

550 or 250 Officers did King Solomon Have? Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

1 Kings 9:20-24	2 Chronicles 8:7-11
<p>20 And all the people that were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which were not of the children of Israel,</p> <p>21 Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day.</p> <p>22 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no bondmen:</p> <p>but they were men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen.</p> <p>23 These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon’s work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.</p> <p>24 But Pharaoh’s daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which Solomon had built for her:</p>	<p>7 As for all the people that were left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which were not of Israel,</p> <p>8 But of their children, who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel consumed not, them did Solomon make to pay tribute until this day.</p> <p>9 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no servants for his work; but they were men of war,</p> <p>and chief of his captains, and captains of his chariots and horsemen.</p> <p>10 And these were the chief of king Solomon’s officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.</p> <p>11 And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her:</p>

<p>23 These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon’s work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.</p>	<p>10 And these were the chief of king Solomon’s officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.</p>
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At first glance it appears that a contradiction (a so-called “scribal error”) exists in God’s Word between 1 Kings 9:23 and 2 Chronicles 8:10 – even more especially so since the verses before and after these passages are undoubtedly addressing the same things. All too often, such examples cause many to doubt and/or even lose faith in the trustworthiness of our Lord’s many promises that He would forever preserve His Words.

However, the boldfaced red-letter comparison reveals the true situation. First Kings is clearly seen as telling us that there were 550 officers over the conscripted non-Jewish laborers that were engaged in Solomon’s building projects, whereas 2 Chronicles is stating that there were 250 officers that assisted him in governing the nation of Israel. Obviously, two different “people” and two different groups of officers are before us.