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²⁰ All the people *who* were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not of the children of Israel—²¹ that is, their descendants who were left in the land after them, whom the children of Israel had not been able to destroy completely—from these Solomon raised forced labor, as it is to this day. ²² But of the children of Israel Solomon made no forced laborers, because they were men of war and his servants: his officers, his captains, commanders of his chariots, and his cavalry. ²³ Others were chiefs of the officials who were over Solomon's work: five hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people who did the work. ²⁴ But Pharaoh's daughter came up from the City of David to her house which Solomon had built for her. Then he built the Millo. ²⁵ Now three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar which he had built for the LORD, and he burned incense with them *on the altar* that was before the LORD. So he finished the temple. ²⁶ King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. ²⁷ Then Hiram sent his servants with the fleet, seamen who knew the sea, to work with the servants of Solomon. ²⁸ And they went to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and twenty talents of gold from there, and brought it to King Solomon.

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1. Solomon builds his kingdom

- a. The name *Solomon* is mentioned 8 times in 9 verses
 - a1. His slaves, men, servants, gold, officers, ...
 - a2. Sol. continued to build grander things
- b. Solomon marshalled the entire nation to work for him
 - a1. Enslaved the remnant of the Caanites
 - a2. He made servants, soldiers, builders, & overseers of his people to complete his projects and staff his administration
 - a3. He even built a merchant fleet at Elath on the Gulf of Aqaba to transport gold & goods
- c. Notice that Solomon concentrated on "his" projects
 - a1. His people were "his servants"
 - a2. They built "for him" ("Solomon's work")

2. Solomon's activities

- a. When Sol. had finished his wife's house, she moved into it from the city of David
 - a1. She moved out of the old palace to her house in the north of the country
 - a2. Sol. then worked on his own palace
- b. Sol. went to the temple during the 3 major feasts to make sacrifices at the altar as prescribed in Lev.
 - a1. Done according to instructions in Leviticus
 - a2. Were the sacrifices a formality or was Sol.

truly engaged in the worship of the Lord?

- a3. Was Sol. focusing on God or was he making a show in the grand temple he built?

c. For the second time it mentions that he built the Millo

- a1. Using earth and stone, this is a fortification built near Shechem (Millo = fullness)

- a2. A major military post

d. Solomon's merchant fleet was to carry his gold

- a1. Gold was brought from Ophir (southern Arabia around Yemen)

- a2. Hiram sent experienced Phoenician seamen to man his ships

- a3. Israel was not a seafaring nation (only 1 natural port, Jaffa, near Haifa today)

- b1. Sol. took Elath from Edom to build the Red Sea port

- b2. Ships were only to carry Sol.'s gold

- a4. Carried 420 talents of gold (app. \$820,000)

3. The glory of Solomon's kingdom

- a. God allowed Solomon to gain all that he wanted

- a1. Sol. built, collected, & entertained

- a2. Sol. used the resources of his servants to their fullness for his enhancement

- b. God demonstrated through Sol. the vanity of riches

- a1. (Mt. 6) All the glory of Sol. paled to insignificance compared to God's creation

- a2. Glory and beauty fade

- a3. Sol. used many people to accomplish his personal goals

- a4. Sol. considered all that he built as a "labor of his hands"

- b1. He didn't acknowledge that the resources of others built all he had

- b2. He considered everything as his

- a5. Much to Sol.'s dismay, he had to leave everything behind

- c. God showed that man's glory is fleeting, disappointing, & futile, using Sol. as his prime example

- d. Glory of Sol. = pinnacle of man's glory (falls short)