

~HIRAM 1 (270)

(Hi'ram) [possibly a shortened form of Ahiham, meaning My Brother Is High or Exalted]

- King of Tyre, and friendly contemporary of kings David and Solomon in the 11th Century B.C.E.
- After David conquered the stronghold of Zion and set about to build a palace on the site, **Hiram** sent messengers to arrange a trade treaty between himself and David.
- **Hiram** then supplied David with cedar timber from the western slopes of Lebanon as well as craftsmen skilled in working with wood and stone.
- And **Hiram** the king of Tyre proceeded to send messengers to David, and also cedar trees and workers in wood and workers in stone for walls, and they began to build a house for David. (2 Samuel 5:11)
- And **Hiram** the king of Tyre proceeded to send messengers to David and cedar timbers and builders of walls and workers in wood to build him a house. (1 Chronicles 14:1)
- Upon hearing that David had died and that Solomon was reigning in his stead, **Hiram** sent his servants to renew the friendship agreement.
- And **Hiram** the king of Tyre proceeded to send his servants to Solomon, for he had heard that it was he that they had anointed as king in place of his father, for a lover of David **Hiram** had always proved to be. (1 Kings 5:1)
- Solomon then enlisted the help of **Hiram** in supplying materials and some of the manpower necessary for the building of the great temple, at the same time bargaining to pay Hiram's labor force with large quantities of wheat, barley, wine, and oil.
- In turn Solomon sent to **Hiram**, saying; (1 Kings 5:2)
- You yourself well know that David my father was not able to build a house to the name of Yehowah his God because of the

warfare with which they surrounded him, until Yehowah put them under the soles of his feet. (1 Kings 5:3)

- And now Yehowah my God has given me rest all around. There is no resister, and there is nothing bad happening. (1 Kings 5:4)
- And here I am thinking of building a house to the name of Yehowah my God, just as Yehowah promised to David my father, saying; Your son whom I shall put upon your throne in place of you, he is the one that will build the house to my name. (1 Kings 5:5)
- And now command that they cut for me cedars from Lebanon, and my servants themselves will prove to be with your servants, and the wages of your servants I shall give to you according to all that you may say; For you yourself well know that there is among us no one knowing how to cut trees like the Sidonians. (1 Kings 5:6)
- Further, Solomon sent to **Hiram** the king of Tyre, saying; Just as you dealt with David my father and you kept sending him cedarwood to build himself a house in which to dwell. (2 Chronicles 2:3)
- Here I am building a house to the name of Yehowah my God to sanctify it to him, to burn perfumed incense before him, with the constant layer bread and burnt offerings in the morning and in the evening, on the Sabbaths and on the new moons and at the festival seasons of Yehowah our God. To time indefinite this will be upon Israel. (2 Chronicles 2:4)
- And the house that I am building will be great, for our God is greater than all the other gods. (2 Chronicles 2:5)
- And who could retain power to build him a house? For the heavens and the heaven of the heavens cannot contain him, and who am I that I should build him a house except for making sacrificial smoke before him? (2 Chronicles 2:6)
- And now send me a skillful man to work in gold and in silver and in copper and in iron and in wool dyed reddish purple and crimson and blue thread, and knowing how to cut engravings, along with the skillful ones that are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father has prepared. (2 Chronicles

2:7)

- **And send me timbers of cedar, juniper and algum from Lebanon, for I myself well know that your servants are experienced at cutting down the trees of Lebanon, and here my servants are together with your servants. (2 Chronicles 2:8)**
- **Even for preparing timbers for me in great number, for the house that I am building will be great, yes, in a wonderful way. (2 Chronicles 2:9)**
- **And, look! To the gatherers of wood, the cutters of the trees, I do give wheat as food for your servants, twenty thousand cors, and barley twenty thousand cors, and wine twenty thousand baths, and oil twenty thousand baths. (2 Chronicles 2:10)**
- **In turn, Hiram blessed Yehowah, and a covenant of friendship was concluded between the two nations.**
- **And it came about that as soon as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he began to rejoice greatly, and he went on to say; Blessed is Yehowah today in that he has given David a wise son over this numerous people! (1 Kings 5:7)**
- **Accordingly Hiram sent to Solomon, saying; I have heard what you sent to me. For my part, I shall do all your delight in the matter of timbers of cedar trees and timbers of juniper trees. (1 Kings 5:8)**
- **My servants themselves will bring them down out of Lebanon to the sea, and I, for my part, shall put them in log rafts to go by sea clear to the place that you will send me notice of, and I shall certainly have them broken up there, and you, for your part, will carry them, and you, for your part, will do my delight by giving the food for my household. (1 Kings 5:9)**
- **So Hiram became a giver of timbers of cedar trees and timbers of juniper trees to Solomon according to all his delight. (1 Kings 5:10)**
- **And Solomon, for his part, gave Hiram twenty thousand cor measures of wheat as food supplies for his household and twenty cor measures of beaten-out oil. That was what Solomon kept giving Hiram year by year. (1 Kings 5:11)**

- And Yehowah, for his part, gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him, and there came to be peace between **Hiram** and Solomon, and both of them proceeded to conclude a covenant. (**1 Kings 5:12**)
- At that **Hiram** the king of Tyre said the word in writing and sent it to Solomon. Because Yehowah loved his people he has constituted you king over them. (**2 Chronicles 2:11**)
- And **Hiram** went on to say; Blessed be Yehowah the God of Israel, who made the heavens and the earth, because he has given to David the king a wise son, experienced in discretion and understanding, who will build a house to Yehowah and a house for his kingship. (**2 Chronicles 2:12**)
- And now I do send a skillful man, experienced in understanding, belonging to **Hiram-abi**. (**2 Chronicles 2:13**)
- The son of a woman of the sons of Dan but whose father was a man of Tyre, experienced, to work in gold and in silver, in copper, in iron, in stones and in timbers, in wool dyed reddish purple, in blue thread and in fine fabric and in crimson and at cutting every sort of engraving and at designing every sort of device that may be given to him along with your own skillful men and the skillful men of my lord David your father. (**2 Chronicles 2:14**)
- And now the wheat and the barley, the oil and the wine that my lord has promised, let him send to his servants. (**2 Chronicles 2:15**)
- As for ourselves, we shall cut down trees from Lebanon according to all your need, and we shall bring them to you as rafts by sea to Joppa, and you, for your part, will take them up to Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 2:16**)
- At the end of Solomon's 20-year building project he gave **Hiram** 20 cities, but they proved most undesirable in **Hiram's** eyes.
- And it came about at the end of twenty years, in which Solomon built the two houses, the house of Yehowah and the house of the king. (**1 Kings 9:10**)
- **Hiram** the king of Tyre had himself assisted Solomon with

timbers of cedar trees and timbers of juniper trees and with gold as much as he delighted in, that at that time King Solomon proceeded to give to Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee. ([1 Kings 9:11](#))

- Accordingly **Hiram** went out from Tyre to see the cities that Solomon had given him, and they were not just right in his eyes. ([1 Kings 9:12](#))
- So he said; What sort of cities are these that you have given me, my brother? And they came to be called the Land of Cabul down to this day. ([1 Kings 9:13](#))
- Whether **Hiram** returned these same cities or gave Solomon other cities is not certain.
- And it came about at the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the house of Yehowah and his own house. ([2 Chronicles 8:1](#))
- That the cities that **Hiram** had given to Solomon, Solomon rebuilt them and then caused the sons of Israel to dwell there. ([2 Chronicles 8:2](#))
- Nor is it certain whether **Hiram's** giving Solomon 120 talents of gold, currently \$46,242,000, was subsequent to receiving the gift of cities, or if it somehow figured in the exchange.
- In the meantime **Hiram** sent to the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold. ([1 Kings 9:14](#))

See Also CABUL 2

- **Hiram** also shared with Solomon in another joint enterprise, in which the latter built a fleet of ships in the Gulf of `Aqaba at Ezion-geber.
- **Hiram** then supplied experienced seamen to man them along with Solomon's servants. In addition to these ships that plied the waters off the East coast of Africa, **Hiram** and Solomon had other ships sailing as far as Tarshish, apparently at the western end of the Mediterranean.

- **All together, these extensive operations on the high seas brought in a great deal of wealth gold, silver, ivory, precious stones, valuable woods, and rarities like apes and peacocks.**
- **And there was a fleet of ships that King Solomon made in Ezion-geber, which is by Eloth, upon the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom. (1 Kings 9:26)**
- **And Hiram kept sending in the fleet of ships his own servants, seamen, having a knowledge of the sea, along with the servants of Solomon. (1 Kings 9:27)**
- **And they proceeded to go to Ophir and take from there four hundred and twenty talents of gold and bring it in to King Solomon. (1 Kings 9:28)**
- **And Hiram's fleet of ships that carried gold from Ophir also brought from Ophir timbers of alnum trees in very great amount and precious stones. (1 Kings 10:11)**
- **And the king proceeded to make out of the timbers of the alnum trees supports for the house of Yehowah and for the house of the king, and also harps and stringed instruments for the singers. Timbers of alnum trees like this have not come in nor have they been seen down to this day. (1 Kings 10:12)**
- **For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish on the sea along with Hiram's fleet of ships. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish would come carrying gold and silver, ivory, and apes and peacocks. (1 Kings 10:22)**
- **And Hiram regularly sent to him by means of his servants ships and servants having a knowledge of the sea, and they would come with Solomon's servants to Ophir and take from there four hundred and fifty talents of gold and bring it to King Solomon. (2 Chronicles 8:18)**
- **And, besides, the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir brought timbers of alnum trees and precious stones. (2 Chronicles 9:10)**
- **For ships belonging to the king were going to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years ships of Tarshish would come in, carrying gold and silver, ivory, and apes and**

peacocks. ([2 Chronicles 9:21](#))

See Also EZION-GEBER