

Israel: Drive through History

2 Chronicles 7:1-22

V1-22

- **V1-3** Solomon has just finished praying before the people, kneeling on the platform arms outstretched hands lifted up to God praising His name for all that He had done. To show His approval God sends down fire from heaven that consumes the sacrifice, it was a dramatic and visible proof that he was pleased with all that was happening right now. Also the glory of the Lord is still filling the house of God and even though the priests were ready to do their duties they couldn't because the cloud was so thick with God's presence so they just bowed their faces to the ground and worshipped and praised the Lord, I like this very much and I'll tell you why!
- Sometimes when worshipping the Lord it's all right to get off script, especially when there is no denying that it is the Lord's doing, unfortunately this would have bothered some people, as they would have been looking at their watches or whatever they used to tell time, thinking of what they needed to do when they left the service, or plain disturbed that the preacher and service went off script, some people just hate it when the unexpected happens even if it is the Lord. I like how the priests didn't try and force it but just went with the flow until the cloud was lifted.
- **V4-5** as magnificent and wonderful as the program and praise were it didn't replace the sacrifices, as God still had to be honored, as much as we like praise and worship God's Word and His message must still be given. **22,000** bulls and **120,000** sheep were sacrificed, this is a staggering number, commentators say that these animals could have fed the city for **2** weeks. **V6-10** Solomon delayed the dedication so that it correspond with the "**feast of the Tabernacles**" that celebrated Israel's exodus from Egypt and the Lord's provision for them in the wilderness.
- **V11-16** Solomon determined to do it in Ch 2, began to do it in Ch 3, and now he's finished both the House of God and his palace, and afterward the Lord appeared to him with both promises and warnings. This is the second time the Lord appears to Solomon like this, the first time is after he's announced as King and he asks the Lord for wisdom-discernment and the Lord was so moved with his requests that He tells him that He will not only make him the wisest man to ever but also the richest, when we pray for the blessing that will honor the Lord not only will He give us our requests but He will give us things that we didn't ask for as well because we pleased Him.
- This is a wonderful promise because it shows the Lord knew that Israel would sin and disobey Him, but He makes provision for repentance and forgiveness. If they humble themselves and remember what I've done for them, pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, it's not enough for us to turn our hearts to God but also our ways or life to God also, and then God will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land. Healing throughout the **OT** usually includes a mixture of both spiritual and physical applications for restoration to happen.

- **V17-22** God first tells him that if you walk before the Lord as his father had then there would always be a man from their lineage ruling over Israel, but if you turn away from Me, and notice anytime anyone turns from the Lord they have to replace Him with something and it will inevitably be a counterfeit, here it's with false gods. Then God says He will uproot them meaning take them from the promise land that He had given to them, and allow this palace to be torn down and the nations that God had let them conquer would mock them for their disobedience.