

Moments of Beauty

Week 9 - Cathedrals and Places of Worship

Saturday, November 7



Charles Church, Vienna, Austria. Photo Credit: Alan Shore

The foundation Solomon laid for building the temple of God was sixty cubits long and twenty cubits wide (using the cubit of the old standard). The portico at the front of the temple was twenty cubits long across the width of the building and twenty cubits high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold. He paneled the main hall with juniper and covered it with fine gold and decorated it with palm tree and chain designs. He adorned the temple with precious stones. And the gold he used was gold of Parvaim. He overlaid the ceiling beams, doorframes, walls and doors of the temple with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls. 2 Chronicles 3:3-7

The architecture of churches and cathedrals is intentional and symbolic glorifying God and to helping the worshipper experience God's presence. The artistry and material used to construct the sacred space is chosen for its underlying meaning. As we are moved by the beauty of these sanctuaries, contemplate the deeper meaning of what we are seeing and feeling. In many cathedrals the shape of the building's interior is the cross, a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice of love. The ceilings are ornate and vaulted drawing our eyes up to the majesty of God. Great debates have raged over the cost of the construction of holy places. But in each culture the places that are the most striking are the ones which have been an authentic outpouring of love and worship to the God who loves us. What symbols of the faith are the most compelling to you? Keep those in mind today.

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This ends our week of beauty in cathedrals and places of worship. Next week: Beauty in water.