

Book Review by Rob Lund

The Secrets of Solomon's Temple by Kevin L. Gest

Kevin Gest is a mason who started his quest after his wife, who was visiting his Lodge Temple building in Sussex in England, asked what the significance was of the Zodiac on the ceiling, and the tessellated pavement in the centre of the floor, amongst other items. Embarrassed by not knowing the answer, he set out to answer these questions, including his own: what is the significance of Solomon's Temple that it became such an important part of Masonic ritual, and reference to the sun and stars.

The book takes the reader through a host of background subjects, the knowledge of which is required to arrive at his conclusions. Starting off with sunrise and sunset, equinoxes, precession, knowledge of the ancients—evidence that they knew the earth was round and in a heliocentric system. Then through numbers, arithmetic and the macro-cosmos, geometry, phi—the golden ratio, construction of the square, sacred geometry, Solomon's seal and construction of the hexagram and pentagram and their connection with Masonry.

Then there is a look at the building of cathedrals and the use of the golden ratio, circles, squares, and the vesica piscis, in the design of these cathedrals, as well as in the Temple of Solomon, and includes reasons for design choices based on Pythagorean numbers and geometric constants. There is a chapter on Moses, the Ark, and the Tabernacle.

The conclusion is that Solomon's Temple was built to document ancient knowledge: of astronomy and geometry, and could be used as a calendar, to show solstices—times for sowing and reaping. Our masonic ritual incorporates some of this knowledge.

Some of the explanations are quite technical, since Gest has an engineering background. While I don't agree with all his conclusions, it is an interesting read, especially the background material.

