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The Gold Furniture of Solomon's Temple
First Kings 7:48-51 and Second Chronicles 4:7-10

The gold furniture of the Temple DIG: Why was it necessary for the Ruach Ha'Kodesh to record for us the furniture of the Temple? Which took longer to build, the Temple or Solomon's palace? Why? From its construction what seems to be the function of this palace?

REFLECT: Are you involved in a project taking "years to finish?" Does faith make a difference? Do you resent other people "living like kings?" Why? What does Yeshua Messiah say about such power displays (see Matthew 20:25-28). How is your soul well furnished?

Is your soul well furnished?



Solomon had all the objects made of gold that were inside the house of ADONAI. Here, **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh** makes a clear distinction between **Solomon** and **Hiram** (**to see link click Bd – Hiram, a Master Craftsman**) where the furniture of **gold** and **bronze** are concerned. **Hiram** only takes responsibility for the work in **bronze**; it is **Solomon** who is in charge of the work in **gold**. **Hiram** may have been **full of wisdom and understanding and knowledge himself,** and a worthy successor to **Bezalel and Ohaliab** (see the commentary on **Exodus Ew –**

The Appointment of Bezalel and Ohaliab), but **the Ruach** is anxious that we should remember who is the foremost picture of those qualities (see **As – Solomon's Wish**). At the close of the account about building **the Temple**, as it was in the beginning, the spotlight falls on **Solomon**.[148]

First, the golden altar of incense (see the commentary on **Exodus Fp – Altar of Incense in the Sanctuary: Christ, Our Advocate with the Father**)**.** In effect, the high priest was approaching the mercy seat – the very place where **YHVH** answers **prayer**. As the incense rose from that **gold altar**, it ascended to heaven with **his prayers**. In the words of King **David**, referring to the worship of **Isra'el's** priests: **Let my prayer be counted as incense before You, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice (Psalm 141:2; Rev 5:8** and **8:3-4).**

ADONAI has furnished us with **a golden altar** for **prayer** in the power of **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh**. **Yeshua** said that **His house** should **be called a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13)**. If our souls have become **His temple** by the indwelling of **the Spirit of God**, then our lives should be full of **prayer**. Every time we receive any blessing from **the LORD** – even something as simple as a good meal – our **prayers** of thanksgiving should rise like sacred incense. Every time we see someone in need, our **prayers** of intercession should be lifted up like the arms of a holy priest. Every time we are feeling anxious or guilty, we should ask **God** to send **His** merciful help from heaven. In this way, we make our heart an **altar** of **prayer**.[149]

Second, there were ten tables of gold on which the showbread was displayed, five on the right and five on the left (First Kings 7:48; First Chronicles 28:16; Second Chronicles 4:8a). Every week the priests put twelve loaves of sacred **bread** on this **golden table**, presumably to represent the twelve tribes of Isra'el. **The bread** was a reminder of the provision of **ADONAI**. The same **God** who gave **His** children manna in the wilderness, continued to provide life-giving **bread**. **The bread** was also a sign of **God's** presence, and of **His** desire to have fellowship with **His** people. Each week the priests would eat this sacred bread in the presence of **YHVH (Leviticus 24:9)**, sharing their table fellowship with their covenant **God.**[150]

The table of **bread** is yet another way **ADONAI** furnishes our souls with **His** grace, for **God** still gives **bread** to **His** people. **Yeshua** said that **He Himself** is **the bread of life**, (see the commentary on **Exodus Fo – The Bread of the Presence in the**

Sanctuary: Christ, the Bread of Life). The true **bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world (John 6:33** and **35).** If we have received **Messiah** by faith, our souls will never go hungry again. In the same way that **bread** gives us physical life, **Yeshua** gives us spiritual life forever. We are reminded of this every time we eat the daily **bread** we pray for **God** to provide **(Matthew 11)**, or eat **the bread** of the **Lord's** Supper, where **Messiah** feeds our souls with **the bread** of **His** grace.[151]

Third, Solomon made ten menorahs of pure gold. The Tabernacle in the wilderness had only one **menorah** (see the commentary on **Exodus Fn – The Lampstand in the Sanctuary: Christ, the Light of the World**). But **the Temple** was bigger, so **Solomon** installed **five menorahs on the right and five menorahs on the left in front of the Most Holy Place. They** were placed there for three reasons; first, providing light in a dark place because **the Holy Place** had no windows, secondly, it added beauty to the room, and thirdly, it symbolized the concept of life through both the tree of life and light.[152] And on them were **the flowers, lamps and tongs of gold. And he** also **made of pure gold the cups, snuffers, incense pans, fire pans, and hundreds of basins** for the various rituals in **the Temple (First Kings 7:49; Second Chronicles 4:7-8b and 20-22a).**

Now we see **the light** of **ADONAI** in the person of **Yeshua Messiah**. The same **Yeshua** who said that **He** was **the bread of life**, also said that **He** was **the light of the world** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Gr – I AM the Light of the World**). **Yeshua Messiah** is the true light who enlightens **everyone entering the world** – **the Light** has come into a dark world for our salvation **(John 1:9)**. When we put our trust in **Him**, **the light** of **God** starts to illuminate every dark corner of our lives. **Messiah** gives us **the light** that shows us the truth, uncovers our sin, reveals the right path for us to take in life, and makes us shine for **God** in a dark world.[153]

As for the entryway to the house, the hinges for the inner doors for the Most Holy Place and the doors of the Sanctuary were of gold. Solomon made the courtyard for the priests and the great outer courtyard, also the doors to the courtyard, which he overlaid with bronze. The Sea he placed on the right side of the Sanctuary, toward the southeast (First Kings 7:50; Second Chronicles 4:9-10 and 22b).

Thus, all the work that King Solomon did in the house of ADONAI was

finished. After this, he brought in the gifts which David his father had dedicated — the silver, the gold and the utensils — and put them in the treasuries of the house of ADONAI (First Kings 7:51: Second Chronicles 5:1). Solomon honored **his father's** long term commitment to **ADONAI** and **His house**. Thus, **his** faith continued to be a witness to **Isra'el** and to the readers of **First** and **Second Kings**.

This is the way that **God** wants to furnish our souls; with stability like **the** mighty **pillars** (see **Be – Two Bronze Pillars**), with the cleansing grace of **the Bronze Sea** (see **Bf – The Bronze Sea**), with **prayer** like rising incense, with spiritual food like holy **bread**, and with shining light like a Sanctuary full of holy **menorahs**. Is your soul well furnished? If so, then use the furniture **ADONAI** has given you, making it part of everyday life. When life seems to be falling apart, and you are not sure how much longer you can stand, remember that **Yeshua Messiah** is your pillar of strength. When you are defeated by sin and feeling so unworthy that you doubt there is anything you can do for **God**, remember that the blood of **Messiah** purifies you from all sin. Use the spiritual furniture that **the LORD** has given you every day. Go to the sweet **altar** of **prayer**. Feed on **His bread** and live by **the light** of **His Word**.[154]