

# The Temple

Once Israel was at peace in the promised land, King David began preparations for building a temple to replace the tabernacle. However, God said that although David's line would be established forever (the Davidic covenant), David's son Solomon would build the temple (2 Sam. 7). After David's death, King Solomon directed the temple's construction over a seven-year period. This temple stood for almost four hundred years before it was destroyed in 586 BC when Jerusalem fell to Babylon.

The courtyard contained an altar where priests made sacrifices; the "Sea," a giant basin of water supported by twelve bronze oxen; and ten smaller basins (1 Kings 7:23-25, 38; 2 Chron. 4:1). The porch included two bronze pillars named *Jakin* ("he establishes") and *Boaz* ("in him is strength") (1 Kings 7:15-21). Inside the Holy Place were a small altar for incense, ten golden lampstands, and a table of bread (at times up to ten tables) (1 Kings 7:48-49; 2 Chron. 4:8). In the Most Holy Place, behind the curtain, were the ark of the covenant and two large cherubim made of olive wood and gold (1 Kings 6:23, 28; 2 Chron. 3:14).

