

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE, The Courtyard of Ahaz- APPENDIX Study Art 1.3

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DISCLAIMER:

Please feel free to use my work as a “jumping-off point,” but please be careful to NEVER use it to replace your own Biblical study or thought! Bible study is a wonderful, personal, and essential part of learning and growing in faith, and should never be sidelined or replaced by ANY artist's rendering.

Intent:

To provide visuals fit for presentations or classes. This material was created as part of a personal study on the structures and furnishings of Solomon's Temple. I created a full breakdown of temple measurements and descriptions here: <https://www.biblicaltoolbelt.com/l/solomons-temple-study-chart/>

Important Notes:

As stated perviously.

“This art represents my personal suggestions of some of the appearance and working mechanics of Solomon's Temple.

While many measurements and descriptions exist, it's worth noting that many descriptions are incomplete and even scattered into other books of the Bible.

Some concepts I list here are purely conjecture- I don't know what architectural wisdom Solomon used to build the Temple, and don't know what/ how materials were used. In these cases, I'll provide an educated guess and provide some context to the solutions I've come up with.

Other ideas may be based on descriptions of the Temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy (Ezekiel 40-48), Temple practices described in Nehemiah 13, Herod's Temple, and even modern Kosher practices.”



Description:

"The Temple is described in 1 Kings 6 & 7 as well as 2 Chronicles 3 & 4. These measurements and descriptions have been collated in a chart I made here: <https://www.biblicaltoolbelt.com/1/solomons-temple-study-chart/>

However, additional Temple information can also be found in 2 Kings 16, within the context of changes that King Ahaz made in the court."

King Ahaz did the following in the temple (NIV Rendering)

¹⁰ Then King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria. He saw an altar in Damascus and **sent to Uriah the priest a sketch of the altar, with detailed plans for its construction.**

¹¹ **So Uriah the priest built an altar in accordance with all the plans** that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus and finished it before King Ahaz returned. ¹² When the king came back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and presented offerings^[a] on it. ¹³ He offered up his burnt offering and grain offering, poured out his drink offering, and splashed the blood of his fellowship offerings against the altar. ¹⁴ **As for the bronze altar that stood before the Lord, he brought it from the front of the temple—from between the new altar and the temple of the Lord—and put it on the north side of the new altar.**

¹⁵ King Ahaz then gave these orders to Uriah the priest: **"On the large new altar**, offer the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering, the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, and the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. Splash against this altar the blood of all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. **But I will use the bronze altar for seeking guidance."** ¹⁶ And Uriah the priest did just as King Ahaz had ordered.

¹⁷ King Ahaz cut off the side panels and removed the basins from the movable stands. He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. ¹⁸ He took away the Sabbath canopy^[b] that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the Lord, in deference to the king of Assyria.”

Less information is contained in 2 Chronicles 28

²² In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the Lord. ²³ He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him; for he thought, “Since the gods of the kings of Aram have helped them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me.” But they were his downfall and the downfall of all Israel.

²⁴ Ahaz gathered together the furnishings from the temple of God and cut them in pieces. He shut the doors of the Lord’s temple and set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem. ²⁵ In every town in Judah he built high places to burn sacrifices to other gods and aroused the anger of the Lord, the God of his ancestors.

What happened to the mobile bronze basins?

I’ve previously suggested that Ahaz completely scrapped all of the mobile bronze basins when he removed the base of the Bronze sea. It’s possible. However, in putting this model together another possibility occurred to me.

Ahaz saw himself as a king-priest (see 2 Kings 11-13). This passage appears to differentiate the use of the priest from that of the king. The roles are reversed. That said, Ahaz clearly understood the process of offering, so there is reason to believe that he did not skip any steps.

Ahaz could have taken away the entire bronze sea, but he only took the base, which indicates he still wanted it used. It may be the same for the bronze carts used for soaking the offerings (my read of their use). Bases were removed and bases were connected directly to drainage in a fixed spot at the stations for processing the offerings.

Why cut things up?

Why cut the bases and carts up at all? I suspect it’s because he needed the bronze for his new Altar.

We don’t know what the altar looked like, but apparently it was different enough that it required new specifications. It was also referred to as “greater,” perhaps in size, perhaps in material, but certainly greater in the mind of Ahaz. My model includes a little gold leaf, a larger bit of real estate, and greater height. I have no idea if this is correct.

Either way, it probably used a significant amount of bronze for construction.

Another reason to believe this is the case is that the new altar seems to have been removed at some point the carts and bronze sea seem have been restored. It’s a detail easy to miss (I did earlier!), but you can see this in Jeremiah 52:17. This also indicates that some record or casting for the articles of the temple remained from the time of Solomon. This may have been a practical calculation in case anything

was damaged or removed.

Other details.



Also, we know there was a gate into the Temple from the Palace, but this was bricked up and the Sabbath Canopy (probably just inside the Temple) was removed.

None of this work- especially building and installing the new altar and moving the original altar to the North- was a small project. It is likely that there would have been rooms and possibly even waterways of a sort under the Altars that would need to be moved or reconstructed. It would have taken time and dedication to a terrible idea, and it speaks volumes about the foolishness of this king.

Final Thoughts

There's a lot of guesswork built on guesswork here, and my model is almost certainly lacking in some ways. Please treat my work with skepticism. Even so, I hope this model helps viewers envision this space as a real, working location under this king.

Production Notes:

All of these illustrations were created over a few days using digital media. Most elements were fabricated in 3D to create a uniform model. Scale man models were sourced from Daz Studio to save on production time. Objects were rendered in 3D, then painted over in Photoshop.