

1 Kings 8

SOLOMON DEDICATES THE TEMPLE

Introduction:

1. The construction of the Temple took seven years (6:1, 37-38).
 2. The construction of the King's house took thirteen years (7:1).
 3. It seems that the Temple was dedicated after both of these were completed – 20 years after it was begun (9:1-9, esp. vs. 3).
 4. Likely, the Temple was being furnished during those thirteen years.
 5. The dedication of the Temple took place during the Feast of Tabernacles in the month Ethanim (also called Tisri), the seventh month of the 24th year of his reign (8:2).
 - a. In his chronology, Usher claims that this was also a Jubilee year.
 - b. The Jubilee would have been proclaimed by the sounding of the trumpet at the end of the Day of Atonement.
 - c. The Fest of Tabernacles would have been two sabbath days later.
 - d. He dates this as the year after the Temple was completed.
- I. Transport of the Ark of the Covenant (1 Kings 8:1-9)
- A. 8:1-2 – This was a solemn and stately assembly of the leaders and elders of Israel.
 - B. 8:3-5 – Solomon carefully followed God's instructions for the transporting of the Ark.
 - C. 8:6-9 – The Ark was placed in the Most Holy Place where it would remain.
 1. Some see a contradiction between verse 9 and Hebrews 9:4.
 2. First, the Greek word for 'in' can also mean, "near, by, before, or in the presence of."
 3. It is also possible (and probable) that at one time all three items were in the Ark of the Covenant.
 - a. Hebrews 9 is referring to when the Ark was built at the time of the Exodus.
 - b. The building of the Temple was almost 500 years later!
 - c. It is possible that those other items had been removed or even stolen by the Philistines (cf. 1 Sam. 4 – 5).
 4. Both statements can be true; therefore, there is no contradiction.
- II. Appearance of the Glory of God (1 Kings 8:10-11)
- A. The parallel passage states that God's glory appeared when the Levites sang in unison: "For He is good; for His mercy endureth forever" (2 Chron. 5:11-14).
 - B. The cloud is the same that led Israel through the wilderness and manifested at the Tabernacle.
 - C. It is a representation of the presence and glory of Jehovah.
 - D. Today, God's presence dwells in His spiritual Temple – the church – as He dwells in the heart of every Christian (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20; Eph. 2:21-22).
- III. Solomon's Words to the Nation (1 Kings 8:12-21)
- A. Solomon faced the Temple and the Most Holy Place and declared unto the people that they had seen the manifestation of God's presence.
 - B. Though he had built a house for God to dwell in, Jehovah could not be contained in the Temple, nor should He be profaned or disrespected.
 - C. Then he turned to face the people, they stood, and Solomon reminded them of God's faithfulness throughout their history (cf. 2 Chron. 6:1-11).

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- IV. Solomon's Prayer to God (1 Kings 8:22-53)
- A. Solomon had built a special platform on which he stood before the people (2 Chron. 6:12-13).
 - B. There, he knelt down, raised his hands to heaven, and prayed to Jehovah.
 - C. 8:23 – He praised God for His nature and His covenant of mercy.
 - 1. Note that God's covenant of mercy was not unconditional.
 - 2. It was for those "walk before thee with all their heart."
 - 3. This was language from Exodus 20:4-6 and Deuteronomy 7:9, 12.
 - D. 8:24 – He praised God for His faithfulness.
 - E. 8:25-26 – He asked God to continue to honor His word (Jer. 22:24-30; 33:17-26; Luke 1:68-72).
 - F. 8:27-30 – He acknowledged God's greatness yet asked for His attention to the prayers of His people.
 - 1. Notice that Solomon puts the Temple in proper perspective.
 - 2. This is something that the Israelites would fail to maintain, eventually turning the Temple into an idol (cf. Isa. 66:1; Jer. 7:1-16; Matt. 21:12-13; 23:37-39; Acts 7:47-54).
 - G. 8:31-40 – He prayed for justice and forgiveness according to God's instructions (cf. Deut. 28 – 30; Exo. 22:8-11).
 - 1. It is interesting to note that each King was instructed to copy for himself the book of God's law that he might always remember and keep it (Deut. 17:18-20).
 - 2. Consider verse 35 in light of Elijah's prayer (1 Kin. 17; James 5:17-18).
 - 3. Jonah prayed toward the Temple and God heard (Jon. 2:4).
 - 4. Daniel prayed toward the Temple and God heard (Dan. 6:10).
 - H. 8:41-43 – The Temple was to be a house of prayer for all nations (Isa. 56:7; cf. Acts 10).
 - I. 8:44-53 – He asked for God to be forgiving and to restore His people when they repented of their sins and sought His help.
- V. Solomon's Blessing for the Nation (1 Kings 8:54-66)
- A. 8:56 – God is praised.
 - B. 8:57-58 – God's guidance sought.
 - C. 8:59-60 – God's protection desired.
 - D. 8:61 – Obedience demanded.
 - E. 8:62-64 – Sacrifices offered.
 - F. 8:65-66 – Feasting and the return home.