

## The Casting of the Pillars for Solomon's Porch

Also he made before the house two pillars of thirty and five cubits high, and the chapter that was on the top of each of them was five cubits. Their composition was of molten or cast brass, the better to withstand inundation or conflagration, that they might not be removed by flood or destroyed by fire. They were cast in the clay grounds on the banks of the River Jordan where King Solomon ordered these and all the sacred vessels of the Temple to be cast.

The clay used for the casting the pillars of Jachin and Boaz had a peculiar characteristic, and was only found in a particular area of the plains of Jordan between the cities of Succoth and Zeredatha. The pillars and all sacred vessels of the Temple were cast there by Hiram Abif.

In the description of the casting of the two pillars, we find in First Kings, that the clay ground was between Succoth and Zarthan. In 2nd Chronicles, it is recorded that they were cast in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredathah. Biblical scholars have determined that the two names refer to the same place.

Zaredathah stood in the Jordan Valley, on the east bank of the river, a few miles northwest of Succoth and approximately 36 miles north-northeast of Jerusalem. Until recently no one had been able to find any remains of the city of Zaredathah, nor the clay grounds of Jordan, or any place with evidence of casting activity, near enough to Jerusalem to have been used for the casting of vessels for Solomon's Temple.

In 1964 an ancient city was discovered that had been buried for nearly 3000 years that meets all the requirements. These clay grounds were where the bronze castings for the Temple of Solomon were made. The clay in this area is of unusual tenacity, is rather thick in nature and is nicely fitted for making molds. It is said to be the best matrix-clay in Palestine. It has been used for about the last 50 years by modern jewelers of Jerusalem in making molds for casting small articles of brass and other metals.



**...Another 'nugget from the quarry of Freemasonry'. <sup>SM</sup>**

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