



# A Prayer to the God Who Hears

◆◆ 1 Kings 8:22–53 ◆◆

*Solomon's Prayer of Dedication • 2-Page Picture Handout*



## CENTRAL THEME

When God's people recognize their sin, turn back to Him, and cry out, Solomon repeatedly asks the Lord to hear from heaven, forgive, and restore.

### 1 God's Faithfulness Gives Confidence ◆ vv. 22–26

Solomon begins by praising the Lord's unmatched character and covenant faithfulness. Because God fulfilled His earlier promise to David, Solomon confidently prays according to what God has already spoken.

- ◆ 22. Solomon stands before the altar and spreads his hands toward heaven in prayer.
- ◆ 23. He declares that there is no God like the Lord, who keeps His covenant of love with faithful servants.
- ◆ 24. Solomon points to the completed Temple as evidence that God fulfilled His promise to David.
- ◆ 25. He asks God to continue the promise concerning David's descendants and faithful obedience.
- ◆ 26. He asks the God of Israel to make His promised word to David come true.

### 2 The God Who Cannot Be Contained Still Hears ◆ vv. 27–30

The Temple is magnificent, but Solomon knows it cannot contain God. His wonder is that the God greater than the heavens would still give attention to His people's prayers.

- ◆ 27. Solomon acknowledges that even the highest heaven cannot contain God, much less the Temple.
- ◆ 28. He asks the Lord to give attention to his prayer and plea for mercy.
- ◆ 29. He asks God to watch over the place bearing His Name and hear prayers offered toward it.
- ◆ 30. He asks God to hear from heaven and, when He hears, to forgive.

### 3 Justice, Repentance, Forgiveness & Restoration ◆ vv. 31–34

Solomon looks ahead to real human failure. He asks God to judge rightly when people wrong one another and to restore Israel when sin brings defeat and they turn back to Him.

- ◆ 31. When someone wrongs a neighbor and the matter comes before the altar, the case is brought before God.
- ◆ 32. Solomon asks God to hear and act—condemning the guilty and vindicating the innocent.
- ◆ 33. If Israel is defeated because of sin, then turns back, praises God, and prays, Solomon asks God to hear.
- ◆ 34. He asks God to forgive Israel's sin and restore them to the land He gave their ancestors.

### 4 God Uses Consequences to Teach His People ◆ vv. 35–40

Solomon does not only ask for difficult circumstances to be removed. He asks God to forgive, teach His people the right way to live, and deal with them according to what He alone sees in the heart.

- ◆ 35. If drought comes because of sin, and the people pray, praise God, and turn from sin, Solomon asks God to hear.
- ◆ 36. He asks God to forgive, teach them the right way to live, and send rain on the land.
- ◆ 37. Solomon includes famine, plague, crop disease, locusts, enemies, disaster, and disease.
- ◆ 38. When anyone recognizes the affliction of their own heart and prays, Solomon asks God to receive that plea.
- ◆ 39. He asks God to hear, forgive, and act because God alone truly knows every human heart.
- ◆ 40. The desired result is that the people will fear the Lord throughout their lives.



**KEY TRUTH:** God's past faithfulness gives us confidence to trust Him with what is still ahead.



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## 5 God's Heart Reaches Beyond Israel ◆ vv. 41–43

Solomon prays for foreigners who hear about the greatness of God and come come seeking Him.

His prayer looks outward: that all peoples of the earth would know the Lord's name and fear Him.

- ◆ 41. Solomon prays for the foreigner who comes from a distant land because of God's name.
- ◆ 42. He expects the nations to hear of God's great name, mighty hand, and outstretched arm.
- ◆ 43. He asks God to hear the foreigner so that all peoples may know and fear the Lord.

## 6 God Hears in Battle, Failure & Captivity

◆ vv. 44–51

Whether God's people are walking where He sent them or suffering because of their own sin, Solomon asks the Lord to hear sincere prayer. Even in captivity, repentance and wholehearted return to God are central.

- ◆ 44. When Israel goes to war where God sends them and prays toward the chosen city and Temple, Solomon asks God to hear.
- ◆ 45. He asks the Lord to hear their prayer and uphold their cause.
- ◆ 46. Solomon acknowledges the universal reality of sin and the possibility of judgment and captivity.
- ◆ 47. If the people have a change of heart, repent, and confess their wrongdoing in captivity, they can still call on God.
- ◆ 48. If they turn back to God with all their heart and soul and pray toward the land, city, and Temple, Solomon asks God to hear.
- ◆ 49. He asks God from heaven to hear their prayer and plea and uphold their cause.
- ◆ 50. He asks God to forgive their sins and offenses and move their captors to show mercy.
- ◆ 51. Solomon reminds God that Israel is His people and inheritance, brought out of Egypt.

## 7 'Lord, Listen When Your People Cry Out' ◆ vv. 52–53

Solomon closes by asking God to keep His eyes open and listen whenever His people call. His confidence rests in their covenant identity: they belong to God and were set apart to represent Him.

- ◆ 52. Solomon asks God to keep His eyes open to the pleas of His servant and His people and listen whenever they cry out.
- ◆ 53. He recalls that God singled Israel out from the nations as His own inheritance and brought them out of Egypt.



### PASSAGE TAKEAWAY

Failure does not have to be the end of the story. When God shows us where we have gone wrong, we can repent, turn back to Him, and call out to the God who hears, forgives, and restores.



### REFLECT ◆ RESPOND ◆ APPLY

- 1 **Fill in the blank**  
God's past \_\_\_\_\_ gives us confidence to trust Him with what is still ahead.
- 2 **Fill in the blank**  
Sin brings consequences, but \_\_\_\_\_ opens the door to forgiveness and restoration.
- 3 **Challenge Question**  
Solomon repeatedly asks God to "hear from heaven." How should knowing that God hears, forgives, and restores change the way you respond when you become aware of sin or wandering in your own life?

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