

1 Kings 8:1-66 **Dedication of the Temple**

The Ark Brought into the Temple (2 Chron 5:2-6:2)

¹ Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is Zion.

² Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which is the seventh month. ³ So all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. ⁴ Then they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

⁵ Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude.

⁶ 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, under the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. ⁸ The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

⁹ Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets 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.

¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

¹² Then Solomon spoke:

"The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud. ¹³ I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever."

Solomon's Speech at Completion of the Work (2 Chron 6:3-11)

¹⁴ Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. ¹⁵ And he said:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying, ¹⁶ 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.'

¹⁷ Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.'

20 So the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. 21 And there I have made a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication (2 Chron 6:12-39)

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; 23 and he said:

"Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

24 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.

25 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.'

26 And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.

27 "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!

28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O Lord my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: 29 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.

30 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.

31 "When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple, 32 then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

33 "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple, 34 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.

35 "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, 36 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

37 "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever

sickness there is; ³⁸ whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: ³⁹ then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), ⁴⁰ that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

⁴¹ "Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake ⁴² (for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, ⁴³ hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

⁴⁴ "When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, ⁴⁵ then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

⁴⁶ "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; ⁴⁷ yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; ⁴⁸ and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: ⁴⁹ then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, ⁵⁰ and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them ⁵¹ (for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace), ⁵² that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You. ⁵³ For You separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You spoke by Your servant Moses, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God."

Solomon Blesses the Assembly (2 Chron 6:40-42)

⁵⁴ And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the Lord, that he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. ⁵⁵ Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

⁵⁶ "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.

⁵⁷ May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, ⁵⁸ that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.

59 And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near the Lord our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require, 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.

61 Let your heart therefore be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day."

Sacrifices and Dedication of the Temple [1 Kings 8:62-66] (2 Chron 7:4-11)

62 Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the Lord. 63 And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep.

So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord. 64 On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the Lord; for there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the Lord was too small to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

65 At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the Lord our God, seven days and seven more days — fourteen days.

66 On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the Lord had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.

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Facts Revealed:

The Ark Brought into the Temple [1 Kings 8:1-13] (2 Chron 5:2-6:2)

- ✧ Joshua had set up the Tabernacle of Yahweh with the Ark of the Covenant in Shiloh where it remained until the Philistines captured the Ark from the sons of Eli. [Joshua 18:1, 1 Samuel 4:4-11]
- ✧ The Philistines returned the Ark of the covenant to Beth Shemesh, from which it was sent to the house of Abinadab in Kirjath Jearim [1 Samuel 6:1-16, 17-21, 7:1]
- ✧ David brought the Ark of the Covenant from the house of Abinadab to the tabernacle he had set up in the City of David. [2 Samuel 6:1-19]
 - ◇ Apparently the articles in the Tabernacle in Shiloh had also been brought into David's Tabernacle on Mount Zion in Jerusalem.
- ✧ Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is Zion. Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which is the seventh month. So all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. Then they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. **The priests and the Levites brought them up.** [1 Kings 8:1-4]
 - ◇ Solomon was careful to handle the Holy things according to the prescribed manner, which was the responsibility of the priests and Levites.

- ✧ The Priests and Levites brought into the Temple of God all the holy articles including the Ark of the Covenant, the structure of the Tabernacle, and all the furnishings associated with the service of Yahweh in the Tabernacle.
 - ✧ The seventh month of Israel is called Ethanim only this one time in the Bible, the word is of Phoenician origin and suggests "a perennial, ever flowing stream" The primary name of the seventh month in Hebrew is Tishri.
 - ✧ The first day of the seventh month is the Day of **Trumpets**, a holy convocation when no work is allowed. Leading up to the **Day of Atonement** on the 10th day of the month and followed by the Feast of Tabernacles the 15th through the 23rd. All the men of Israel are required to appear before the Lord in the seventh month.
 - ✧ Therefore it seems logical that the **Tabernacle was moved to the Temple** on the 2nd day of the seventh month, the **feast of dedication** on the seven days of the 3rd to the 9th with the **Day of Atonement** on the 10th, a holy convocation, then 4 days later the **Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)** the 15th through the 23rd days of the seventh month. The 15th and 23rd days each being days of rest where no work is allowed, a holy convocation.
 - ✧ All the men of Israel were required by God to appear before the Lord three times each year:
 - Passover** (Pesach) in the first month, **Pentecost** (Shavuot) 50 days after Pesach, and the **Feast of Tabernacles** (Sukkot) in the seventh month. [Deuteronomy 16:16]
 - Thus there would have been a great multitude from all the tribes of Israel to witness the moving into the Temple and the dedication of it.
 - ✧ Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. [1 Kings 8:5]
 - ✧ This was a great national event and celebration.
 - ✧ 6 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, under the wings of the cherubim.
 - 7 For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 8 The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. [1 Kings 8:6-8]
 - ✧ Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets 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. [1 Kings 8:9]
 - ✧ 10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [1 Kings 8:10-11]
 - ✧ Yahweh demonstrated His acceptance of the Temple by the SHEKINAH Glory cloud of His presence just as He showed his acceptance of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness. [Exodus 40:34-35]
 - ✧ Then Solomon spoke: "Yahweh said He would dwell in the dark cloud, I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell forever." [1 Kings 8:12-13]
 - ✧ Solomon was more correct when he said, "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!" [1 Kings 8:27]
- Solomon's Speech at Completion of the Work** [1 Kings 8:14-21] (2 Chron 6:3-11)
- ✧ 14 Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. [1 Kings 8:14]

☆ 15 And he said:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying, 16 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.' [1 Kings 8:15-16, 2 Samuel 7:4-7]

17 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. 18 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. 19 Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.' [1 Kings 8:17-19, 2 Samuel 7:12-13]

20 So the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised; and I have built a temple **for the name of the Lord God of Israel**. 21 And there I have made a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt." [1 Kings 8:20-21]

◇ God has fulfilled His promise to David concerning the Temple.

◇ The Temple can not contain the God of creation, but it can contain the articles of worship from the Tabernacle in the Wilderness.

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication [1 Kings 8:22-53] (2 Chron 6:12-39)

☆ 22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; 23 and he said:

"Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

24 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.

25 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.' [1 Kings 2:1-4]

26 And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father. [1 Kings 8:22-26]

◇ No God anywhere like the God of Israel Who makes a covenant and keeps it to fulfill it.

◇ God's promises, covenants, and mercy are for those who walk before Him wholeheartedly.

◇ Solomon acknowledged the faithfulness of God in performing His promise to David to the point of building the Temple.

◇ Solomon acknowledged that the condition for the continuation of the promise is based on the faithfulness of Solomon and his descendants forever, that they walk before God with all their hearts as David had walked. [1 Kings 2:1-4, 8:25-26]

☆ 27 "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! [1 Kings 8:27]

- ✧ Here Solomon considered that the Temple he has made is only a place to represent the Name of the Great God of Israel, because the God of Israel is so great that even the heavens are not large enough to contain God.
 - ✧ Still, Solomon's prayer of dedication is focused on the Temple in the eyes of mankind as the place that represents the presence of God.
- ☆ **28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication**, O Lord my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: **29 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.**
- 30 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.** [1 Kings 8:28-30]
- ✧ Solomon asked the Lord to especially hear the prayers that are prayed focused on the Temple, the place where God has caused His Name to dwell forever.
 - ✧ God had previously set the precedent by instructing the people of Israel to take their sacrifices, offerings, and vows to the place where He has chosen to make His Name to dwell. [Deuteronomy 12:5-7]
 - ✧ The one thing people need most when they pray is God's forgiveness.
- Then Solomon set specific needs for prayer and asked God to act in response to their prayers.
- ☆ **31 "When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple**, **32 then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.** [1 Kings 8:31-32]
- ✧ Situation: Personal sin and oath before God in the Temple.
 - ✧ Request: Divine Justice.
- ☆ **33 "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple**, **34 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.** [1 Kings 8:33-34]
- ✧ Situation: National calamity of defeat by enemies because of sin.
 - ✧ Request: Forgiveness and restoration, based upon Israel's confession, repentance and prayer toward this Temple.
- ☆ **35 "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them**, **36 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.** [1 Kings 8:35-36]
- ✧ Situation: Drought because of sin.
 - ✧ Request: Forgiveness and end of drought, based on Israel's confession, repentance, and prayer toward the Temple.
 - ✧ Purpose: That the people may learn the right way to go.
- ☆ **37 "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever**

plague or whatever sickness there is; 38 whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: 39 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), 40 that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers. [1 Kings 8:37-40]

✧ Situation: Any plague, epidemic or oppression by enemy.

✧ Request: Forgiveness and justice, based upon individual or national acknowledgment of sin and prayer toward this Temple.

✧ Solomon acknowledged that God knows the hearts of all men.

✧ Purpose: That the people may fear God as long as they are in the Promised Land.

☆ 41 **"Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake 42 (for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, 43 hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name. [1 Kings 8:41-43]**

✧ Situation: Foreigners who come to Israel in response to the reputation of Yahweh, and reach out in prayer toward this Temple.

✧ Request: Answer his prayer in the affirmative.

✧ Purpose: That all people on earth may know and fear the God of Israel.

☆ 44 **"When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, 45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. [1 Kings 8:44-45]**

✧ Situation: Time of war against an enemy and they pray to Yahweh toward this temple.

✧ Request: Uphold their cause.

☆ 46 **"When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; 47 yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; 48 and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: 49 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, 50 and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them 51 (for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace), 52 that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You.**

53 For You separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as

You spoke by Your servant Moses, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God."
[1 Kings 8:46-53, Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2, 26:16-19]

- ✧ Situation: When God has scattered His people to foreign lands because of their sin.
- ✧ Solomon acknowledged that there is no one who does not sin.
- ✧ Request: Hear their prayer, maintain their cause, forgive all their trespasses and sins, grant compassion, based on their awakening, confession, repentance, and supplication in the land of their captivity, and their return to Yahweh with all their heart and soul, praying toward this Temple.
- ✧ Reason: Because they are God's people whom He separated for Himself out of all the people of the earth to be His inheritance according to His promise to Moses when He brought His people out of Egypt.

Solomon Blessed the Assembly [1 Kings 8:54-61] (2 Chron 6:40-42)

✧ 54 And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the Lord, that he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. 55 Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

56 "Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.

57 May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, 58 that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.

59 And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near the Lord our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require, 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no other.

61 Let your heart therefore be loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day." [1 Kings 8:54-61]

- ✧ In all this Solomon Blessed Yahweh Eloheynu for His great faithfulness in completely fulfilling His promise to Israel through Moses, acknowledging that not one word of God's good promise had failed to come true.
- ✧ Solomon acknowledged the great need for Yahweh to remain near to His people, and that only God can truly keep our hearts inclined toward Himself to enable us to walk in His ways, and obey His commandments, statutes, and judgments.
- ✧ Solomon asked that God will embrace the words of his prayer and maintain the cause of the people of Israel as each day may require.
- ✧ Purpose: That all the people of the earth may know there is no other God but Yahweh.
- ✧ Finally, Solomon reminded the people of Israel of their responsibility to be loyal to Yahweh Eloheynu from the heart, to obey His statutes and commandments, which requires personal commitment to God.

Sacrifices and Dedication of the Temple [1 Kings 8:62-66] (2 Chron 7:4-11)

✧ 62 Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the Lord. 63 And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, twenty-two thousand bulls

and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord.

64 On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the Lord; for there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the Lord was too small to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

- ✧ The overwhelming number of sacrifices demonstrate the zeal for the Lord in the heart of the people and of Solomon at the time the Temple was dedicated. [1 Kings 8:62-64]
- ✧ They did not understand that God is not as impressed with sacrifices as in obedience to the commandments of the Lord. [1 Samuel 15:22-23, Psalm 40:6-8, Hebrews 10:5-8]

Feast of Dedication and Feast of Tabernacles

✧ 65 At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the Lord our God, **seven days and seven more days — fourteen days.**

66 On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the Lord had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people. [1 Kings 8:65-66]

- ✧ The completion and dedication of the Temple was a great occasion with people present for the Feast of Tabernacles from all over Israel as witnesses.
- ✧ With the overwhelming number of sacrifices it was very appropriate to conclude the occasion with a great feast for the people.
- ✧ Solomon held a **feast of dedication**, and all Israel with him, a great assembly for seven days, the 3rd through the 9th days of the seventh month. The 8th day a holy convocation the **Day of Atonement** on the 10th. Then the **Feast of Tabernacles** for seven days, the 15th through the 21st day of the seventh month followed by a holy convocation on the eighth day the 22nd. Then he sent the people home on the 23rd
[2 Chronicles 7:8-10]
- ✧ The eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles was a day of Holy assembly as was the first day of the Feast. This is a great time to feast and rejoice before the Lord for the nation as prescribed by the Law of the Lord. [Leviticus 23:23-44]