

Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

The Dedication of the Temple

- Solomon had the Ark of the Covenant brought into the temple [1 Kgs 8:1-11].
 - The elders and heads of the tribes and families received special invitations for this event [v. 1a].
 - The Ark of the Covenant was in the tabernacle on mount Zion in southeast Jerusalem [v. 1b].
 - All the men of Israel were assembled in Jerusalem for the Feast of Booths [v. 2 cf. Lev 23:34].
 - With the elders of Israel present, the priests took up the Ark of the Covenant [v. 3].
 - The priests and Levites also brought up the tabernacle and its holy utensils [v. 4].
 - NOTE: The tabernacle and its furnishings may have been stored in the side rooms of the temple.
 - The people responded by worshipping the Lord and sacrificing innumerable animals [v. 5].
 - The Ark was placed in the Holy of Holies under the wings of the two cherubim [vv. 6-7].
 - The poles used to carry the Ark were so long they could be seen from the Holy Place [v. 8].
 - Moses' two tablets of stone were all that was inside the Ark of the Covenant [v. 9].
 - The pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded were not in the Ark of the Covenant [Heb 9:3-4].
 - They were either placed there sometime after this event or removed by one of Israel's enemies.
 - When the priests exited the Holy Place after placing the Ark in the Holy of Holies, the glory of the Lord filled the temple [vv. 10-11].
 - This "cloud" is often referred to as the Shekinah Glory – Shekinah => "He caused to dwell".
 - The Shekinah Glory filled the tabernacle in a similar way [Ex 40:34-35].
- Solomon highlighted this remarkable occasion by addressing the people [1 Kgs 8:12-21].
 - Solomon began by addressing the Lord [vv. 12-13].
 - He then turned to face the assembly of people standing reverently before him [v. 14].
 - Solomon explained how building the temple had been the result of the Lord fulfilling His promise to his father David [vv. 15-21].
- Solomon then offered up an amazing prayer of dedication for the temple [1 Kgs 8:22-53].
 - He began by kneeling on his knees with his hands spread out toward heaven [v. 22 cp. v. 54].
 - NOTE: This was done on a special bronze platform built for the dedication service [2 Chr 6:13].
 - He began his prayer by praising God for His uniqueness and faithfulness [vv. 23-24].
 - Solomon continued his prayer by petitioning God making eight requests [vv. 25-53].
 1. He asked God to be with him (as He was with David) and hear his prayer [vv. 25-29].
 2. He asked God to hear the prayers of the people, forgive them of their sins and judge between them righteously [vv. 30-32].
 3. He asked God to forgive the sins of the people that lead to military defeat [vv. 33-34].
 4. He asked God to forgive the sins of the people that lead to drought, famine, pestilence, blight, mildew, and other such calamities [vv. 35-40].

5. He asked God to hear and answer the prayers of God-fearing foreigners [vv. 41-43].
 6. He asked God to grant Israel victory in battle when they are seeking Him [vv. 44-45].
 7. He (prophetically) asked God to restore the people of Israel from captivity if they repent of their iniquity and wickedness [vv. 46-51].
 8. He summarized by asking God to hear all the supplications of His people [vv. 52-53].
- Solomon then pronounced a benediction upon the people [1 Kgs 8:54-61].
 - Solomon arose from kneeling to pray and blessed the assembly of people [vv. 54-55].
 - He thanked God for giving Israel rest [v. 56].
 - He asked God to work in the hearts of the people of Israel to cause them to walk in His ways and glorify Him [vv. 57-61].
 - Solomon offered sacrifices for the dedication of the temple [1 Kgs 8:62-64].
 - The people of Israel joined him in offering these sacrifices [v. 62].
 - A staggering number of peace offerings were made in the dedication [v. 63].
 - Solomon consecrated the courtyard in front of the temple as well [v. 64].
 - Once the dedication was complete, Solomon joined with all Israel in celebrating the Feast of Booths [1 Kgs 8:65-66].
 - People from all over were in Jerusalem [v. 65a].
 - The feast was normally seven days but was extended for this special occasion [v. 65b].
 - On the fifteenth day of the feast, Solomon sent the people home joyful and thankful [v. 66].