

Chapter 2

Other workemen being provided to build the Temple, 7. Salomon procureth a cunning artificer from the king of Tyre, and special timber, 16. to be cutte, and fent from thence.

3. Reg. 5.

And Salomon determined to build a house to the name of our Lord, and a palace for himself. ² And he numbred feuentie thousand men that caried on their shoulders, and eightie thousand that should hew stones in the mountaynes, and ouerfeers of them three thousand fix hundred. ³ He fent also to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying: As thou didst with Dauid my father, and didst fend him cedar trees, to build him a house, wherein also he dwelt: ⁴ so doe with me that I may build a house to the name of our Lord my God, that I may consecrate it to burne incense before him, and to perfume with aromatical spices, and to the euerlasting propoition of loaves, and for holocaustes, morning and euening, on the sabbathes also, and the newmoones, and the solemnities of our Lord God for euer, which are commanded Israell. ⁵ For the house which I desire to build, is great: for our God is great aboue al goddes. ⁶ Who then can be able, to build him a worthie house? if heauen, and the heauens of heauens can not conteyne him: how great am I, that I may build him a house? but to this end only, that incense may be burnt before him. ⁷ Send me therefore a cunning man, that hath skil to worke in gold, and siluer, brasse, and yron, purple, scarlet, and hyacinth, and that knoweth to make engraued workes with these artificers, which I haue with me in Iewrie, and Ierusalem, whom Dauid my father prepared. ⁸ But fend me also cedar trees, firretrees, and pintrees from Libanus: for I know that thy seruantes haue skil to hew the timber of Libanus, and my seruantes shal be with thy seruantes, ⁹ that manie trees may be prepared for me. For the house which I desire to build, is exceding great, and glorious. ¹⁰ Moreouer to the workemen, that shal hew the trees, thy seruantes, I wil geue for victuals

of wheat twentie thousand cores, and of barley as manie cores, and of wine twentie thousand, oyle also twentie thousand fates. ¹¹ And Hiram the king of Tyre by letters, which he sent to Salomon, sayd: Because the Lord loued his people, therefore hath he made thee to reigne ouer it. ¹² And he added, saying: Bleffed be the Lord the God of Ifrael, that made heauen and earth, who hath geuen to Dauid the king a fonne wife and learned, and of vnderftanding, and prudent, to build a houle to the Lord, and a palace for himfelf. ¹³ I therefore haue sent thee a man wife and moft skilful, Hiram, ^{a)}my father, ¹⁴ the fonne of a woman of the daughters of Dan, whose father was a Tyrian, who knoweth to worke in gold, and filuer, braffe, and yron, and marble, and in timber, in purple also, and hiacinth, and filke and fcarlet: and that knoweth to graue al engrauiing, and to deuife wifely whatfoeuer in the worke is neceffarie with thy artificers, and with the artificers of my lord Dauid thy father. ¹⁵ The wheate therefore, and barley, and oile, and wine, which thou my lord haft promifed, fend to thy feruantes. ¹⁶ And we wil cut downe the trees out of Libanus, as manie as shal be neceffarie for thee, and wil conuey them in boates by the fea vnto Ioppe: and it fhall be thy part to tranfport them into Ierufalem. ¹⁷ Salomon therefore numbred al the men, that were profelytes in the land of Ifrael, after the numbering which Dauid his father numbered, and they were found an hundred fiftie three thousand and fix hundred. ¹⁸ And he made of them feuentie thousand, that fhould carie burdens on their fhoulders, and eightie thousand, that fhould cut ftones out of the mountaynes: and three thousand and fix hundred ouerfeers of the worke of the people.

^a It is probable, that this man had instructed the king of Tyre in true religion of one God whom he confeffeth *v. 11. 12.* and that therefore the king called him his father.