

I Kings Lesson 08 *

I Kings Chapter 8

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Memory verses for this week: *Mat 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

Introduction: Last week we discussed the finishing of the temple and the other 13 years that was involved in building of David's home and the other buildings for himself and his wife. This week we will be studying about how the Glory of God filled the temple on the completion of the project. II Chronicles 5 and 6 also shed additional light on this lesson today.

I. The Ark is Brought into the Temple

1Ki 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

1Ki 8:2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

1Ki 8:3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

Verse one tells us that the elders of Israel and the heads of all the tribes and the chief of the fathers all assembled so to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord into the temple. There were different classes invited, and all were important. The time this happened was 11 months after completion of the Temple. In chapter 6, we had the date and year that the temple was finished.

1Ki 6:38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

In verse 2 we have the time they assembled giving a time period of 11 months since the completion of the temple. Verses 3-9 records the moving of the Ark. The priests, Sons of Kohath, moved the ark. Solomon was wise and had learned from David's mistake.

Num 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Sa 6:3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

2Sa 6:4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

2Sa 6:5 And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

2Sa 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

2Sa 6:7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

2Sa 6:8 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

2Sa 6:9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

2Sa 6:10 So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obedom the Gittite.

2Sa 6:11 And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obedom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obedom, and all his household.

2Sa 6:12 And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obedom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obedom into the city of David with gladness.

2Sa 6:13 And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

1Ki 8:4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up.

1Ki 8:5 And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

1Ki 8:6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.

1Ki 8:7 For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

So these men brought up the Ark, the tabernacle and holy vessels to the temple. As they came, sacrifices were made along the way. In verse 6, it records where the Ark was brought into the Holy of Holies.

The ark was the inclusive type of any one of the vessels of the Tabernacle. When they brought the ark in they were in fact enthroning Christ in the temple.

Exodus 25:8-10 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it. And they shall make an ark of shittim wood....

When Christ takes up residence in our bodies by the filling of the Holy Spirit, we should enthrone Him in our lives.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Eph 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Eph 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

1Ki 8:8 And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.

1Ki 8:9 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

Verse 8 talks of the staves of the ark. These were pushed through the rings to move the ark during the time of the tabernacle. They were no longer needed but remained as a memorial of their journeys and the faithfulness of the Lord in bringing them into the land of rest. The Ten Commandments were recorded on the two stones. This was the LAW in the Ark.

According to Hebrews 9:4, the Tabernacle in the wilderness contained much more than the law. Aaron's rod and the pot of manna were provisions for the wilderness; they would not have been in keeping with the reign of glory and peace, as well as the rest they now enjoyed. The time of their removal is unknown.

Typifications can be seen in the Ark and in the Divine Word of the commandments. The Ark is a type of Christ. He kept the law perfectly in heart, mind and body. He can and does love a sinful people because of the blood sprinkled mercy seat. The Tables of the Law (Word of God) held a supreme place in the Temple, so it should do so also in the Church and in the heart of the redeemed. The Ark was also a type of the believer. God's Word is entrusted to us, but can only be kept on the basis of the blood sprinkled mercy seat.

1Ki 8:10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

1Ki 8:11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

The Glory of the Lord filled the temple is says there in verses 10-11.

2Ch 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up

their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;
2Ch 5:14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

The Cloud was the visible symbol of the Divine presence. Today we may not visibly see the Holy Spirit when he comes to dwell inside us, but he does witness with our spirit that we are a child of God.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
Rom 8:16 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

All the labor would have been in vain in building of the temple if God's presence had not filled it that day. It is the same in the Church. Someone said, "the average Church today would not notice a thing if the Holy Spirit was removed." They would continue to function in the same way, because their program does not have the Holy Spirit anyway. All pretense of salvation is useless. Only when God saves us, does the Divine Holy Spirit move in. The children of Israel had the word of God in the ark, and God's presence in the house. That is what is needed in the house of God today, which is the Church.

II. Solomon's Message

1Ki 8:12 Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.
1Ki 8:13 I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.
1Ki 8:14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)
1Ki 8:15 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying,
1Ki 8:16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.
1Ki 8:17 And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
1Ki 8:18 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.
1Ki 8:19 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.
1Ki 8:20 And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
1Ki 8:21 And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Solomon gave his opening remarks there in verses 12 through 14. He reminds the people that the Glory of God was concealed by darkness. Solomon had built a place as a habitation for God. It was a place for God. If we compare verse 13 with verse 27, it is clear that God dwells in all places as the heaven and earth can not contain the Lord.

1Ki 8:27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

We need to ask ourselves if we make room for Him in our hearts, lives, homes and Church? Verse 14 speaks of the Blessing Solomon asks to be placed on the people. The Israelites needed God's hand on them then, and today we need him just like they did. Solomon reviews all that transpired and how he was allowed to consummate the building of God's house. He also discusses David's relationship with the building of the Temple.

III. Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

1Ki 8:22 And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:

1Ki 8:23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:

1Ki 8:24 Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.

Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord and spread forth his hands and asked for God's presence and his protection for the people. In verse 23, he says that there is no God like thee which we can all totally agree. The difference in Christianity and all other religions is that we worship a true and living God. All the others were based on men who lived and died, but our Savior rose from the tomb after he died. Monotheism, the worship of the one true God was not known among the heathen. In verse 23 Solomon makes his appeal to the Lord. God had kept his word with David, and he asks that he would continue to do so in Solomon's day.

1Ki 8:25 Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.

1Ki 8:26 And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

1Ki 8:27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

1Ki 8:28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day:

1Ki 8:29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward

*the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.
1Ki 8:30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.*

Solomon brings up the promises God had made to David and appeals that these be true in his day. He had promised David that "There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel." He speaks in verse 27 of the greatness of God. No one place is big enough to contain God. One of his attributes is that He is Omnipresent. That means He can be in all places at the same time. Satan nor any of his demons do not possess that power.

Solomon goes on and makes a plea for God to hear. Be assured that when you pray with a full heart of devotion and faith like Solomon did, your prayers are heard in the throne of heaven. We have a promise from God on that when we pray in the name of Jesus.

Mar 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Mar 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mar 11:24 *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

Mar 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mar 11:26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

1Ki 8:31 If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house:

1Ki 8:32 Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

1Ki 8:33 When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house:

1Ki 8:34 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.

1Ki 8:35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them:

1Ki 8:36 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

Solomon makes intercession for possible emergencies. None of us knows what a day holds, and Solomon makes a petition for the people. These verses could almost be declared prophecy, since all of these things did happen to Israel. Look

for and underline the IF's, WHEN's and THEN's. Also note that SIN is the cause of all these problems.

In verse 31, he makes a plea for just judgment. (Note: Oaths and swearing, as sometimes found in the Bible, is not cursing or taking God's name in vain.)

Exo 22:11 Then shall an oath of the LORD be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good.

Jer 12:16 And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people.

The New Testament also has teachings about the oaths and swearing in this regard.

Gal 1:20 Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.

Jas 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

Rom 4:1 *What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?*

Rom 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

Rom 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Rom 4:4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Rom 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Solomon makes a plea for restoration from captivity in verses 33-34. He also makes a plea for rain in time of drought. We need to seek the Lord's face on our current drought here in Texas. Only God can change such dire situations as a drought or a famine.

Isaiah 5:6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

1Ki 8:37 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be;

1Ki 8:38 What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread

*forth his hands toward this house:
1Ki 8:39 Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)
1Ki 8:40 That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.
1Ki 8:41 Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake;
1Ki 8:42 (For they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house;
1Ki 8:43 Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.*

In verse 37, Solomon makes a plea for help in time of famine and pestilence. He goes on in verse 41 to make a plea for the Gentiles.

Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

Isaiah 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Ephesians 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.

*1Ki 8:44 If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house that I have built for thy name:
1Ki 8:45 Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.*

Solomon prays for help in time of battle with Israel's enemies.

2 Chronicles 20:29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.

2 Chronicles 32:8 With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah

Psalm 5:11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Isaiah 31:5 As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

1Ki 8:46 If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

1Ki 8:47 Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

1Ki 8:48 And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

1Ki 8:49 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

1Ki 8:50 And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

1Ki 8:51 For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron:

1Ki 8:52 That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.

1Ki 8:53 For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.

Solomon makes a plea for help in time of Captivity in verses 46-53. He knew God was ever ready to help his people, and they could turn to the true and living God Jehovah in times of trouble.

1Ki 8:54 And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

1Ki 8:55 And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying,

1Ki 8:56 Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

1Ki 8:57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:

1Ki 8:58 That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep

his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.

1Ki 8:59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:

1Ki 8:60 That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else.

1Ki 8:61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

1Ki 8:62 And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.

1Ki 8:63 And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.

1Ki 8:64 The same day did the king hallow the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings: because the brasen altar that was before the LORD was too little to receive the burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

1Ki 8:65 And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days.

1Ki 8:66 On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.

Solomon concludes with his benediction. This shows his humility. He was a great king, but yet a man with a humble heart. No believer should be so proud that he cannot bow his knees to God. The extended hands acknowledged that the blessings came down from God. He also remembers the past blessings.

Psalm 36:5 Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

Romans 4:21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

In verse 57 he asks for future blessings. He has promised the believer that He will never forsake us.

Heb 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

If man is going to live according God's word, his heart must be inclined toward God, and this is a work of God. The reason for the request was that all the people of the earth would know God and Him alone. This can never be without obedience to God. He closes the chapter with the divine confirmation and the sacrifices and the rejoicing.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

Solomon is a type of Christ interceding for His people. It is a great thing when a nation's ruler can be led by the Spirit in prayer and when he realizes that all answers to prayers must be on the ground of the shed blood of Christ.

* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Oct. 2013.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.