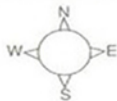


SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



A structure was built around the walls of the temple containing three levels. The lower chamber was 7.5 feet (2.3 m) wide, the middle chamber was 8 feet (2.4 m) wide, and the upper chamber was 11.5 feet (3.5 m) wide (1 King 6:5-6, 8, 10).

Two ornate wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the three sanctuaries from the nave (1 King 6:31-32).

The nave had clerestory windows with recessed frames (1 King 6:4).

The nine sanctuaries (or table Holy Place) were 8 feet (2.4 m) cube (1 King 6:15-26, 2 Chron. 2:8-16). Each shrine was often devoted in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubs were on either side of the altar, each 15 feet (4.6 m) tall with 15 feet (4.6 m) wingspan (1 King 6:23-26). The gap of the opening was between the two cherubs (1 King 6:11-11, 2 Chron. 3:2-16).

The nave (or Holy Place) was 40 feet (12.2 m) long and 30 feet (9.1 m) wide (1 King 6:15, 17-18, 2 Chron. 3:5-15). It contained the golden altar for incense, the golden table for the bread of the Presence, and two golden lampstands, two on the north and two on the south (1 King 7:48-49, 2 Chron. 4:7).

Ten bronze wheeled stands and basins held water for rinsing off what was used for the burnt offerings (1 King 7:27-30, 2 Chron. 4:6).

The vestibule was 10 feet (3.1 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep (1 King 6:5, 2 Chron. 3:4).

The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "Baal," and the one on the south was called "Jachin" (1 King 7:21, 2 Chron. 3:17).

Two ornate wooden, folding doors, overlaid with gold, separated the nave from the vestibule (1 King 6:35-36).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet (4.6 m) high and 30 feet (9.1 m) long and wide (2 Chron. 4:1).

Temple Floor Plan



SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build "the house of the Lord" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the spring of 967 or 966 B.C. (1 King 6:1, 2 Chron. 3:1-2) and completed it seven years later in the fall of 960 or 959 B.C. (1 King 6:38). The temple itself, not including the surrounding chambers on three sides, was 90 feet (27.4 m) long, 30 feet (9.1 m) wide, and 45 feet (13.7 m) high. It stood in the middle of a court with boundary walls.

The "Sea" was a metal basin 15 feet (4.6 m) tall and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons (45,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 King 7:23-26, 2 Chron. 4:2-5).





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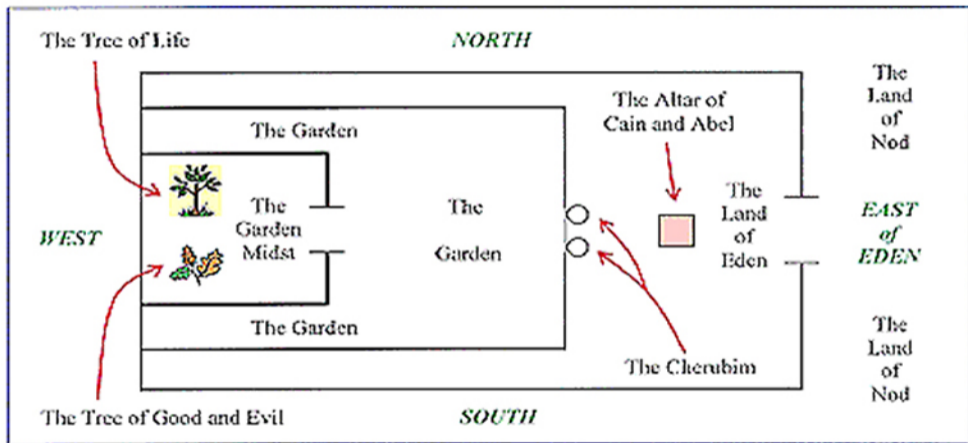


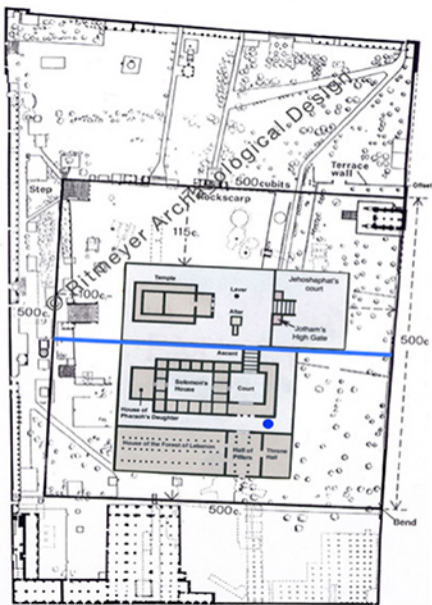
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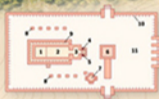
Holy of Holies

26





TEMPLE AREA IN SOLOMON'S TIME



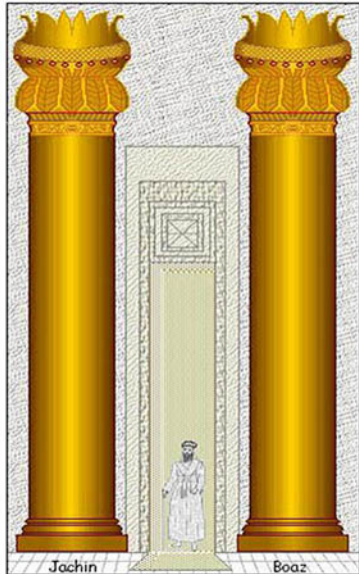
TEMPLE FEATURES

1. Most Holy
2. Holy
3. Porch
4. Boaz
5. Jachin
6. Copper Altar
7. Molten Sea
8. Carriages
9. Side Chambers
10. Dining Rooms
11. Inner Courtyard

In time, Jerusalem expanded to the west and north. Judean kings after Solomon added walls and gates. Ongoing archaeological research may shed light on the exact line and extent of some parts of the walls. The city was destroyed in 607 B.C.E. and remained desolate for 70 years. About 80 years after the Jews' return, Nehemiah embarked on an extensive rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls.



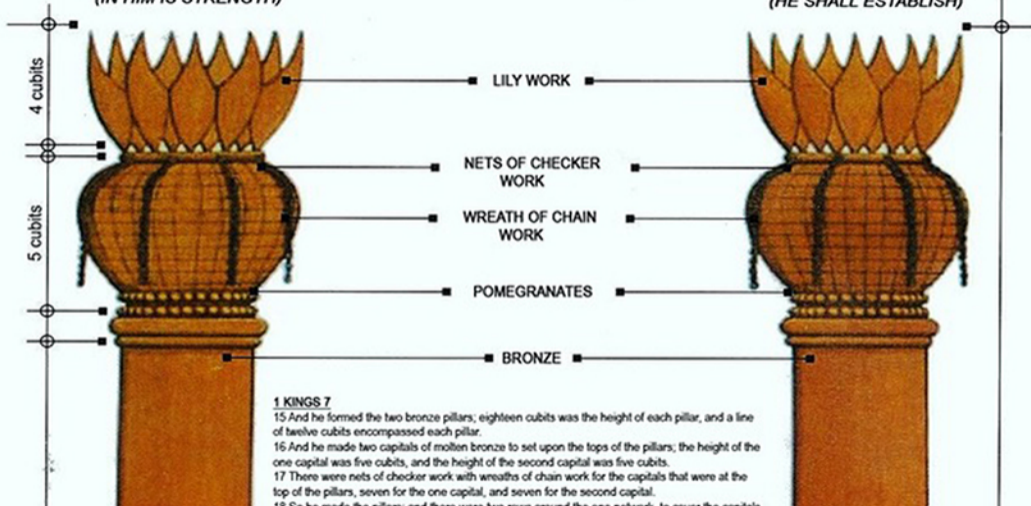
En map



The bronze pillars before the porch of Solomon's Temple. On the right was Jachin; on the left Boaz – *1 Kings 7:21*

(IN HIM IS STRENGTH)

(HE SHALL ESTABLISH)



1 KINGS 7

15 And he formed the two bronze pillars; eighteen cubits was the height of each pillar, and a line of twelve cubits encompassed each pillar.

16 And he made two capitals of molten bronze to set upon the tops of the pillars; the height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the second capital was five cubits.

17 There were nets of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals that were at the top of the pillars, seven for the one capital, and seven for the second capital.

18 So he made the pillars; and there were two more around the one pillar, to cover the capitals.