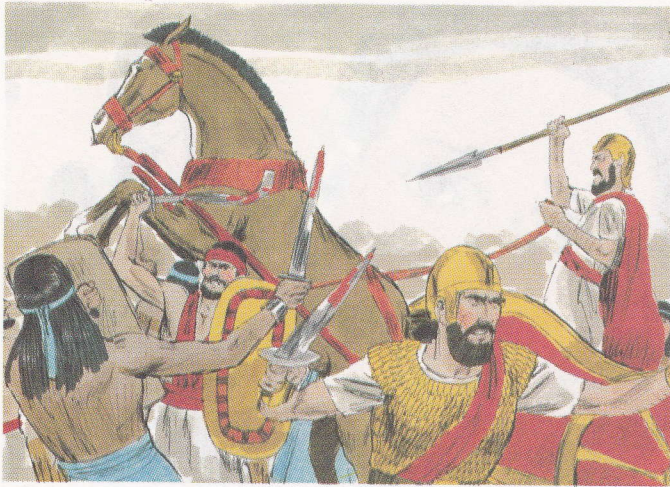
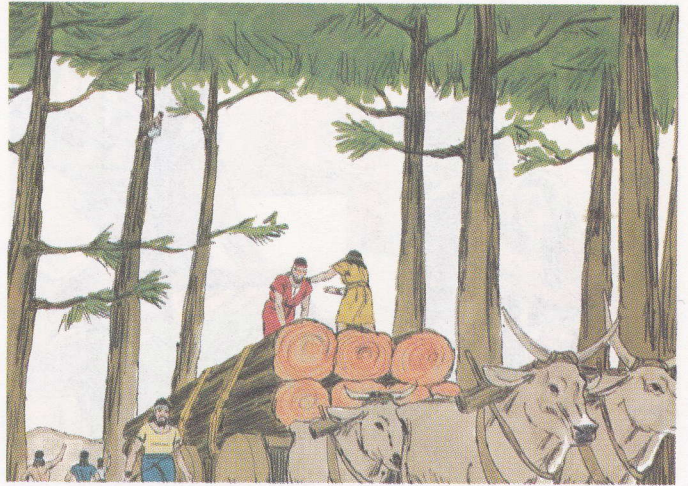


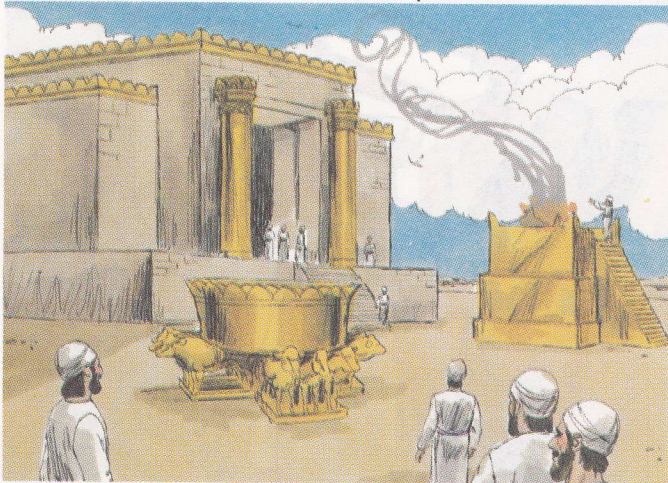
Solomon Builds the Temple



1 While David was king, there were many wars. But when Solomon became king, there was peace in the land. So Solomon decided to build a temple for the Lord, as the Lord promised he could.



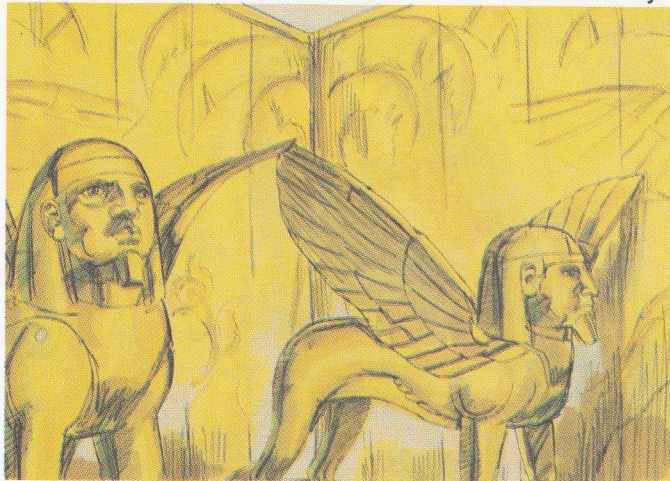
2 Solomon arranged for King Hiram of Tyre to cut down great cedar trees and float them along the seacoast to Israel. He sent thousands of Israelites to help cut the trees. Many others cut out huge stones.



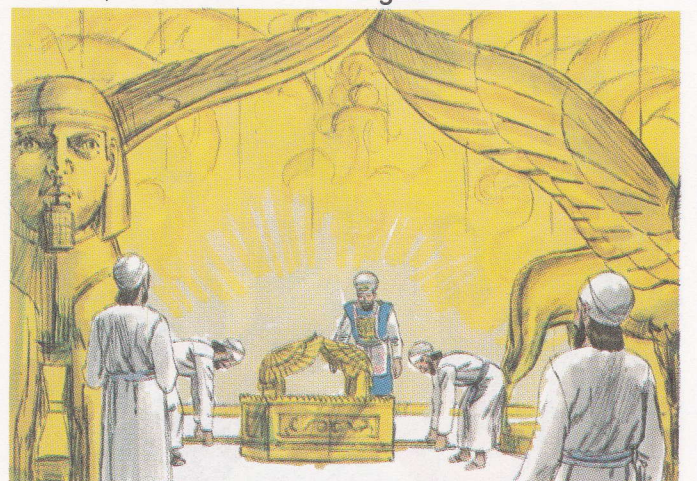
3 It took seven years to complete the Temple. In the courtyard were a bronze altar and a huge tank of water resting on the backs of twelve bronze bulls. A tall pillar stood on each side of the doorway.



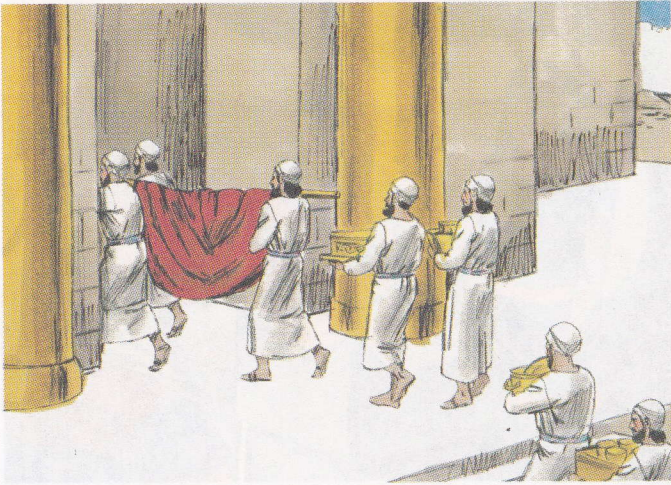
4 Inside, the walls of the two main rooms were covered with carved cedar overlaid with gold. In the larger room, the Holy Place, were ten lampstands, an altar, and a table — all of gold.



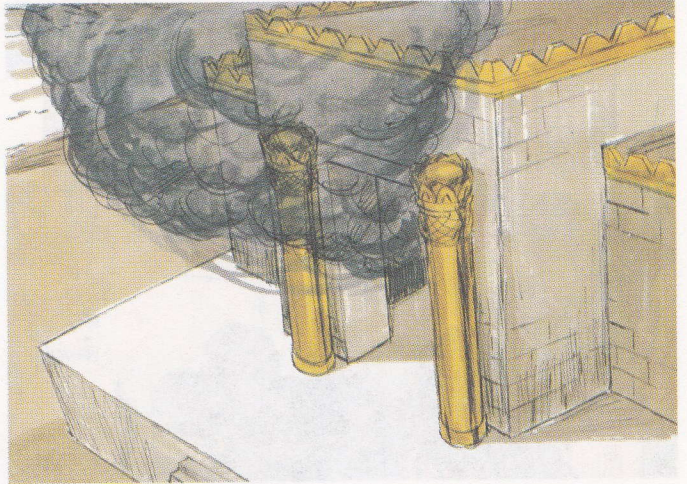
5 The smaller room, the Most Holy Place, was a perfect cube. In it were two large winged creatures made of olive wood and covered with gold.



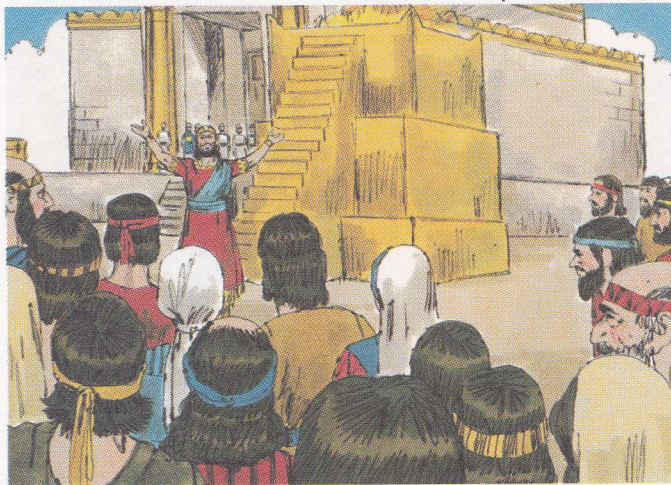
6 When the temple was finished, all the leaders of Israel gathered in Jerusalem. The priests carried the sacred Covenant Box into the temple and placed it in the Most Holy Place.



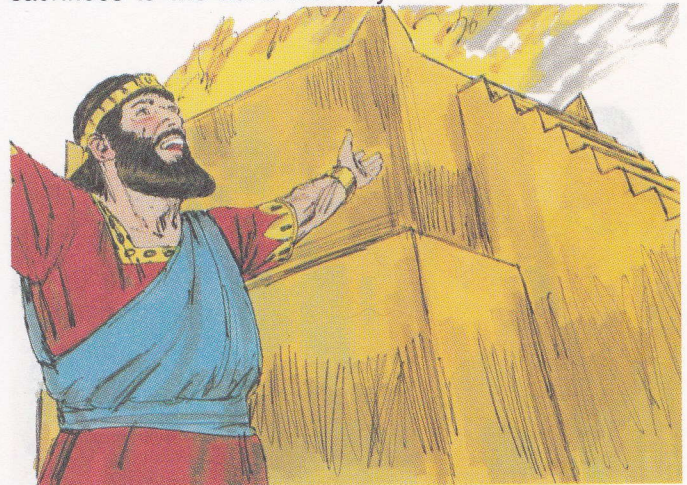
7 The Levites and priests next carried in all the new equipment — golden tables, lamps, dishes, and utensils. They also stored the old Tabernacle, which Moses had built, in the new Temple.



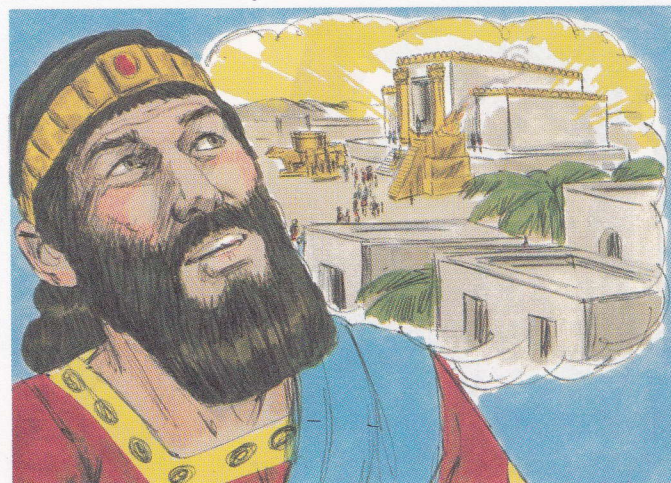
8 As the priests left the Temple, it was suddenly filled with a cloud. This was a sign that the Lord was present. Thousands of animals were offered as sacrifices to the Lord that day.



9 King Solomon prayed: "Lord God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or earth. Please keep your promise that one of my father David's descendants will always rule over Israel."



10 "Watch over this Temple day and night," he prayed. "And hear your people when we face in the direction of this Temple and pray. In your home in heaven hear us and forgive us."



11 The Lord answered Solomon, saying, "This Temple will be the place where I shall be worshiped forever. I will watch over it and protect it. And I will let your descendants rule over Israel."



12 "But if you or your descendants disobey me and worship other gods, I will move my people Israel from this land and depart from this Temple. I will leave it in a heap of ruins."