

ments on the boots of the private soldiers of Antiochus the Great. That the wealth gathered by David was enormous there is no doubt; but it would be foolish to attempt accurately to estimate it. **Brass** means copper; **iron** was of great value in ancient days. **Timber also and stone have I prepared.** The phraseology of the next verse may imply that David felled timber and quarried stone for the temple, which would imply that he had architectural plans already prepared; but much of his stone and timber and iron doubtless came from the stores of vanquished monarchs, who themselves planned to build; for most of the ambitious kings of antiquity sought to make their fame endure by architecture as well as by warfare. **Thou mayest add thereto.** That Solomon did so is made plain by the second chapter of 2 Chronicles.

15. Timber . . . hewers . . . workers . . . cunning men. In ancient days there was much more room for the personal ingenuity of a workman

than now. The line between the artist and the mechanic was not clearly marked; the designer was often the finisher, and the stonecutter was a sculptor as well, holding himself in readiness to do any work in stone, heavy or fine. So that among the various "cunning men" who had been assembled by David, and were afterward gathered by Solomon, there were doubtless many artisans of independent genius whose detailed skill was afterward combined by the master mind of Bezaleel.

16. Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. The amount was so great that it could not be counted. It certainly cannot be counted by us. **Arise therefore, and be doing.** Promptitude is as necessary in sacred as in secular activity. Those who possess God's treasures are called to use them in his service. **The Lord be with thee.** The presence of God is a surety of success in any undertaking.

CRITICAL NOTES.

BY PROFESSOR W. W. DAVIES.

Verse 6. Then he called for Solomon.

The exact date cannot be given, but in the very nature of the case it must have been very near the close of David's life. This is clear from the preceding verse of this chapter, as well as from chap. 23. 1. (Compare also 1 Kings, 2. 2-9.) Nor have we any reliable data in regard to the time when Solomon assumed control of the government. Josephus says that he was anointed king at the early age of fourteen; other Jewish authorities claim that he was king at twelve. He reigned in Jerusalem forty years (1 Kings 11. 42), and his son Rehoboam, when he became king, was forty-one (1 Kings 14. 21); thus it is not probable that Solomon was crowned king much before he was twenty years old. **Charged him to build an house for the Lord.** The author of Chronicles emphasizes this fact. He has a predilection for religious and ecclesiastical matters in preference to the political. The building of the temple, the distribution of the priests or Levites, and other religious subjects claim his special attention. More space is devoted to the tribe of Levi than to all the other tribes put together. The religious life is emphasized throughout the book.

7. My son. The Authorized Version following another reading has "his son." It is impossible to say which is the correct. **As for me, it was in my heart to build.** Literally, "I, it was in my heart," etc. The expression peculiar to Chronicles and Kings must mean: "I myself had purposed, or had had in my mind." (See 2 Chron. 6. 7, 8, and 28. 2.) To build a temple for Jehovah had been one of David's greatest desires; in this, however, he was not gratified. (See chap. 17. 1; 2 Sam. 7.) **Unto the name of the Lord.** The

word "name" is equivalent to Jehovah who had revealed himself as glorious and worthy of all worship. (See Exod. 20. 24; 2 Sam. 6. 2.) Name is sometimes used in the sense of honor or glory (Neh. 9. 10).

8. The word of the Lord came unto me. How, when, and where, is not stated. It can hardly refer to the message of Nathan recorded in chap. 17. 3, ff., and 2 Sam. 7. 4, ff., for there is nothing said in these places of war as having unfitted David for such a work. **Thou hast shed blood abundantly.** Though David had been engaged in very bloody wars, it must be said that most of these were defensive, and not aggressive, and that they were carried on with the approval, if not under the immediate direction, of God. **Great wars.** (For a full account of David's wars, see 2 Sam. 8. 1-14; 10. 8-18; 12. 26-31, etc.)

9. Behold a son shall be born to thee. The Hebrew does not have the future tense, but the participle, a form, however, often used for the future. (See verse 19 and 1 Kings 13. 2.) If, as there is every reason to believe, the prophecy was delivered after, and not before, the birth of Solomon, we should translate "a son is, or has been, born to thee." **A man of rest.** The reign of Solomon was not absolutely free from wars, but in contrast with that of David it was virtually one of peace. (Compare Solomon's words to Hiram, 1 Kings 5. 4, f. See, however, 1 Kings 11. 14-25.) **His name shall be Solomon.** Solomon, or, as it is in the Hebrew, Sh'lomoh, like the German Friedrich, and the English Frederick, denotes peace, or peaceful. He had another name, Jedediah, that is, "be- loved of Jehovah" (2 Sam. 12. 25).

10. He shall build. The pronoun translated

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