
FROM UR OF CALDEA TO BETHLEHEM OF JUDAH

Mission 4. Kings, prophets and slaves

Research 1. The Monarchy in Israel (3 points)

King Saul (1030-1010 b.C)

The Israeli people asked Samuel, who was a judge, a priest and a prophet, to name a king who would free them from the invasions of the nearby peoples.

Samuel, consulting Yahveh, chose Saul, who proved himself as a strong king and defeated the people trying to invade them. The monarchy starting with Saul fell after their defeat against the Philistians (1 Sam 31).

King Saul

The first king of Israel in the end of the 11th century b.C., has been a topic of traditional interest in occidental art and literature.



King David (1010-970 b.C)

Already in Saul's time, Yavhe sends Samuel to anoint David as the one destined to rule and lead the Israeli people (1 Sam 16).

At that time, he conquered Jerusalem and the rivalry with the neighbouring peoples is eliminated. In a few years, David consolidated the monarchy as a ruling model, achieving the unity of the whole nation.

King Solomon (970-931 b.C)

Solomon, King David's son (2 Sam 12,24), is known as a wise king (1 Re 3) who improved the organization of Israel. He promoted the construction of great buildings, one of the most prominent being the Jerusalem Temple.



Saul, David and Solomon were the only kings who ruled before Israel was divided in two kingdoms. After them, Israel and Judah suffered great losses due to the disobedience of their kings. Among the kings of Judah we can find some who were obedient to God but, unfortunately, we cannot say the same about all the kings of Israel.

Read in the Bible 1 RE 6,2-30, where a description of the temple is offered, and answer the following questions:

When did he begin to build the temple?

What were its dimensions?

Why didn't they hear any hammers, axes or any other iron tool during the construction?

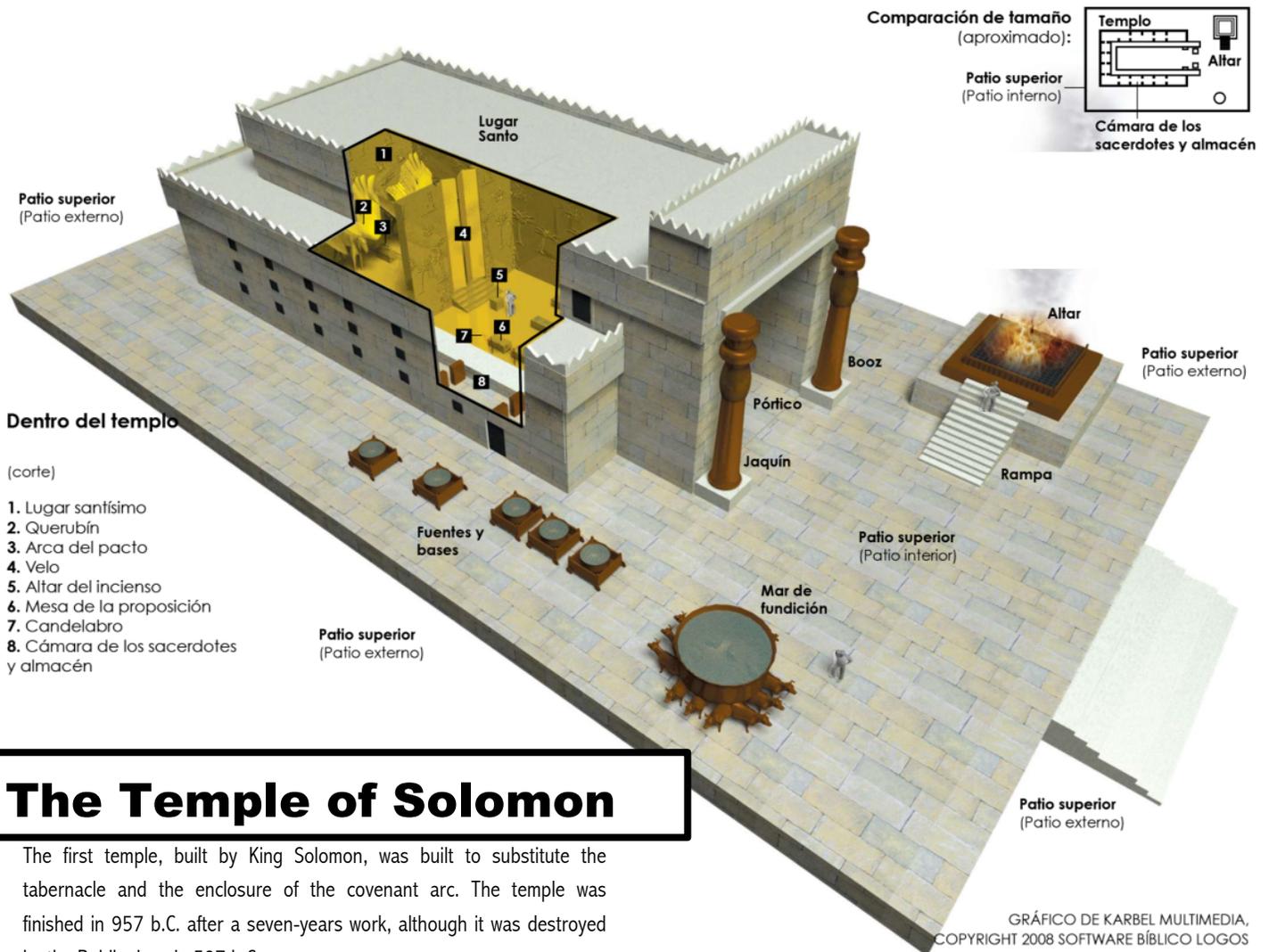
Who has God talk to before about the construction of the temple?

Where was the "holy place" located?

What was located in "the middle of the house"?

Which material covered "the querubines"?

How long did it take him to build the temple?



The Temple of Solomon

The first temple, built by King Solomon, was built to substitute the tabernacle and the enclosure of the covenant arc. The temple was finished in 957 b.C. after a seven-years work, although it was destroyed by the Babilonians in 587 b.C.