

**1. When the first temple was built during the reign of King Solomon, there was a massive list of stones and timber needed to construct the temple, not to mention thousands of workers.**

- a. Hiram, King of Tyre was a good friend of David and loved Him, he therefore committed to sending as much timber as was needed, and men to work side by side with the men of Israel in the construction of the temple.
- b. Cedar and Fir trees (as many as Solomon needed) were cut down and floated southward in the Mediterranean Sea to Joppa. 2 Chronicles 2:16
  - i. Once the timber landed at Joppa, it was transported 33 miles overland to the temple site in Jerusalem.
- c. From Israel, Solomon sent up a labor force of 30,000 men. 10,000 every month would travel to Lebanon to work, and then home for 2 months.
- d. Solomon assigned 70,000 burden bearers, men who carried and transported the building materials to the site, 80,000 hewers of stone, who cut great stones out of the mountain quarries, and 3,300 superintendents or foremen over the work. (Supervisors).

**2. The timber and stones were measured and made completely ready and finished in the field before they were brought to the temple site.**

- a. These great stones when they were pulled out of the mountains and out of the earth were unfit for use in the temple. The same with timber.
- b. These great stones were filthy, rough, and uncut, of no use when they were taken out of the earth. They had no shape, they were full of jagged and sharp edges, and they were rough and unpolished.
- c. Once the workers removed them from the quarries, they were measured, cut, and chiseled with hammers and axes, shaped to fit. Then they were sanded, ground, and polished until each stone was completely made ready to be brought to Jerusalem and fitted and joined to the precise location determined by the architect and builder.
- d. The quarry was a noisy place of activity. Each stone had men devoted to it to prepare it, to cut it to size, to chisel off the sharp edges, and remove any blemishes that would detract from the temple.
- e. All this work was accomplished in the field, at the quarries, no tool touched any stone once the stone arrived in Jerusalem to be fitted in the temple.
  - i. Proverbs 24:27: "Prepare thy work without (outside, away from the construction site), and make it fit for thyself in the field; afterwards build thy house". 1 Kings 6:7

**3. What can we learn from the silent building of the temple?**

- a. Just as the trees were cut down, and great stones were pulled out of the quarries of the earth, and then they were measured, cut, and chiseled with axes and hammers, and polished to fit into the temple,
- b. So, you child of God, when God pulled you out of the quarries of this world and saved you from your sins, He then began to make you fit for heaven.
- c. So, God took hold of you by the hammer of His Word, and He began to break off your sharp edges, your wrong attitudes, and your evil thoughts, and He began the process of conforming you to the image of Christ and to be fitted for heaven.
- d. Beloved, God will continue to shape, chisel, break off your jagged edges, and sand, and polish you until you are ready to be silently fitted and joined into the temple in heaven.  
*Ephesians 2:19-22, Isaiah 28:16*
- e. As the stones in Solomon's day were completely transformed before they were brought to the temple site, the sanctification and transformation of your life will not cease until the day when you are transported to the New Jerusalem in heaven.

**4. Next: I want you to see that every tree and every stone had to be brought from afar, from a great distance to the temple site.**  
**Ephesians 2:12-13**

- a. If God had not drawn you to Himself, dug you out of this world like these stones were, and then carried and transported you to Himself, you would not have come.
- b. You would have laid there in the world like one of these dead and lifeless stones, covered in earth. Your roots would have remained in the world like the great cedar and fir trees before they were cut down for the temple.
- c. Christian, after God saved you, He set you on your long journey to Zion's heavenly shores. You are traveling from afar, but with every passing day, your salvation is nearer than when you believed!
- d. When you were lost, you were at a great distance from God and His heaven, but now in Christ, you will (in God's time) be safely conveyed to His eternal Kingdom. All the while in your journey passing through this world, God is doing His work in you and fashioning you for heaven!
  - i. *Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 13:14, 1 Peter 1:13-17, Don't miss also that there were Jews and Gentiles all together building Solomon's temple. And so in heaven's temple will be built with people from every nation, kindred, tribe, and tongue.*

**5. That brings us to the most amazing thing about the construction of the temple, it was built in silence.**

- a. God would have His house built in silence! To be in the presence of God as His house is being built certainly commands our silence.
- b. Dear Christian, God is doing His work in you now, when you pass from this world into God's heaven, there will be no

hammers, chisels, saws, or axes, and no more cleansing, sanctifying, suffering or affliction, you will have no more jagged and sharp edges, for God will have completed His work in you; you will be a precious and costly, fitted, lively, and polished stone for His temple in heaven!

Revelation 21:1-10

- i. Submit yourselves therefore to God and to His work that He is doing in your life. Jude 24