There may have been ten tables and ten lampstands in addition to the original, single golden Table of the Bread of the Presence and Lampstand (Menorah) of the desert Sanctuary that stood across from each other in the middle of the Holy of Holies. Dimensions were 90 feet long by 30 feet wide and 45 feet high.
Handout 2: 1 Kings Lesson 3

The desert Tabernacle had seven kinds of furnishings but Solomon’s Temple had eight.

Summary of the types of furnishings for Solomon’s Temple:

1. The Ark of the Covenant: Israel’s most sacred shrine that held the covenant documents of the Ten Commandments. It resided in the Holy of Holies.
2. The Mercy-seat: The solid golden lid of the Ark of the Covenant where God dwelled in the midst of His people between the wings of the figures of the golden cherubim.
3. Incense Altar: This shoulder high altar stood in front of the entrance to the Holy of Holies. Its sweet smelling incense smoke carried the prayers of the people offered during the morning and afternoon liturgies of worship into the heavenly Sanctuary. Also the fire pans for carrying the live coals from the Altar of Sacrifice and the censer for transporting the sacred incense.
4. Table of the Bread of the Presence (showbread): 1 Kings 7:48 lists a golden “table” in the singular but ten silver tables are mentioned in 1 Chronicles and 4:8. The original desert Sanctuary only had one gold covered table (Ex 25:23). Every Sabbath twelve loaves of unleavened bread, representing the twelve tribes of Israel, were place on the gold plated table in the Holy Place. Only the priests ate the leftover bread (Ex 25:23; 37:10-16; Lev 24:5-9).*
5. The Lamp stands: Ten silver lampstands each with seven bowls symbolized the seventy sons of Jacob-Israel who migrated into Egypt and Israel’s role as a light to the nations of the world represented by the seventy nations in Genesis 10 (1 Chr 28:15) and one golden lampstand with seven lamps representing the light of God’s spirit within His Temple (Ex 25:23). There were also the gold implements associated with trimming the wicks and keeping the lampstand burning.*
6. The Bronze Sea: This huge basin was for the priests to ritually cleanse their hands and feet. The twelve bulls, three facing in each of the four cardinal directions, may represent the twelve tribes of Israel and recalls the miracle of the crossing of the Red Sea out of Egypt when the Israelites were purified of the sins of Egypt.
7. The Bronze Altar of Sacrifice: The altar where the covenant people offered God their sacrifices of whole burnt offerings, sin offerings and communion offerings; and the equipment that was associated with the altar like the ash scoops and the chalices for sprinkling and pouring blood out against the altar.
8. The ten bronze lavers: Five movable bronze water basins were on the north and five on the south side of the Temple. They were used for washing the blood off the sacrificial offerings before placing them on the altar fire or returning the body of the animal to the offerer for a communion sacrifice or to the priests for a sin sacrifice. The movable lavers were not part of the desert Sanctuary.

*Flavius Josephus (37-100 AD) writes that in Solomon’s Temple there was one golden table for the Bread of the Presence on the north wall and one golden lampstand across of it on the south wall in the Holy Place in obedience to Ex 40:22-25 in addition to other lampstands and tables (Antiquities of the Jews, 8.3.7 [89-90]).