

Materials & techniques used in the construction of the Temple (1Kings 6)

	Main Hall (Outer Sanctuary)	Verses	Most Holy Place (Inner Sanctuary)	Verses
ceiling	cedar wood			9
walls	stone			7
	covered with cedar wood			15/18
	carving of gourds & flowers ¹ [probably both Outer and Inner Sanctuary]			18
	carving of cherubim & palms & flowers ¹			29
	overlaid with (<i>pure</i>) gold ²			20-22
partition wall	cedar wood			16
	(carving & gold overlay as on the other walls)			(18-22)
floor	stone (probably implied), covered with fir wood ³			15
	overlaid with gold			30
door posts	pine wood ⁴ (posts "a fourth" / "four-sided") ⁶	33	pine wood ⁴ [?] ⁵ (posts "a fifth" / "five-sided") ⁶	31
door leaves	fir wood ³	34	pine wood ⁴	31-32
	carving of cherubim & palms & flowers	35	carving of cherubim & palms & flowers	32
	overlaid with gold, with the gold 'spread / applied evenly' ⁷	35	overlaid with gold, with the gold 'hammered out / beaten' ⁷	32

¹ How the two different kinds of carvings (vv. 18/29) were combined we do not know. / The phrase "inside and out" (NET) in v. 29 is understood by the English versions as referring to the Inner and Outer Sanctuary. The Handbook remarks: "But it is also possible that this verse describes the carvings in the Most Holy Place only, since verse 18 describes the carvings on the walls of the nave. If verse 29 refers only to the Most Holy Place, then 'the inside and the outside' may refer to the two sides of a partition between the Most Holy Place and the nave." What makes this unlikely is that at the beginning of the verse it talks about "all walls ... round about". Also, there is the parallel wording "inside and out" in the following v. 30, where anything different than relating it to the outer and inner rooms would be difficult (and no English translation does). Thus it seems best to take v. 29 in the same sense.

² 'pure' (*sāgûr*): Meaning uncertain. HALOT: "thinly beaten out gold plate. Others: 'solid / refined'. / Handbook on v. 21: "**The house** usually refers elsewhere in this chapter to the Temple, but some interpreters think that here and in verses 22, 29, and 30, **the house** refers specifically to the Most Holy Place. ..." – The English translations do not go that way, and there are reasons for it.

³ *bārôš*. Elsewhere 'conifer / evergreen' (no particular species). See TBT, vol. 55, 2004, pp. 102-107. In 1Ki 'fir / juniper' (not 'cypress / pine'). See Plants Handbook (Koops), § 1.6. / 1.9., pp. 14-18 / 20f.

⁴ *ʿašê-šemen*. Traditionally "olive wood", but nowadays thought of as a kind of pine. See Plants Handbook (Koops), § 1.18.2., pp. 31-33.

⁵ The verse does not state explicitly that the doorposts were of the same wood as the door leaves.

⁶ For possible meanings of this expression, see the commentaries.

⁷ Gold overlay: The usual verb is *šph* 'to cover / overlay', 12x in 1Ki 6, also of wood. In v. 32 a form of *rdd*, commonly understood to mean 'hammered / beaten'. In v. 35 a form of *yšr*. Handbook: "The sense is that the **gold** was applied in such a way that equal amounts of it were put on the different parts of the carved figures. NCV ...: 'The gold was smoothed over the carvings.'" NLT, GNB: "evenly".