# The Human Source: The Construction Budget and Crew

The building of the temple was assigned to David's son Solomon whose name means "his peace," indicating that the temple was to be constructed in a time of peace by a man of peace. However, David was permitted to make preparations for his son. As with the preparations for the tabernacle, preparations for the temple were done through raising the necessary financial contributions from the people. The tribal leaders of Israel contributed generously, and David as well gave much from his own royal treasury. Together David and the people donated gold, refined silver, bronze, iron, and numerous precious stones (1 Chronicles 29:1–9).

	DAVID'S ROYAL TREASURY	LEADERS OF ISRAEL	TOTAL
Gold	100 tons	170 tons	270 tons
Silver	235 tons	340 tons	575 tons
Bronze	_	610 tons	610 tons
Iron	_	3,400 tons	3,400 tons

(Weights approximate; based on the metric ton)

When King Solomon assumed the task of construction, he knew a massive crew would be needed to fulfill his seven-year building plan.

- Solomon contracted with King Hiram of Tyre to furnish the building materials and skilled craftsmen to complete the job. (Tyre was an ancient Phoenician port city in Lebanon.)
- Solomon bartered for Sidonian woodsmen to cut timber in Lebanon and transport the lumber to Joppa (1 Kings 5:6–9).
- Solomon employed 70,000 porters and 80,000 stonecutters who worked in the mountains under 3,600 supervisors (2 Chronicles 2:18).
- Phoenician and Gebalite stonemasons quarried the large stones for the foundation of the temple as well as the dressed stones for the building (1 Kings 5:18).
- Solomon acquired a skilled craftsman named Huram-Abi. Huram was skilled in bronze, gold, silver, iron, wood, and stone—as well as yarn and fine linen.
- Solomon also drafted forced laborers from among the 12 tribes of Israel totalling about 30,000 (1 Kings 5:13; 2 Chronicles 2:2).

If sold on the market today, the 575 tons of silver would go for about \$755 million US dollars. The 270 tons of gold would be worth an astounding \$15.3 billion dollars!

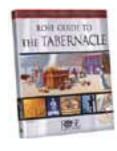




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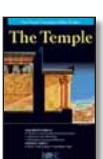
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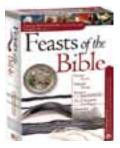
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