

Solomon's Temple (3)

Gold

In the Temple, the living stones (believers) were overlaid with silver (**redemption**) and cedar wood (**resurrection**). Finally the walls were overlaid with gold (**righteousness**) and precious stones (**riches**). The whole Temple (Porch, Holy House and Most Holy House) was covered within and without with gold (2 Chronicles 3.4-9). The Most Holy House alone (a cube of about 9m² containing the Ark of the Covenant) was overlaid with 600 talents of fine gold (2 Chronicles 3.8-9), worth about £650 million today. This gold was fastened to the cedar wood lining with golden nails, each one weighing 50 shekels (about 550g), worth £18,000 today.



The word 'gold' means 'shimmering' or 'splendour' and speaks primarily of divine glory, but also of divine righteousness. Not only have believers been redeemed (silver) and raised in newness of life (cedar wood) but we have also been clothed in righteousness which comes from God (cf. 1 Corinthians 1.30, 2 Corinthians 5.21, Philippians 3.9). *Romans 3.22: Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.* The gold also speaks of the divine glory which shines and will shine in the Church. *Ephesians 5.27: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* See also Philippians 3.21, 1 Peter 5.1, Revelation 21.11. As believers we presently rejoice in the hope of this glory (Romans 5.1).

It is astonishing to note that Solomon used **ten** different types of gold in the making of his houses. Of these ten, **eight** were used in the making of the Temple. There was 'gold' (1 Kings 6.21), 'perfect gold' (2 Chronicles 4.21), 'pure gold' (1 Kings 6.20, 2 Chronicles 3.4), 'fine gold' (2 Chronicles 3.5), 'gold of Parvaim' (2 Chronicles 3.6), 'gold of Ophir' (1 Chronicles 29.4), 'spread gold' (1 Kings 6.32) and 'refined gold' (1 Chronicles 28.18). Solomon also used the 'best gold' (1 Kings 10.18) and 'beaten gold' (1 Kings 10.16) within his palace. **All** of these speak of different aspects of the inherent glory of the Lord Jesus, but **four** in particular are stated as being used to overlay the walls of the Temple (1 Kings 6.21, 6.35, 2 Chronicles 3.4-6).

Gold. As well as overlaying the walls of the Temple, 'brilliant' gold was also used to overlay the floor, cherubim and doors (1 Kings 6). As noted above, gold speaks of 'splendour' and 'brilliance', i.e. glory. **The Lord Jesus is the Brilliant Gold.** This glory the Lord Jesus shared with the Father before the world began (John 17.5) and, although veiled (John 17.24), demonstrated it on earth through His birth, life, death and resurrection (Luke 2.32, 9.31-32, John 1.14, 2.11, 12.23, 28, 13.31-32, 17.1, Hebrews 1.3). He has now been received up into glory (1 Timothy 3.16) and will return in great glory in a coming day; a glory we shall share with Him (Matthew 16.27, 24.30, Colossians 3.4, Titus 2.13, 2 Peter 1.3, Revelation 21.11). *As believers we too should seek to display the brilliant gold of the glory of the Lord Jesus in our lives. We can also bring glory to God by bearing 'much fruit' in our lives (John 15.8).*

Pure Gold. This gold was also used for the Altar of Incense and the Lampstands. There are two different Hebrew words translated 'pure' gold. The first (1 Kings 6.20-21) means 'to surrender' or be 'given over to something' and the second (2 Chronicles 3.4) means 'morally and physically clean', i.e. holy. **The Lord Jesus is the Pure Gold.** Firstly, He is the One who was totally surrendered and devoted to the Father's will (Isaiah 50.5, John 4.34, 5.30, Hebrews 10.7). He was fully consecrated and devoted to the Father's service and like the priests of old (Leviticus 8) the blood of the ram of consecration was always upon His ear (will and word), His hand (work) and His toe (walk). Secondly, the Lord Jesus is holy. Luke's Gospel has more to say about the holiness of Christ than any other. No less than six individuals are recorded as declaring His holiness. He was spoken of as 'that holy thing' (Luke 1.35), the 'Holy One of God' (Luke 4.34), the One in whom is 'no fault' (Luke 23.4) and 'nothing worthy of death' (Luke 23.15), One who did 'nothing amiss' (Luke 23.41) and One who was a 'righteous man' (Luke 23.47). *As believers we should ever remember that we do not belong to ourselves; we are bondslaves to Christ (1 Corinthians 7.22-23). A bonds slave denotes one who is permanently in servitude to his master. They were to show total obedience (no rights of their own), total humility (no will of his own) and total loyalty (no interests of his own) to their masters. Are we consecrated to Him?*

Gold of Parvaim. Parvaim was an Oriental region from which came very high quality gold. It is unclear what the significance of the name Parvaim might be. It could have the meaning of 'eastern' or 'hill' (speaking of witness). It is also likely that the name is an abbreviated form of Sepharvaim (cf. Genesis 10.30) which comes from a root word meaning

‘scribe’, ‘tell’, ‘declare’ or ‘show forth’. **The Lord Jesus is the Gold of Parvaim.** He is the Word who has declared and shown forth the glories of God (John 1.18, Hebrews 1.3). The Lord Jesus declared the Father’s words (John 15.15) and His Name (John 17.26). Psalm 40, a Messianic Psalm, records the fact that the Lord Jesus also declared God’s righteousness (Psalm 40.9), faithfulness, salvation, lovingkindness and truth (Psalm 40.10). *As believers we should always be seeking to declare and tell of the beauty of Christ. Do we speak of His Name or salvation? We should constantly be telling of His miracles and mighty deeds (Psalm 9.1, 102.21, Jeremiah 51.10). Psalm 9.1: I will praise Jehovah with my whole heart; I will recount all thy marvellous works. JND*

Fine Gold. The word ‘fine’ means ‘precious’, ‘beautiful’ (2 Samuel 11.2) and ‘more excellent’. **The Lord Jesus is the Fine Gold.** His beauty is seen in His presence (Psalm 27.4, 96.9), His purity (Psalm 29.2), His perfection (Psalm 50.2) and His preaching (Romans 10.15). The Person of the Lord Jesus is most precious to God (Proverbs 8.30, Matthew 3.17, Luke 20.13). He is the Precious Living Stone (1 Peter 2.4), has a Precious Name (1 Samuel 18.30) and has shed His precious blood (1 Peter 1.19) for us. *As believers we should ever recognise His worth and value. We can demonstrate how precious He is to us by our devotion and faithfulness to Him. This will likely involve sacrifice (Matthew 13.46, 26.7, Mark 14.3).*

Type of Gold	Meaning	Selected References
Best Gold <i>The Tested Saviour</i>	Approved Tried Tested	Zechariah 13.9 Matthew 4.1 Hebrews 2.18
Perfect Gold <i>The Servant Saviour</i>	Complete Finished Accomplished	Genesis 2.1 Ruth 3.18 John 17.4
Gold of Ophir <i>The Sovereign Saviour</i>	Royal gold Fruitful Abundance	Psalm 45.9 John 15.1 Matthew 2.2, 5.35, 21.5, 27.29, 37
Spread Gold <i>The Subject Saviour</i>	Subdue Spent Tread in pieces	Isaiah 53.5, 10 (‘bruised’) Luke 2.51 Philippians 2.5-9
Beaten Gold <i>The Suffering Saviour</i>	Smite or strike Hammered out Slaughter (root meaning)	Isaiah 53.4, 7 1 Peter 2.21, 23, 3.18, 4.1 Revelation 5.6, 12, 13.8
Refined Gold <i>The Complete Saviour</i>	Purify or purge Testing through fire to determine degree of purity or value	Hebrews 5.8-9. <i>The fire of suffering and obedience being completed, He has now become the Perfect Saviour.</i>

Precious Stones

Finally the walls of the Temple were garnished with precious stones for ‘beauty’ (2 Chronicles 3.6). These stones were ‘glistening’, displaying a variegated spectrum of colour. The word ‘divers colours’ (cf. 1 Chronicles 29.2) is often used of embroidered needlework (Psalm 45.14, Ezekiel 16.10). These precious stones speak of the spiritual riches and perfections which shall shine from the redeemed in glory (1 Corinthians 3.12, Revelation 21.19-20). *Revelation 19.8: And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.* The Judgment Seat of Christ is already passed and the outcome is apparent in this glorious dress. The righteous acts of the believers during their lifetime on earth (gold, silver and precious stones) have become the bride’s wedding dress! It has been said: *“The garments we wear up there are weaved down here.”*

Types of Wood

Four different types of wood were used in the Temple. There was **shittim** wood (used in the construction of the Ark of the Covenant), **cedar** wood, **olive** wood (1 Kings 6.32) and **fir** (or **cypress**) wood (1 Kings 6.34). These speak of incorruption, glory, strength and spirituality, all things which the Apostle Paul declares are ours in resurrection: *1 Corinthians 15.42-44: It is sown (the body) in corruption; it is raised in incorruption (shittim wood): It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory (cedar wood): it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power (fir wood): It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body (olive wood).* A final tree, the **palm**, was also associated with the Temple. The palm tree speaks, amongst other things, of victory. *1 Corinthians 15.55, 57: O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ...thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory (palm tree) through our Lord Jesus Christ.*