ADONAI** has a whole Kingdom of priests. Every believer in **Yeshua Messiah** has been called into the holy service of **YHVH. Ha'Shem** is building us into **a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Yeshua Messiah (First Peter 2:5)**. Now that the atonement has been made for our **sins** through **Messiah's** sacrifice on the cross, there is no further need for us to offer **God** any more animal sacrifices. But we do offer **Him** the sacrifice of our praise, with a life given to **His** holy service. Our priestly duty is to proclaim the Gospel to the world and to pray for people who need **God's** saving grace.

In order to offer **ADONAI** service that is truly holy, we must be clean, which brings us to the second major difference between **Solomon's Temple** and the invisible, universal Church of **Yeshua Messiah. The cleansing at the Temple** was only skin deep; it **washed** the outside of the priest's body. But now that we have become **the temple of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (First Corinthians 6:19)** - the place where **God** dwells - **the cleansing** takes place right inside of us. The various **washings** that went on at **the Temple** could not **perfect the conscience of the worshiper (Hebrews 9:9)**. But now, the great sea of **God's cleansing** grace is furnished to our souls. Through faith in **Messiah, the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** makes our hearts clean from **sin**.

We need **cleansing** every day - not just the day we were saved, but every day we **sin** and need to be forgiven. Every day. **God** declares that **the blood of Yeshua His Son cleanses us from all sin (First John 1:7)**. We receive this cleansing at the very moment we trust in **Messiah** for our salvation (see the commentary on [The Life of Christ Bw](#) - **What God Does For Us at the Moment of Faith**). **The blood** that **Yeshua** shed on the cross gives us spiritual **cleansing** from all the guilty stains of our **sin**. Yet, we continue to **sin**, and therefore we continue to need our **Savior's cleansing**, not as a matter of salvation, but as part of the holy work of **the Spirit** in making us holy for the service of **God. He** has promised us that **the blood of Messiah will purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14)**

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **Your** wisdom in showing to the Israelites that before the lamb was killed as a sacrifice to atone for sins, purity of the one making the sacrifice was important. People live in a busy world with so many things to do and to go to. Time is*

*squeezed between earning a living at a job and handling the many family activities and needs. **You** deserve great respect and honor! Worship of **You** is so crucial. When we can meet openly in congregations of **God** that is good to do, but we must first have our hearts washed clean by **the blood of Jesus who purifies us from all sin (First John 1:7)**.*

*Praise **You** for how great the cost for **You** to cleanse me by **Your** own pain and shame of death on a cross. Praise **You** that it was not an afterthought to have **Yeshua** die, but **You** planned it even before **You** created the world! **He chose us in the Messiah before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before Him in love. . . He made known to us the mystery of His will, in keeping with His good pleasure that He planned in Messiah. The plan of the fullness of times is to bring all things together in the Messiah - both things in heaven and things on earth, all in Him (Eph 1:4, 9-10)**. I am so humbled by **Your** love and **Your** washing me clean. I desire to abide in **You** so that I can bear much fruit to please **You**. **I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for apart from Me, you can do nothing (John 15:5)**. In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

When believers **sin**, we sometimes start to doubt whether **ADONAI** can still accept our service. But whenever we are tempted by these doubts, we need to remember the furniture **God** has provided for our souls. As often as we **sin**, there is cleansing for our forgiveness in the face of **God's** grace: **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (First John 1:9)**. Knowing the promise of forgiveness encourages and enables us to obey the Bible's command for our sanctification: **Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God (Second Corinthians 7:1)**.¹⁴⁵