

JACHIN AND BOAZ

Every Mason is aware of the symbolism of the two great pillars placed at the entrance of King Solomon's Temple. Through Biblical scholars and the historian Josephus we learn more about the details of their construction, religious and historical significance.

The Great Porch was the vestibule at the entrance of King Solomon's Temple; it was forty feet in length and one hundred twenty feet in width. This monumental structure was built over the entrance to the Sanctuary two hundred forty feet high, forming a gigantic tower over the vestibule entrance to the Temple.

There was placed in front of the Great Porch, or entrance into the Sanctuary two pillars of bronze.

Boaz was the name of the left hand, or north pillar, that stood at the Porch of King Solomon's Temple. It signifies "in strength" or "in thee is strength."

Jachin was the right hand pillar on the south. Two Hebrew words form the word Jachin, Jah, the poetical term for Jehovah, and lachin meaning "establish". The word therefore means God will establish.

The two pillars at the porch of the Temple were memorials as well as for support. It appears that Solomon, in creating these pillars, intended to commemorate the pillar of cloud which went before the Children of Israel during the day and the pillar of fire which gave them light at night as they went through the wilderness. The right hand, or south pillar, which he named Jachin, represents the pillar of cloud, and signified "God will establish his house of Israel"; the left hand or north pillar, which he name Boaz, represented the pillar of fire, and signified "in strength shall it be established."

Thus the Jews in passing through the porch into the Temple, were constantly reminded of the abundant promises of God, of his Divine province over them, and were inspired with confidence in his protection and preservation.

These pillars were exceedingly strong, circular in form and made of bronze, the thickness of the walls of these shafts being three inches, eighteen feet in circumference and six feet in diameter. Each of these pillars were twenty seven and a half feet in height and their chapters of lily work extended the elevation seven and a half feet, making a total height of thirty five feet. The chapters were highly decorated with various ornamentation.

These two shafts were massive works of skill, highly ornamented by a network of brass, overhung with wreaths of bronze pomegranates, each row containing one hundred. Upon the pillars and on the top of the chapters were great bowls of vessels for oil, over which were hung festoon-like wreaths of pomegranates, interspersed with lily works.

The Jewish kings that succeeded Solomon were crowned at the foot of these pillars.

There was a man called Jachin who was the fourth son of Simon and founded the family of Jachinites and twenty first course of priests in the time of David.

There was also a man called Boaz. He was a nobleman and wealthy citizen from Bethlehem. The story of Boaz, Ruth and Naomi is a famous story in sacred literature.

For economic reasons Naomi and her husband migrated from Bethlehem to Moab, a country which was alien to Israel. Intermixture of the two races was strictly forbidden by Jewish law. Ruth, a Moabite, married one of Naomi's sons. But soon tragedy came to Naomi's family. Her husband and two sons died, leaving Ruth and Naomi widows. Times were very hard for the two widows.

When Naomi decided to return to Israel Ruth refused to sever her relationship with Naomi and stay in Moab. The depth of her love for her mother-in-law and her devotion to the Hebrew religion was expressed in these immortal words:

"Entreat me not to leave thee,
Or to return from following after thee:
For whither thou goest, I will go;
And where thou lodgest, I will lodge;
Thy people shall be my people,
And thy God shall be my God:
Where thou diest, I will die,
And there will I be buried:
The Lord do so to me and more also,
If ought but death part thee and me"

But through divine providence Ruth, a Moabite, met and married Boaz. They became the great grandparents of David, the second King of Israel and the father of King Solomon.

Source:

1. *HOLY BIBLE*, King James Version, Master Reference Edition, Heirloom Bible Publisher
2. Jones, B. E., *FREEMASON'S GUIDE AND COMPENDIUM*, Cumberland House, Revised edition, 2006