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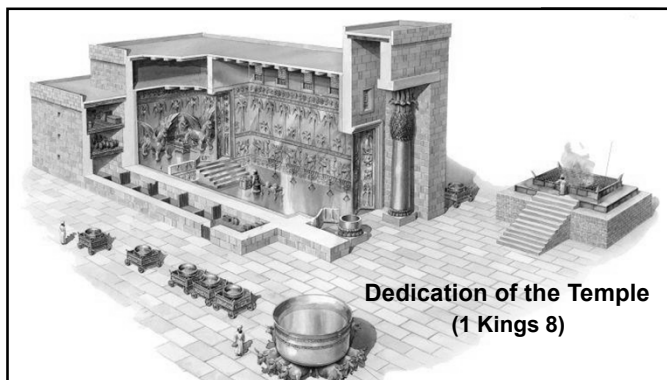
"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has fallen of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant."

(1 Kings 8:56)

Then they went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had shown to David His servant and to Israel His people.

(1 Kings 8:66)

2



3

1 Kings 8:1-66

- A. Bringing in the Ark (v.1-13)
- B. Solomon Blesses the Assembly (v.14-21)
- C. Solomon's Prayer (v.22-53)
- B.' Solomon Blesses the Assembly (v.54-61)
- A.' Dedicating of the Temple (v.62-66)

4

Solomon's Prayer

- Context: *Yahweh's Covenant Faithfulness*

5

¹⁴ Then the king faced about and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. ¹⁵ He said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has fulfilled *it* with His hand, saying, ¹⁶ 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel from Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes 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 house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁸ But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. ¹⁹ Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son *who will* be born to you, he will build the house for My name.'

6

²⁰ Now the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ²¹ There I have set a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD, which He made with our fathers when He brought them from the land of Egypt.”

7

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 He said, “O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and *showing* lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart, ²⁴ who have kept with Your servant, my father David, that which You have promised him; indeed, You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand as it is this day. ²⁵ Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant David my father that which You have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me as you have walked.’”

8

²⁶ Now therefore, O God of Israel, let Your word, I pray, be confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant, my father David.

9

Solomon's Prayer

➤ Context: *Yahweh's Covenant Faithfulness*

- Yahweh is incomparable in His covenant faithfulness (*hesed* – “loyal love”)
- Christ is the fulfillment of God's covenant promises – we are included!

10

²⁷ “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built! ²⁸ Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today; ²⁹ that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place. ³⁰ Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive.”

11

Solomon's Prayer

1. The Temple's Function

- God presence in the temple was a real extension of His power (“Name”), but not the full essence of His being

12

Solomon's Prayer

1. The Temple's Function

- The temple functioned as...
 - a visible symbol of God's presence
 - a conduit of prayer heard "in heaven"
 - the primary place of interaction between a sinful people and their forgiving God

13

Solomon's Prayer

2. The Plea for Future Forgiveness

- the temple was a sign of hope of God's final forgiveness and acceptance of His people
- a tension between people's innate sinfulness and the need for whole-hearted devotion and obedience

14

Solomon's Prayer

➤ Resolved in Christ

- Jesus, the new temple, bears our curse, secures our forgiveness and inaugurates the new creation
- we pray in and through the name of Jesus

15