



**GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUNE 2023 NEWS**

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We now once
The Legend of

During King
of 40 years, the
gained its highest
since been called
of the Jewish
the best years in
the during the 40
prosperity under
came to be known
ha'Adam, "wisest
Though he is
surrounding
luxuries and the
any Eastern
and government
his rule.



again resume.
King Solomon.

Solomon's long reign
Hebrew monarchy
splendor in what has
the "Augustan Age"
annals. Considered
all of Israel's history,
years of peace and
King Solomon, he
as Chacham Mi'kol
of all the men."
described as
himself with all the
external grandeur of
monarch, his people
prospered well under

He controlled the entire region west of the Euphrates and had peace on his borders for nearly the entirety of his reign. To support this affluence of Israel, King Solomon is credited with rebuilding major cities throughout Israel, including creating the port city of Ezion-Geber, and constructing Tadmor in the wilderness as a commercial depot and military outpost.

The Bible states he amassed 12,000 horses and 1,400 chariots. Curiously, the remains of stalls for 450 horses have, in fact, been found in the ancient city of Megiddo. Though the location of Solomon's port of Ezion-Geber is believed to be known, no remains have ever

been found.

More archaeological success has been achieved with the major cities Solomon is said to have strengthened or rebuilt, evidenced by the ancient remains of impressive six chambered gates and ashlar palaces. Ashlar blocks are large rectangular blocks of masonry sculpted to have square edges and even faces and still hold important lessons in their workmanship to Masons in the present day.

Dividing the kingdom into twelve districts, with Judah constituting its own political unit and enjoying certain special privileges, King Solomon was able to control a large share in the trade between northern and southern countries. According to 1 Kings 10:13, Israel enjoyed great commercial prosperity, with extensive traffic being executed by land with Tyre, Egypt, and Arabia, and by sea with Tarshish (Spain), Ophir, and South India.

"Now the weight of gold which came unto Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six (666) talents of gold" (Kings 10:14), or the equivalent of 39,137 pounds of gold. At today's prices of roughly [\$1,006] per troy ounce, King Solomon received about [\$629,949,152] for the year in gold alone.

His other tributes and trade included shipments of silver, precious stones, ivory, iron, lead, tin, cedar, sandalwood, and wheat. Additional luxuries consisted of purple dye, frankincense, myrrh, spice, peacocks, and even great apes.

This completes part 3 in a series of three.

This is part of a series of lectures written by MEC Marcus Trelaine, PGHP DC. you are free to quote and/or use any part(s) or the entirety as long as this message remains a part of any publication.

In His Name,

SK Carter L. Diggs Jr.

Senior Grand Warden 2023 - 2024

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia