

A Picture of Worship and Preparation

(v.1) “Moreover he made a bronze altar: twenty cubits¹ was its length, twenty cubits its width, and ten cubits its height.”

Solomon built a massive bronze altar—30 feet by 30 feet, and 15 feet high. This altar was where the sacrifices would be offered. It speaks of surrender, atonement, and drawing near to God.

Personal Application:

Have I built an "altar" in my life where I regularly come to surrender my will, confess my sins, and offer my life to God in worship? The size of this altar reminds me that worship isn't small—it should be central, intentional, and significant in my life.

(v.2–5) A huge bronze basin, called the Sea, was crafted. It was 15 feet across, 7.5 feet deep, and held about 24,000 gallons of water. It sat on twelve bronze oxen—three facing each direction. The basin was beautifully decorated with lilies and had a rim like the brim of a cup.

Personal Application:

This basin was for the priests to cleanse themselves before ministering. It's a reminder that purity matters when serving the Lord. Today, as believers, we are called a “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9), and we need daily cleansing—not from a basin of water, but through confession and the Word of God (John 15:3). Am I coming before God with clean hands and a pure heart?

(v.6–7) Ten smaller basins were made to wash the utensils used in sacrifices. Ten golden lampstands and ten tables were placed in the temple, along with one hundred golden bowls.

Personal Application:

These tools were used for service and needed to be clean, holy, and ready. Likewise, my talents, time, and resources should be available and prepared for God's use. The golden lampstands remind me to be a light in a dark world (Matthew 5:14–16), and the tables—places of fellowship—challenge me to be hospitable and open to others.

(v.8–18) The courtyard, doors, and all the furnishings were overlaid with bronze or made of pure gold. Every item was made in abundance, with excellence, and nothing was neglected. Hiram, the craftsman, completed all his work for Solomon, fashioning even the smallest details—like shovels and basins.

Personal Application:

God is a God of beauty and detail. Nothing in the temple was thrown together; it was all carefully crafted. In my own life, am I serving the Lord with that same spirit of excellence, even in the small things? Colossians 3:23 reminds us: **“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”**

¹ Cubit equals approximately 18 inches.

(v.19–22) Everything made for the temple—lamps, tongs, bowls, spoons—was pure gold. Every tool used in worship was designed with intentionality, made of the best materials, and reserved for God's service.

Personal Application:

God deserves the best of me, not my leftovers. He deserves pure devotion, not half-hearted effort. What am I offering Him today? My thoughts? My words? My hands? May everything I do be “pure gold” in His sight—refined by faith and love.

Final Thought:

This chapter may seem like a list of materials and dimensions, but it reveals God's heart for worship, preparation, and excellence. It reminds me that worship isn't just about singing a song—it's about sacrifice, purity, light, and service. Just as Solomon prepared the temple for God's presence, I want my life to be a place where He is welcomed, honored, and glorified.