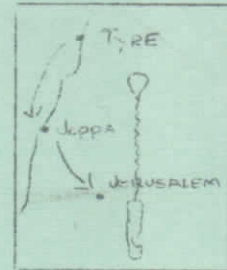


MOUNTAINS OF LEBANON - SOLOMON AND EZRA



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When King Solomon built a temple for God in Jerusalem, he could not think of anything more beautiful to use than the wood from the cedar trees on the mountains of Lebanon. (I Kings 5:5-11) Solomon made a plan with the King of Tyre to get these cedar logs. Solomon sent thousands of workers to help cut down the giant trees. The big logs were hauled to the sea at Tyre. Then the logs were tied together to make a large raft, which was floated down from Tyre to Joppa. From Joppa they were hauled over roads to Jerusalem.

The temple was built out of beautiful white marble but the roof was cedar. The beams and doors were also cedar. And the walls were lined inside with cedar.

After Solomon finished the temple, he built a palace for himself. The king had still more cedar trees cut down for his palace.

Years later, strong nations from the east came to make war against Israel. These nations wanted the forests of cedars on Lebanon. (II Kings 19:23) They defeated the people of Israel and burned the great temple that Solomon had built.

When Ezra wanted to build this temple again, do you know where he got the lumber he needed? Yes, he sent to Lebanon and got some more cedar logs just as Solomon had done.