

# MASONIC MUSINGS

*The Masonic Education Newsletter*

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Welcome to *Issue Eighteen*, the sixth and final edition for 2014. I was recently asked to comment on the various biblical figures that feature in Masonic ritual and why they figure. So, herewith I do! ...plus I finish with a couple of *Masonic trivia* items.

Fraternal regards and Seasons Greetings,  
Kent Henderson.

## BIBLICAL FIGURES IN FREEMASONRY

### BOAZ

The first of these personalities that the new mason hears about is Boaz and this name becomes firmly imprinted on the Initiate's mind.

The story of Boaz is found in the Book of Ruth, which comes between the Books of Judges and Samuel. which cover periods of war, strife, lawlessness and oppression. The Book of Ruth points out the peaceful ways of the ordinary people of the time.

Boaz was a nobleman and wealthy farmer in Bethlehem and not a *prince* as we understand that rank but perhaps more like the landowning *Lords* in England. It was in his fields that Ruth gleaned for corn and that Boaz first noticed her and took an interest in her because of her strict adherence to the laws of reaping as in Leviticus (Ch. 23 v. 22).

Boaz is depicted as a man of strong character, integrity and honour, which was shown by his suppressing desire when Ruth came to him in the granary.

The Book of Ruth presents Boaz in a manner which we as Freemasons would do well to emulate, a *just, upright and free man of mature age, sound judgement and strict morals*.

As a widow and childless, Ruth was, according to the law of the Israelites, (Deuteronomy Ch. 25 V. 5-10) required to marry her late husband's brother. or should he be dead, her husband's nearest kinsman. Boaz being a cousin of Elimelech, Ruth's father-in-law, married Ruth and purchased the land owned by Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law.

Our ritual tells us that *the pillar which stood at the left of the porch or entrance of King Solomon's Temple, so named after Boaz, the great grandfather of David a prince and ruler in Israel*.

That the left hand pillar was named after Boaz is debatable. The Bible does not specifically state that this is so, it just states that the pillar on the left is called Boaz. The word Boaz is derived from the Hebrew W meaning "*in*" and Woaz" which means strength and signifies *in strength*.

Boaz was one hundred years old when he married Ruth and had a son called *Obed*. In the hundredth year of his life Obed had a son, 'Jesse'. At about the same age Jesse had David the youngest of his sons, who later became King David, father of King Solomon.

### DAVID

David is only mentioned briefly in Freemasonry in that Boaz was his great grandfather and also his being the father of King Solomon. I think we are all familiar with the story of David and Goliath. King Saul who was David's father-in-law tried to have him killed, but Jonathan, Saul's son warned David, who fled into exile until Saul's death.

David was later to lead his armies in defeating all his enemies and amassing great wealth. In the latter part of his reign, David made preparation to erect a temple to God but because he had been engaged in so many wars and much bloodshed, the Lord would not permit him to build so sacred an edifice. David then passed the plans and the wealth to Solomon who he instructed to build the empire.

## JACOB

Jacob is only mentioned in our ceremonies in conjunction with Jacob's ladder exhibited in our Lodge Rooms. Jacob was the younger son of Isaac and Rebekah and was born about 2170 B.C. His brother was called Esau. The Lord informed their mother that both would produce nations.

Whilst Jacob was of peaceable nature, Esau was inclined to strong temper. By pretending to his dim sighted father, Isaac, Jacob received his father's principal blessing, but when Esau found out he threatened to kill Jacob, who fled to Paddenaran or Mesopotamia, which is today part of Syria and Iraq, or all that land between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

On the way when night fell he lay down a stone for his pillow and there had a dream. He saw a ladder with its foot on the earth and the top reaching into the heavens and the Angels of God descended and ascended on it. Above the top of it appeared the Lord God who promised to protect him and give him and all his descendants the land of Canaan



*Moses & the Ten Commandments*

This place Jacob called Bethel; and he took the stone he had used for his pillow and erected it as a monument. Jacob then proceeded on to Mesopotamia, where he married Leah and Rachel, the daughters of Laban.

After many years Jacob, with his wives and family set out to return to Canaan. Fearing Esau's resentment, Jacob sent his family and possessions on ahead and stayed alone to spend the night in prayer.

During the night God appeared to Jacob and wrestled with him, but as the Lord could not prevail against him, he touched the hollow of

Jacob's thigh causing the sinew to shrink leaving him crippled. As Jacob had stood strong against him, the Lord changed his name from Jacob to Israel. After Jacob's return to Canaan God ordered him to return to Bethel, the place where he had the dream of the ladder, and there erect an altar.

## JACHIN

We are told in the ritual that *the pillar which stood at the right of the porch or entrance of King Solomon's Temple, so named after Jachin the assistant high who officiated at its dedication.*

The Bible makes no reference to any Priest called Jachin in the dedication of the Temple. The only Priest called Jachin was the head of the 21st course of priests in the time of David (Chronicles Ch. 24 v. 17).

The word Jachin, like that of Boaz is formed from two Hebrew words. *Jah* the term for Jehovah and *iachin* meaning establish. Jachin therefore means *God will establish.*

## MOSES

Moses has only brief mention in our rituals, mainly in the secrets of the second degree. *This is said to have been the sign used by Moses, when Joshua fought the Amalekites on the banks of the Lord in the valley of Rephidim; and it was in this position that Moses prayed fervently to the Almighty for the overthrow of the Amalekites.*

We all should know the story of Moses, his upbringing in the royal court of the Pharaohs, his leading the Israelites out of Egypt and the years in the wilderness and his receiving the tablets of the law from the Lord God.

The part mentioned in the ritual comes from the record in the Bible (Exodus Ch. 17 v. 8-14), when the Amalekites attacked the Israelites at Rephidim, and Moses ordered Joshua to march against them. Moses stood on the hill with Aaron and Hur, with the staff of God in his hand.

As long as Moses kept his arms raised Israel had the advantage and when he grew tired and put them down the advantage went to the Amalekites. Aaron and Hur placed a stone under Moses on which he sat. They then held up Moses' arm and supported him until sunset when Joshua had defeated the enemy.

I comment here on the spelling of Rephidim. In our rituals it is spelt *Rephidium* and in the Bible *Rephidim*.: (1969 edition of Ritual spells it as *Rephidim*).

## JOSHUA

Joshua also has very brief mention in the second degree, he was a Servant and agent to Moses, and was chief of the Hebrew armies at Rephidim as mentioned before in the paragraph on Moses. A little before Moses' death he became the leader of the Israelites. It was Joshua who led the Israelite armies and people across the River Jordan, into the promised land, Canaan (Israel).

Joshua then advanced on Jericho and destroyed the city. and it was in the war against the five Amorite Kings at Gibeon and Beth-horon that our ritual makes reference to, when he spoke those memorable words *Sun stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou Moon in the valley of Ajalon and the sun stood still and the moon stayed until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies.* (Joshua Ch. 10 v. 12).

Joshua continued to besiege and conquer the towns and nations of Israel and divided it amongst the tribes of Israel. Joshua died at the age of one hundred and ten years.



*King Solomon's Temple*

## TUBAL-CAIN

Tubal-cain, *The first artificer in metals.* The Bible gives this account of Tubal-cain; (Genesis Ch. 4 v. 19-22) *Lamech who had two wives, one was called Adah and the other Zillah By Adah he had two sons, Jabal and Jubal and by Zillah he had Tubal-cain and a daughter, Naamah.* Jabal was the father of all who dwelt in tents and was the originator of the science of tending flocks. Jubal was the founder of the art of music.

Tubal-cain, or *Tubal the smith*, was an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron. Naamah is only mentioned as being Lamach's daughter, but Jewish tradition states her as being the inventor of weaving and related skills.

In the King James version of the Bible it states that Tubal-cain was an instructor, but in the Hebrew original the word *Lotesch* is used, which means, sharpener or one who sharpens the instruments. The first reference to Tubal-cain in Freemasonry is found in the *legend of the craft*.

The Dowland Manuscript gives the following account of Tubal-cain. *before Noah's flood, there was a man called Lamech, as it is written in the Bible in the fourth chapter of Genesis; and this Lamech had two wives, one named Adah and the other named Zillah. By his first wife he had two sons, Jabal and Jubal, and by the other wife a son and a daughter, Tubal-cain and Naamah. These four children founded the beginning of all sciences in the world These children knew well that God would take vengeance for sin, either by fire or water, so they wrote the sciences they had found on two pillars, (so that they may be found after Noahs flood). One pillar was of marble so it would not burn with fire, and the other was of brass so it would drown in water.*

Other writers state that the second pillar was not made of brass, but of *Lacerus* (clay brick) because it would not sink in water. These pillars were said to have been discovered after the flood, one by Pythagoras and the other by Hermes the philosopher and they taught the sciences and crafts written on them.

One researcher of the Bible makes the assumption that Tubal-cain was a Hebrew name capable of translation. Taking the Hebrew word *Tebel*, meaning world or habitable surface, and *anih* or *kaneh* meaning to buy or possess, brought about the meaning *worldly possessions*, but more recent scholars state that this meaning is inaccurate. (A description of the Dowland Manuscript can be found in the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey).

## KING SOLOMON

King Solomon was the tenth son of David and the second son of Bathsheba. In Chronicles Ch. 22 v. 6 onwards. we read that Solomon was preordained to be king and also that he would be called *Solomon* which means *peace*. Although he was the tenth son of David, in David's declining years the Prophet Nathan and Bathsheba persuaded David that he had promised that Solomon should be king. Solomon became king at the age of twenty whilst David was still alive.

After David's death Solomon had David's only other surviving son, Adonijah killed and so consolidated his hold on the throne. Solomon allied himself with Pharaoh King of Egypt

(Probably Psusennis, the last king of the 21st dynasty) by marrying the Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon gathered all the leaders of Israel and went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices to God.

It was here that Solomon had the dream when he asked for wisdom, knowledge and understanding, which was granted by God.

In the fourth year of his reign he commenced the building of the Temple. At this time he divided the country into twelve districts which had no relation to the areas of the twelve tribes. He conscripted the people without payment to work on the Temple as well as producing the grain and food as payment to King Hiram of Tyre, and his own palaces. During the early years of his reign Solomon was noted for his wisdom and understanding and he faithfully followed God's commands, but he later turned to the worship of pagan gods, and the administering of harsh treatment to his people.

Solomon promised and paid Hiram, King of Tyre, corn, oil and areas of country and twenty towns in return for Hiram's assistance in building the Temple, but when King Hiram viewed these towns he was most displeased with them. Solomon at one time had seven hundred wives of royal rank from neighbouring countries, who continued to worship their pagan gods. Solomon built these wives their own pagan temples and began worshipping them. By marrying these Princesses Solomon was able to maintain peace with his neighbours.



Two columns of significance!

A quote from Wor. Bro. Hammond's paper in the Research Lodge of Wellington's proceedings of

July 1975; *To sum up Solomon was an able merchant Prince and empire builder who brought Israel to the summit of its golden age, but in satisfying his own lust for fame, power and fortune he oppressed his own people beyond endurance and thereby led to the collapse of the nation and empire he had inherited and enhanced.* His reign lasted for forty years.

## **HIRAM KING OF TYRE**

Hiram, a King of Tyre and son of Aribal. He was a friend of David and sent messages of congratulations to him on his accession to the throne of the Hebrews. He also supplied timber and skilled workmen to build David's Palace (Samuel Ch. 5 v. 11-12). Forty years later when Solomon became king, King Hiram also sent him congratulations. At King Solomon's request, King Hiram sent him timber, workmen and Hiram Abif. In payment Solomon sent to King Hiram corn and oil and gave him twenty towns, but when King Hiram viewed the towns he was most dissatisfied and called them *the land of Cabul* which means barren and desolate.

King Hiram's city of Tyre was situated approximately one hundred miles north of Jerusalem. Sidon which was a further twenty miles north was also under the Tyrian government and situated in the cedar forest of Lebanon. It was from here that King Hiram sent timber for David's Palace and later for King Solomon's Temple.

## **HIRAM ABIF. The son of a widow**

Hiram Abif is first mentioned in the First Book of Kings, (Ch 7 v. 13-14) as follows. *And King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre. He was a widow's son of the Tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass, and he was filled with wisdom and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to King Solomon and wrought all his work.*

He is next mentioned in the Second Book of Chronicles (Ch 2 v. 13-14. in a letter from Hiram King of Tyre to King Solomon; *And now I have sent a cunning man endued with understanding of Hiram, my father's. The son of a woman of the daughters of Dan and his father was a man of Tyre, skilful to work in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone and in timber, in purple, in blue and in fine linen and in crimson; also to grave any manner of graving, and to find out every device which shall be put to him, with thy cunning men, and with the cunning men of my Lord David thy father.*

What appears to be a contradiction of Hiram Abif's parentage in these two descriptions has

been explained by researchers thus: *Hiram's mother was of the tribe of Dan, but that her first husband was of the tribe of Naphtali by whom she had this son; and that when she was a widow, she married a man of Tyre, who is called Hiram's father because he bred him up and was the husband of his mother.*

Hiram Abif must have gained much of his knowledge in the mechanical arts from this man from Tyre, who had married his mother.

Other researchers believe that there were two Hiram's, father and son, which would explain the contradiction in II Chronicles and Kings. In II Chronicles, *King Solomon sent to Hiram King of Tyre, asking for a skilful workman, when the man who could work in all manner of things was sent.* In Kings, *King Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre, the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali a worker in brass alone.*

It is surmised that the all round worker was sent by King Hiram at King Solomon's request, before the building was commenced: The worker in brass was sent for and fetched out of Tyre after the walls and rooms were built and it was this worker who made the pillars, sea and lavers of molten brass.

The following passages from the Bible could also suggest that there were two Hiram's father and

son. In II Chronicles (Ch 2 v. 13) *and now I have sent a cunning man endued with understanding, Hiram, His Father.* In the Jerusalem Bible *I am also sending you a skilful craftsman, Hiram Abi.* The word *Abif or Abi means his father'*

There is the possibility that the death of *Hiram Abif or Hiram his father* who was the designer and builder of King Solomon's temple, occurred before the completion of the Temple, as in the Hiramic Legend, and King Solomon was forced to send for Hiram the son to complete the work.

All this may be so, or only conjecture on the part of the lecturers and researchers and there may be only one Hiram Abif given different titles and names in the Bible. The names Hiram and Hiram are variations of the same name.

## REFERENCES

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Encyclopedia of Masonry by Albert C. Mackey.

## MASON ON THE MOON



Brother Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr. (1930-) was an astronaut and the second man to walk on the moon. Despite the U.S. Postal Service regulation that a living person may not be shown on a postage stamp, there is no doubt that the people shown on this stamp are Neil Armstrong and Edwin Eugene Aldrin, Jr. However, there is no way to specifically identify each of the figures on the stamp, so the postal regulation was not

technically broken.

Aldrin was initiated on February 17, and passed April 12, 1955 in Oak Park Lodge No. 864, Montgomery, Alabama. He received his Master Mason's degree on February 21, 1956 in Lawrence N. Greenleaf Lodge No. 169, Denver, Colorado. He then affiliated with Montclair Lodge No. 144, Montclair, New Jersey. When he made his trip to the moon, he carried a special deputation from the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas.

This document deputized Aldrin as the special representative of the Grand Master. It authorized him to open a representation of the Grand Lodge of Texas on the moon and establish Masonic territorial jurisdiction there for the Texas Grand Lodge.

There is definitely no argument now with Texas on the question of Grand Lodge territorial size!

[Excerpted from an article in *The Masonic Philatelist*, September 2014, *The Masonic Stamp Club of New York*]

## OLD MASONRY, YOUNG MASON

John has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes—the wardrobe for his entire four years of college. He became a Mason recently while attending college.

After moving to his new town, he found that down the street from his new apartment is a well-dressed, very conservative Lodge. One day John decides to go there after work. He walks in with shoes, jeans, his work shirt, and long hair. The Lodge has already started and so John looks for a seat.

The Lodge is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now the Brethren are looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything. John gets closer and closer to the East and, when he realizes there are no seats, he squats down right on the carpet. (Trust me, this had never happened in this Lodge before!)

By now the Brethren are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the

Secretary realizes that from way at the back of the Lodge, a Past Master is slowly making his way toward John.

Now the Past Master is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A good man, very elegant, very dignified, and very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do. How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid in the Lodge? It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The Lodge watches as this elderly man drops his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to John and welcomes him so he won't be alone. When the Secretary gains control, he says, "What I'm about to say, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

*[Excerpted from an article in Masonic Temple Topics, May 2014]*

