

Thomas Newberry

The Two Pillars

Jachin and Boaz

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The pillars of brass which stood by the porch of the Temple, one on either side, are mentioned in seven places in the Scriptures: 1 Kings 7:13-22, 41-46; 2 Kings 25:16-17; 2 Chronicles 3:15-17; 2 Chronicles 4:12-13; Jeremiah 52:20-23; Ezekiel 40:49. On the surface these accounts appear to vary; it requires prayerful waiting upon God, and pondering His Holy Word, to harmonize the whole. It has been found with this as with other apparent discrepancies of Scripture, that they are, in fact, Divine perfections, and the seeming diversities tend to the elucidation of the truth.

The Height

In two or three places the height is given as 18 cubits apiece, the chapter on the top of each pillar was 5 cubits, making the entire height twenty-three cubits. In 2 Chronicles 3:15, we read, 'He made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits high.' In the margin you will find the Hebrew word rendered 'high' should be 'long'; the Hebrew word used for 'pillar' signifies 'round pillar'; the length of the round shaft was seventeen and a half cubits each pillar, the two together making thirty-five cubits long; if we add half a cubit for the pedestal we have eighteen as the height of each.

With regard to the *position* of the pillars, the word which in 1 Kings is rendered 'in' signifies 'by': 'He set up the pillars by the porch of the Temple'; and this corresponds with 2 Chronicles 3:17, 'He reared up the pillars before the Temple.' They were cast in the clay ground between Succoth and Zaretan (1 Kings 7:46); they were hollow, and the thickness of the brass was four fingers (Jeremiah 52:21). Brass

is the emblem of strength; hollow expresses emptiness. Those skilled in these questions say that the proportions of thickness and size here given are those whereby the greatest amount of strength is secured with the smallest quantity of metal. That is just like God in His perfect wisdom.

‘Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.’

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