

2/20/11

**Solomon Dedicated The Temple**  
**1Kings 8:1-30**

Solomon has been building for twenty years and has changed the face of Mount Moriah, the elegant Temple now stands, as a witness to Jew and Gentile of the One and true living God, Yahweh.

He is about 40-45 years old now, half way through his reign and all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear the wisdom, which God had put in his heart. 1Kings. 10:24

We want to look at the dedication of the temple by Solomon, which consists of three movements:

- I. The transfer of the ark to the temple. vs. 1-11
- II. The sermon at the temple. vs. 12-21
- III. The prayer at the temple. vs. 22-30

**I. The transfer of the ark to the temple. vs. 1-11**

\* The parallel passage. 2Chron. 5:2-14

- A. The gathering involved the entire nation. vs. 1-2
  - 1. The decree was made by Solomon. vs. 1

- a. He assembled the elders of Israel, the senior men of the nation and all the heads of the tribes, vs. 1a-b
  - b. He assembled the chief fathers of the children of Israel. vs. 1c
  - c. He assembled all of them to himself in Jerusalem. vs. 1d
2. The purpose of the decree was made clear by Solomon. vs. 1e-f
- a. He commanded to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD.
    - 1) The ark of the covenant was the holies piece of furnishing in the tabernacle. Ex. 25:10-22
    - 2) The ark was made of acacia wood, 45 inches long, 27 inches wide and 27 inches high.
    - 3) The entire ark was overlay with pure gold, inside and out, with a molding of gold all around.
    - 4) Four rings of gold were located at each corner with two poles of acacia wood overlay with gold, to be carried, never to removed.
    - 5) The mercy seat covered the top of the ark and was of solid gold, 42” long and 24” wide.
      - a) The word “cover” come from the Hebrew word “kaphar”, to propitiate, atone or reconcile, an

- expiatory place or thing referring to an atoning victim. Heb. 9:5
- b)** The Hebrew word Atonement means to cover but the Greek word is the effective accomplishment of the fact, at - one - ment.
- 7)** Two Cherubim were to be on the mercy-seat of solid gold, one on each end, the ranks of angels, identified with God's Judicial order, stand at the throne of God.
- a)** Their wings stretched out to cover the mercy-seat, facing one another and looking down towards the mercy-seat.
- b)** According to the law, two witnesses were needed.
- 9)** The ark contained three things God commanded Moses to place in it.
- \* The pot of manna, the two tablets of stone and Aaron's robe that budded.
- 10)** This would be the meeting place of God.
- a)** God would meet with Moses and the High Priest, speaking to them from the mercy-seat, between the cherubim on the ark.
- b)** God would speak to him only regarding what God had commanded the children of Israel.

- \* All the sacrifices and everything in the tabernacle spoke prophetically of Christ!
- b.** He had been housing the ark of the covenant in the original city David.
- 1)** The City of David was Ophel, which means "hill" on the southern side on the eastern ridge of Jerusalem, in the Kidron Valley, sloping down to the Hinnom Valley. 2Sam. 5:7
- 2)** The ark had been in the palace of David, that is why the Egyptian wife of Solomon reside in the City of David, in her own house, but not in the palace of David. 2Chron. 8:11
- 3)** Zion means parched place, identifying the mount on which Jerusalem lies and Zion is the other name used for Jerusalem.
- 4)** Zion is where the Messiah, Jesus Christ will set up His Kingdom. Is. 2:1-4
- 3.** The date of the decree made by Solomon is stated. vs. 2
- a.** All the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

- 1) The seventh month is October, the holies month, beginning with the Feast of Trumpets, on the 1st to sound announce the holy month, followed by the Feast of Yom-Kippor, the Feast of Atonement, terminating with the Feast of Tabernacles.
  - 2) The Feast is the Feast of Tabernacle is also called the “Feast of Ingathering” of the harvest.
  - 3) For 7 days, 15-22 of October, they would build booths outside their home and reside in them, to remind them of God bringing them though the wilderness to the land of promise.
  - 4) The Feast will be celebrated during the Millennium, as mandatory for the surviving Gentiles or they will receive no rain. Zach. 14:16-21
- b.** The building of the temple began May of the fourth year of Solomon’s reign, 967-966 B.C, 480 years after Israel came out of Egypt, 1447-1446 B.C . 1Knings 6:1, 37
- 1) The temple was finished on the eleventh year, so it took 7 years, 960-959 B.C. with all its details according to all its plans. 1Kings 6:38

- 2) His house took 13 years, they were built **consecutively** we are told, not simultaneously, at which time Solomon dedicated the temple, at the end of the 20 years, 947-946 B.C. and God appeared to Solomon a second time in respond to his prayer. 1Kings. 7:1, 9:1, 10
  - 5) Therefore the only conclusion that we can come to is that the dedication of the temple took place 13 years after it’s completion.
  - 6) It is possible that Solomon waited for the renewing of the covenant every seven years? Deut. 31:10-11
- B.** The transportation of the ark involved the Levites. vs. 3-4
1. The men were comprised of two groups. vs. 3
    - a. All the elders of Israel came. vs. 3a
      - 1) The senior men of the nation.
      - 2) Those that were looked up to and had proven themselves to be wise.
    - b. The priests took up the ark. vs. 3b
      - 1) The priest alone could approach the ark of the covenant.
      - 2) There were the Gershonites, Merarites and the Kohathites of the tribe of Levi over the tabernacle, each had their duties.

- 3) The Kohathites were the one who, after Aaron and his sons covered all the furnishings, then they would go in to carry them. Num. 10:15
  - 4) They did not receive carts like the other two, for they were to carry the ark on their shoulders. ?
2. The priestly men performed their God-ordained duty to the tabernacle. vs. 4
    - a. The Kohathites brought up the ark of the LORD, from Gibeon. vs. 4a
    - b. The Gershonites and Merarites brought up the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that in the tabernacle. vs. 4b-c
    - c. The three groups of the priests and the Levites. vs. 4d
  3. The king and people were worshipping Yahweh. vs. 5
    - a. King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel assembled before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen. vs. 5a-c
      - 1) The Hebrew participle indicates they were sacrificing as the procession was making its way, much like David did when he retrieved the ark from the house of Obed-Edom. 2Sam. 6:12-13
      - 2) Notice the King was one from and among the people in need of

- offering sacrifices and one with the people offering sacrifices.
  - b. The offerings could not be counted or numbered for multitude. vs. 5d
    - 1) Marking the extravagant wealth of Solomon.
    - 2) Marking the importance/celebration of the dedication of the temple.
- C. The inauguration of the ark in the temple. vs. 6-11
1. The specific place was the Holy of Holies. vs. 6-7
    - a. The place where God spoke to the High Priest. vs. 6
      - 1) The placing of the ark, “Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place.” vs. 6a-c
        - a) The Holy of Holies was 30’ X 30’ X 30’, a perfect cube overlaid with gold. 1Kings 6:20
        - b) Twice as large as the tabernacle.
        - c) God would meet with Moses and the High Priest, speaking to them from the mercy-seat, between the cherubim on the ark. Ex. 25:22

- 2) The guardians of the ark, “under the wings of the cherubim.” vs. 6
- a) Cherubim stand at the throne of God, identified with God’s Judicial order.
  - b) They represent the protection of God for future redemption, as in the Garden, the Cherub guarded the tree of life. Gen. 3:24
  - c) These cherubim as well as Seraphim’s are seen at the throne of God by Ezekiel, Isaiah and John. Ezk. 1, 10, Is. 6, Rev. 4-5
- b. The cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark to overshadowed the ark and poles. vs. 7
- 1) Solomon made two Cherubim 15 feet high, whose wings were 7 1/2 feet long, wings. 1King 6:23-27
  - 2) Solomon overlaid them with gold, the ones on the ark were of solid gold. 1Kings 6:28, Ex. 25:18
- c. The poles extended so the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be from outside. And they are there to this day. vs. 8
2. The specific items contained in the ark. vs. 9

- a. There was only in the ark the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb. vs. 9a
  - 1) The pot of manna was missing.
  - 2) The rod of Aaron was also missing.
- b. This was when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. vs. 9b-c
  - 1) The covenant was obedience to the Ten Commandments and the Law.
  - 2) The testimony of manna was the faithfulness of God to provide for the children of Israel for the forty years in the wilderness.
  - 3) The testimony of the rod of Aaron was to warn anyone from intruding into the priesthood, as did Korah and 250 others.
3. The specific manifestation to give evidence of the presence of God, in view of the ark. vs. 10-11
  - a. God filled the temple with a cloud, as the priest were coming out of the Holy of Holies. vs. 10
    - 1) The same evidence as over the tabernacle in the wilderness, a theophany. Ex. 40:34-35
    - 2) The same evidence that led them through the day in the wilderness for 40 years.

- b. The priest were prevented from their ministry, due to the cloud. vs. 11
  - 1) The reason being that the Shekinah glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. vs. 11
  - 2) Chronicles tells us that the Levite singers, Asaph, Heman and Jeduthyn and other were lifting up their voices with the trumpets, cymbals and instruments of music praising the LORD, saying: “For He is good, For His mercy endures forever” and they could not continue either. 2Chron. 5:12-13

### Illustration

All fifty states honor God in their state constitutions, listen to California 1879, “We, the People of the State of California, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom.”

- 1) The A.C.L.U. , senators, educators and our out of control Federal government are wrong about the origin and founding of our nation.
- 2) “Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim.” Ezk. 10:18

### Application

- 1. What an incredible thing it is when you have leaders and people of a nation gather together under the worship of God.

- a. This used to be our heritage established by our founding Father.
  - b. Our Constitution bears witness that we posses certain inalienable right endowed by our Creator, among these being life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
  - c. Every national monument has scripture engraved on it in Washington D.C.
  - d. But we are seeing our Constitutional liberties and right, being eroded and denied, especially by the Obama administration.
    - \* Isaiah in describing Israel, describes our nation today, “Alas, sinful **nation**, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.” Is. 1:4
2. We are so fortunate that we do not need priests or other mediators to come to God any longer.
- a. Jesus is our High Priest.
  - b. Jesus was the one and last sacrifice for all.
  - c. Jesus has enter the Holy of Holies in heaven
    - 1) “But Christ came as **High Priest** of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.” Heb. 9:11
    - 2) “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Heb. 10:19-23

- 3 .** We are not dependent on signs, wonders or physical manifestations of God for our assurance of confidence in our relation to God.
- a. We walk by faith not by sight. 2Cor. 5:7
  - b. We walk worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work, increasing in His knowledge. Col. 1:10
  - c. We walk by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, being filled continuously. Eph. 5:18
  - d. We experience daily his presence with us, for the Spirit Himself **bears witness** with our spirit that we are children of God. Rom. 8:16

*The transfer of the ark to the temple resulted in the presence of God!*

**II. The sermon at the temple. vs. 12-21**

\* The parallel passage. 2Chron. 6:1-11

- A. The proclamation of Solomon about the God of Israel. vs. 12-13

1. Solomon responded his witness of the cloud that fill the temple and Shekinah glory of God. vs. 12
  - a. Solomon knew God had promised, “The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud”, this was in the Law, he had a copy of it. Ex. 19:9, 20:21
  - b. Solomon also made the connection when Moses went into the cloud at Mount Sinai, the cloud covered the tabernacle and would move to led them through the wilderness. Ex. 19:9, 20:21, 24:18, 40:36, 38, Lev. 16:2
2. Solomon declared the abode of God would now be the temple. vs. 13
  - a. Solomon said, “I have surely built You an exalted house.” vs. 13a
    - 1) The Lord told David, his son Solomon would build the temple.
    - 2) This does not mean it was holy or special, due to the beauty of the building, but the presence of God.
    - 3) God had commanded it to be built and gave David the plans for it.
  - b. Solomon also said, “And a place for You to dwell in forever.” vs. 13b
    - 1) Solomon did not mean that God lived in the temple, as he will plainly say in verse 27.

- 2) Solomon knew that it was the place that God had chosen to be sought and manifest His presence, forever by the Davidic covenant, ultimately by Messiah.

**B.** The blessing of Solomon over the people of Israel. vs. 14-19

1. For God having chosen David. vs. 14-16
  - a. Solomon must have had his back to the people worshipping in song, so the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. he being both the civil and spiritual leader of the people. vs. 14
  - b. Solomon blessed God for speaking to David about the house of God. vs. 15
    - 1) He blessed Yahweh, the God of Israel. vs. 15a-b
    - 2) He said God spoke with His mouth to his father David. vs. 15c
    - 3) He said God's hand fulfilled it all. vs. 15d
  - c. Solomon declared how God fulfilled it. vs. 16
    - 1) God since the day He brought His people Israel out of Egypt, had not chosen any city from any tribe of Israel to build a house, that His name might be there. vs. 16a-c

- 2) But God had chose David to be over His people Israel. vs. 16d  
\* 2Sam. 7:5-14

2. For God allowing him to build the temple. vs. 17-19
  - a. Solomon pointed out that it was in the heart of his father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. vs. 17
  - b. Solomon pointed out that God commended David for his desire, "But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.'" vs. 18
  - c. Solomon pointed out that God denied David, but allow his son to do so, "Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name." vs. 19

**C.** The Faithfulness of God to Israel. vs. 20-21

1. Solomon said God fulfilled all He promised. vs. 20
  - a. Yahweh fulfilled His word by Solomon filling the position of his father David, sitting on the throne of Israel. vs. 20a-d



- b. Yahweh had fulfilled His word by Solomon building the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. vs. 20e
- 2. Solomon affirmed he had been faithful in the building of the temple. vs. 21
  - a. He build the Holy of Holies, “And there I have made a place for the ark.” vs. 21a
  - b. He knew the ark contained the covenant of Yahweh that He made with their fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. vs. 21b-c

### **Illustration**

As you walk up the steps to the building which houses the U.S. Supreme Court you can see near the top of the building a row of the world's law givers and each one is facing one in the middle who is facing forward with a full frontal view... it is Moses and he is holding the 10 Commandments!

\* Reminding Americans to look to God!

### **Application**

- 1. Do you declare to your children the nature of God and others?
  - a. That He is eternal, always has been.
  - b. That He is infinite, he always will be.
  - c. That He is Spirit, He has no physical body.

- d. That He is living in their body as His temple.
  - \* “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deut. 6:6-9
- 2. Do you tell and explain to your children how blessed they are to be in a Christian home and to be Christians, as well as others?
  - a. To have all their sins forgiven.
  - b. To have eternal life.
  - c. To have access to God at any time to call on Him for wisdom, strength, courage, compassion, love and peace.
  - d. To have the truth about the creation, sin, life, death and the existence of Satan.
    - \* “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory

which shall be revealed in us.” Rom. 8:16-18

3. Do you and have you shared with your children the faithfulness of God in your life.

- a. How God save both of you from sin.
- b. How God has kept your marriage together through the years by humbling you and molding you into His image.
- c. How God provided for you, kept you from foolish decisions and protected you in certain cases.

\* “And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal. Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’; for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over, that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.” Josh. 4:20-24

*The sermon at the temple pointed the people to God!*

### III. The prayer at the temple. vs. 22-30

\* The parallel passage. 2Chron. 6:12-21

A. The awesome privilege of approaching God was expressed by Solomon. vs. 22-25

1. He presented himself before God as completely dependent on Him. vs. 22

a. Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD, having offered sacrifices for his sin, as any other sinner. vs. 22a

1) He is kneeling with his hands spread to heaven, at the end of his prayer. vs. 54

2) He had offered burnt and peace offerings, complete dedication and consecration to God, being in fellowship with God. vs. 64

b. Solomon was in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven. vs. 22b-c

1) In need of God.

2) In surrender to God

3) In worship of God.

2. He declared the greatness of God. vs. 23

a. His uniqueness, “and he said: “LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You.” vs. 23a-c

b. His steadfast covenant love, “who keep Your covenant and mercy with

Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.” vs. 23d

- c. His past faithfulness, “You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.” vs. 24
- d. His future conditional promise, “Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.’” vs. 25

**B.** The attentiveness of the ear of God for their prayers through the temple was asked by Solomon. vs. 26-30

- \* His petitions are based on two passages in the Law. Lev. 26, Deut. 28-30
- 1. Solomon made his petition on the basis of God’s promises to David, “And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.” vs. 26
- 2. Solomon made it clear that he did not believe God could be confined to a physical building, “But will God indeed

dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!” vs. 27

- 3. Solomon made known his access was by covenant relation. vs. 28
    - a. He ask for favor as a servant, “Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God.” vs. 28a-b
    - b. He asked for the specific prayer he was about to make, “and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today.” vs. 28c
  - 4. Solomon asked for God’s unlimited access and forgiveness. vs. 29-30
    - a. His unlimited access, “that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.” vs. 29
    - b. His forgiveness. “And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.” vs. 30
- \* This transitional verse connects what precedes with what follows.

- c. Solomon went on to present seven specific cases that Yahweh might hear their prayers. vs. 31-53
- 1) When someone sins against their neighbor. vs. 31-32
  - 2) When they were defeated before their enemies, due to sin. vs. 33-34
  - 3) When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain, due to their sin. vs. 35-36
  - 4) When there would be famine, pestilence, blight, enemies besieged them or sickness, due to their sin. vs. 37-40
  - 5) When foreigners call on the name of Yahweh that they come to know His name. vs. 41-43
  - 6) When they went out to battle God would be with them. vs. 44-45
  - 7) When they sinned against God and He allowed them to go into captivity and they repent and turn to him that He hear and forgive. vs. 46-53
    - a) Daniel prayed three times a day, even when it was against the law and was cast into the lions den and Esther for deliverance of the Jews. Dan. 6:10, Esther 4:16

b) The repeated emphasis is “hear their prayers and supplication and forgive”.

\* He arose from his knees and his hands spread towards heaven. vs. 54

### **Illustration**

DID YOU KNOW? Every session of Congress begins with a prayer by a paid preacher, whose salary has been paid by the taxpayer since 1777.

### **Application**

1. The scriptures tell us that prayer is not simply a tool or avenue to get my will, desires or wants accomplished but God's.
  - a. We are to pray according to the will of God so that He can answer our prayer. 1Jn. 5:14-15
    - 1) There are men that teach that if you pray “Your will be done”, it is a lack of faith”, this is unbiblical, Jesus did!
    - 2) God’s will is found in God’s word, there are general and specific promises given to us.
  - b. We are to understand that prayer is to tap into the things of God not simply to get things from God as Daniel sought the Lord for the plan for Israel. Dan. 9:1-3
    - 1) Payer begins with God and ends with God.

- 2) Prayer is prompted by God and answered by God.
3. The scriptures imply emphatically that prayer is a proclamation of total dependency on God.
- a. Our relationship to God is that of sons and daughters and He is our Father in heaven.
  - b. Our heavenly Father is interested in our needs.
  - c. Our heavenly Father is interested in hearing from us.
- \* Prayer brought the Psalmist back to reality! Ps. 73
4. The scriptures tell us that prayer is a matter of heart posture, not physical posture necessarily.
- a. Jesus told of a Pharisee and a tax collector who went to pray, one prayed with himself the other prayed to God. Lk. 18:11-14
    - 1) The Pharisee saw himself as self-righteous.
    - 2) The publican saw himself as unworthy and humble.
  - b. The position of the body can be on our feet, knees, backs, face to the ground, hands lifted up to heaven but if the heart is not humble, only desiring to be seen of men, God does not hear, it is hypocrisy. 1Kings 8:22, 54
    - 1) There is a place for some of these in public.
    - 2) There are others for private demonstration to God.

- \* We should chose our word carefully, “Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be **few**.” Eccl. 5:2

*The prayer at the temple pleaded for the forgiveness and favor of God!*

### Conclusion

This is the dedication of the temple by Solomon:

- I. The transfer of the ark to the temple resulted in the presence of God!
- II. The sermon at the temple pointed the people to God!
- III. The prayer at the temple pleaded for the forgiveness and favor of God!