

the house, five cubits high : and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

§ 11 And the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying,

§ 12 Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them ; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father :

§ 13 And *b* I will dwell among the children of Israel, and *c* will not forsake my people Israel.

b Evod. 25. 8 ; 29. 45 ; Lev. 26. 11 ; 2 Cor. 6. 16 ; Heb. 3. 6 ; Rev. 11. 3. — *c* Deut. 31. 6 ; Heb. 13. 5.

14 So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The great event of Solomon's reign was the building of the temple, a work for which vast preparations had been made in the life-time of David, and upon which the treasures of the empire were lavished. Although we have two accounts of it in the Bible, it is impossible to obtain any idea of its architectural appearance. Though some contend for a steep, pointed roof, we are inclined to believe that it was flat-roofed, like most oriental buildings. In its general plan it copied the tabernacle, having two important rooms : the Holy Place, perhaps sixty by thirty feet in dimensions ; and the Holy of Holies, a cube of thirty feet. Within these rooms sheeted on all sides with gold, stood the same furniture as formerly in the tabernacle, except that ten upright lamps were in the place of the golden candlestick. In front of the Holy Place rose the Porch, a separate building nearly two hundred feet high (if the figures in our version are correct), at the entrance to which stood two ornamental pillars, bearing the names Jachin and Boaz. As rooms for the priests had grown up beside the old tabernacle, they were perpetuated in the temple, in a series of chambers on three sides of the building, and three stories high. Around the house was an open court for the priests, containing the great altar, and a reservoir of water which stood on the backs of twelve brazen bulls. Outside this court was another for the people, paved with marble and surrounded with pillars. The precise location of the temple has not yet been determined. Most believe that the summit of Mount Moriah, marked by the native rock under the (so-called) Mosque of Omar, was the site of the altar, but some contend that it was the place of the Holy of Holies, which would require a change from the accepted position of every part of the temple.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 1. Four hundred and eightieth year. This is the most precise date given in the Old Testament, and upon it the received chronology is based. Back of the Exodus the dates are uncertain, and the exact times of individual judges are unknown ; but from Solomon's time we have certain figures, which are confirmed by the Egyptian and

Assyrian monuments. **Come out of the land.** At last, a free people, firmly settled in their own land, erect the house which stands as the memorial of their gratitude. **Month Zif.** The word means *brightness*, or *blossom*, and it represented the close of May and opening of June, the flowery time in Palestine. **Began to build.** Though great preparations had been made, the house was seven years and a half in building. **The house of the Lord.** So called because built in honour of God, the token of his presence among his people, and directed by inspiration. 1 Chron. 28. 12. 1. God's house is now in the hearts of his people.

2. **The house.** That is, the main part of the structure, which was roofed over, and consecrated to God's worship, not including the porch in front nor the chambers around ; that part only which was **built for the Lord.** The length thereof was **threescore cubits.** About ninety feet, inside measurement. **The breadth.** About thirty feet wide. **The height.** Forty-five feet, from floor to roof. These dimensions were double those of the tabernacle. 2. As God's people grow greater and stronger, they should provide more liberally for his worship.

3. **The porch.** The vestibule, which was not considered a part of the building. This corresponded to the width of the house, thirty feet, and was fifteen feet deep. Its height, as given in 2 Chron. 3. 4, must have been nearly two hundred feet, more than four times that of the temple proper. Perhaps the figures have been incorrectly written, as the Septuagint version gives it at thirty feet, not quite so high as the building itself. Some have thought that it was open, others that a veil was hung across the front of the temple, back of the two pillars which hung in the doorway.

4. **For the house.** That is, for the Holy Place, the front room in the temple proper. **Windows.** These windows were probably placed high up in the wall, above the height of the chambers which surrounded the building. They were to admit light and let out the smoke of the lamps and the incense. **Narrow lights.** Literally, "of closed beams ;" that is, a lattice-work which was fastened, and not like those of dwelling-houses, removable at pleasure. Some translate "broad within and narrow without," wider on the inside than on the outside. 3. The old dispensation was one of shadow, the new is one of light.

5. **Against the wall.** On the outside of the wall of the temple-building, but built separate from it, and not resting upon its wall. **The temple...and the oracle.** One word refers to the Holy place, the other to the Holy of Holies. **Chambers round about.** These were rooms for the use of the priests while engaged in the service of the temple, in which each spent a fortnight of the year. 4. Those who do the work of God's house should receive provision and care from it.