

CORRESPONDENCE OF MEASUREMENTS FOR THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 5, 6

The Writings tell us that numbers in the Word have special meanings. These meanings are called correspondences. All of the measurements for the temple had a special meaning. The following passage gives us some hints as to what some of these meanings might be. Use the correspondences at the bottom of the page to think about what each measurement might stand for.

Half or twice any number when used in the Word holds the same meaning as the number itself. Twenty for example holds the same meaning as ten, four the same as two, six the same as three, twenty-four the same as twelve, and so on. A multiplication of a number also holds the same meaning. A hundred or a thousand for example holds the same as ten; seventy-two and also a hundred and forty-four hold the same as twelve. Therefore what it is that composite numbers hold within them may be seen from the simple numbers of which they are the products. What the more simple numbers hold within them may be seen in a similar way from their integers. Five for example may be seen from ten, two and a half from five, and so on.

(Arcana Coelestia 5291)

Part of temple	Measurement	Possible meaning
Length	60 cubits	
Width	20 cubits	
Height	30 cubits	
Inner sanctuary	20 cubits - cubed	
Temple sanctuary	40 cubits	
Cherubim	10 cubits high	

1	Unity, all together, One Lord
2	Union, conjunction
3	Holy things, fullness
4	Conjunction, same as 2, 2X2 = full conjunction
5	A little, few, sufficient
6	Labor and combat, sometimes same as 3, 2X3 = all things
7	Holy things, regeneration
8t	A beginning, what is full
9	Conjunction, 3X3 = all things
10	Remains (affections for good and truth), what is full, all, much
12	Faith, holy things of faith

This exercise is to get you thinking about the meaning of numbers—do not worry if you are not sure the answer you decide on is exactly right.