

The Dedication Of The Temple

1 Kings 8:1-66

MEMORY VERSE

1 KINGS 8:56

“There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Masking tape and two balloons.

Option 1 - Two small paper plates for each child, streamers or ribbon, dry beans, markers, a stapler and glue.

Option 2 - One pipe cleaner and 5 - 6 small bells for each child, streamers or ribbon.

A healthy snack for the children’s “Day of Celebration feast.”

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Hop to the Temple

The entire nation of Israel was invited to the temple dedication. For a fun game to help the children get their “wiggles” out, let’s play Hop to the Temple. Have children form two teams. With masking tape, make a starting line. Blow up two balloons and explain to the children that they will need to keep the balloon between their knees and hop to the “temple” (the other end of the room) and back. You can possibly draw a “temple” on the chalk/dry erase board and have that as the side of the room that they will hop towards.

Make sure that the teams are evenly distributed; have the first child go a second time if the teams are not even. See which team can get to the temple and back first. Reward that team with the privilege of serving the snack later to the whole class during the Day of Celebration feast.

LESSON TIME!

The nation of Israel had quite a history of testing God's patience. They would seem to go back and forth, often rebelling against God and then suffering the consequences of God's judgment upon them.

Solomon's father, King David was a godly king. He loved God and led the nation of Israel to be faithful to the Lord and walk in His ways. As Solomon became king, the nation experienced a time of blessing and prosperity unlike any other time in their history—just as God had promised those who chose to walk in obedience to Him. **God always keeps His promises.**

Today's lesson will cover a momentous event in the history of Israel—the dedication of the temple Solomon built.

1 KINGS 8:1-11

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.

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.

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.

For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.

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.

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.

And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Remember, it was first in the heart of King David to build a permanent dwelling for the ark of the covenant. Though he collected materials, God chose King Solomon to complete the task. God provided materials and gifted laborers for the construction

project. It took a little over seven years to complete the temple, but when it was done the temple was one of Israel's most beautiful and awesome buildings, a place where all the people of Israel could gather to worship.

Everyone in Israel was invited to celebrate and witness this wonderful event—the dedication of the temple to the Lord. The whole nation gathered to watch the ark of God make its way in a great parade as the priests carried the ark with poles to be placed in the Holy of Holies within the temple. The temple courtyard buzzed with busy priests sacrificing more animals than could be counted as the people joyfully worshipped the Lord.

The Lord filled the Holy of Holies with a beautiful manifestation of His glory, giving approval of their expression of worship, just as He did with Moses, when the tabernacle was dedicated (Exodus 40:34-35). Wow! What an experience. The presence of the holy and living God was with the nation of Israel. They knew that God *desired* to dwell with His people. What an indescribable blessing it must have been to those present—King Solomon and the children of Israel—as they celebrate their relationship with the living God.

Remember our lesson last week? The Lord dwells in different temples, today--He dwells inside of our hearts. We, as God's temple, can be filled with the glory of His presence. When we ask Him to come into our lives, He will, just as He promised. We no longer have to sacrifice animals as a covering for our sin. We are now forgiven because of the work Jesus did on the cross. How blessed we are as we enjoy sweet communion with our Lord and Savior, who said, "He will never leave us nor forsake us" (Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5). He is faithful to continue His work in our lives and will finish it when we meet Him face to face (Philippians 1:6). **God always keeps His promises.**

1 KINGS 8:12-21

Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever."

Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

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,

'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.'

"Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

"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.

'Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.'

"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.

"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."

This day of celebration was possible because of God's faithfulness to the promise made to King David. Remember, God told David he would not be the one to build the temple. Instead, the task would be left to his son Solomon. So David made preparations for Solomon to carry out his task (1 Chronicles 22:6-10). **God always keeps His promises.**

King Solomon and the people of Israel celebrated and worshipped God for His faithfulness. Now the ark of the Lord rests in the place where God will dwell. King Solomon is filled with humility and thankfulness as he expresses the faithfulness of God to not only his father, but to all the people of Israel, the people He delivered from the bondage of Egypt.

What do we have to be thankful for? It is good to look over our lives and remember *all* that God has done for us. As we gather for church, let it be a time of celebration of His faithfulness!—a time when we express our thankfulness to Him. **God always keeps His promises.**

1 KINGS 8:22-53

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;

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.

"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.

"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.'

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

"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!

"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:

"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.

"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.

"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,

"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.

"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,

"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.

"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,

"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.

"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;

"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:

"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),

"that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

"Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake

'(for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple,

"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.

"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,

"then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

"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;

"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';

"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:

"then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause,

"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

"(for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace),

"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.

"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."

King Solomon stood before the altar of God before all the assembly of Israel, then kneeling down with his hands spread toward heaven prayed to the Lord, dedicating the temple. He began his prayer with worship and praise to God for His awesome character and his faithfulness in keeping His promises. **God always keeps His promises.**

Then King Solomon began to petition God and to intercede for His people. He knew that their greatest need would be for God to hear their prayers in times of trouble and sin. In his prayer, we can see nine requests of Solomon.

1) GOD'S PRESENCE AND PROTECTION (verses 25-30). King Solomon called on God to continue to be faithful to His promises to David and to continue to hear the prayers of His people.

2) GOD'S FORGIVENESS OF SINS (verses 31-32). King Solomon asked God to judge the wicked and help the righteous when the people have disputes.

3) GOD'S FORGIVENESS OF SINS THAT HAD CAUSED DEFEAT IN BATTLE (verses 33-34). King Solomon asked the Lord to forgive His people when they confessed their sins that caused defeat when they were in combat.

4) GOD'S FORGIVENESS OF SINS THAT HAD BROUGHT ON DROUGHT IN THE LAND (verses 35-36). King Solomon also asked God to forgive His people if they confessed their sins that resulted in rain being withheld.

5) GOD'S FORGIVENESS OF SINS WHICH RESULTED IN CALAMITIES (verses 37-40). King Solomon asked God to forgive those who sinned and brought about such calamities such as famine, mildew, insects, enemies, disaster or disease, which God used to chasten His sinning people.

6) MERCY FOR GOD-FEARING PEOPLE WHO ARE FOREIGNERS (verses 41-43). King Solomon prays for the foreigners who would trust in God, that He would hear them so others in the world would know the Lord.

7) TO HAVE VICTORY IN BATTLE (verses 44-45). King Solomon asked God to uphold and bless Israel when they are in battle.

8) TO BE RESTORED AFTER CAPTIVITY (verses 46-51). King Solomon seemed to have prophetic insight into the fate of Israel. They would go into captivity because of their sins, but when they repented God is faithful to restore His people to their land.

9) THAT GOD WOULD GIVE ATTENTION TO EVERY PRAYER (verses 52-53). King Solomon summarizes his prayer by calling on God to hear His people whenever they cry out in prayer.

Throughout the prayer, King Solomon called on God who had been faithful to His promises in the past, to continue to be faithful and to show mercy to His people in the future. Solomon knew that he could depend on God for His mercy and blessings. Confession and forsaking of sin would result in God's hearing His people's prayers and forgiving their sin. **God always keeps His promises.**

What a privilege it is pray!—to know we will be heard, not because of our own righteousness, but because of the righteousness given to us through faith in Jesus Christ who took the punishment for our sins. God invites us to call upon Him in time of trouble. He will help us with our struggles and strengthen us when we are weak. If we sin, we can confess our sins and find He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8,9). **God always keeps His promises**

Instruments of Praise

When the temple was dedicated, it was a very exciting time. King Solomon and all of the people praised and worshipped the Lord. In this craft we will make our own instruments of praise to worship the Lord.

You will have two instruments to choose from. The first will require two small paper plates for each child, streamers or ribbon, dry beans, markers, a stapler and glue. On the edge of one paper plate (facing up), glue some ribbon or streamers onto it. Next, put some dry beans onto the plate. Place the second paper plate over the first (the plates will be facing each other so that no beans can escape). Staple the plates together. Decorate the outside of your instrument by writing the theme or memory verse and decorating it. Set your instrument aside for later.

The second option for an instrument is a bracelet with bells. You will need a pipe cleaner, 5 to 6 small bells and some streamers or ribbon. String the bells onto the pipe cleaner. Measure the pipe cleaner to the child's wrist. Tie into a circle. Cut away any excess pipe cleaner. Tie onto the pipe cleaner some ribbon or streamers to decorate the bracelet. Set the instrument aside for later.

1 KINGS 8:54-61

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.

Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

"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.

"May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us,

"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.

"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,

"that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.

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

King Solomon now turns to bless the people and then prays for them. What a beautiful thing it is to be in the center of God's will; living in obedience and receiving the glorious blessings of the Lord. God raised Israel up to be a great nation. This period of time in which they experienced the blessings God promised to those who would follow the Lord wholly would never be matched again. As we examine King Solomon's prayer, we see five things that we, too, can pray.

1) For God's presence in our life (verse 57).

2) For the desire to do God's will in everything (verse 58).

3) For His help in our daily needs (verse 59).

4) For a desire to live good and perfect lives (verse 61).

5) For the ability to obey God's Word (verse 61).

King Solomon gathered the people not just to dedicate the temple, but to rededicate themselves to God's service. Each person was to examine his or her own commitment to the Lord. A time will come in the history of Israel when they will go against the prayer of King Solomon. Thinking that a blessed life can happen on their own terms, they will begin to rebel against God's ways and get themselves into all kinds of trouble.

As Christians, we must examine our hearts. A life of rebellion to God and His ways ultimately leads to a life of despair. It is God's desire to bless us. May our hearts be wholly devoted to the Lord. May we walk in his ways.

1 KINGS 8:62-66

Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD.

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.

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.

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.

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.

This dedication took place at the beginning of the festival of Tabernacles, which normally lasted one week but was extended to two weeks on this special occasion. The Feast of Tabernacles commemorated Israel's years of wandering in the wilderness (Leviticus 23:33, 41-43).

The people returned home at the end of the celebration joyful and glad of heart (verse 66). They were filled with joy and thankfulness to God for His goodness to them. God's promises had been fulfilled in their life. How blessed they were!

It is no secret that the promises of God are woven all through the Bible. May all of us, who long for a blessed life, walk in His ways. God will be true to His Word. He will be faithful to complete and accomplish all that He wants to do in our lives, if we will only let Him. **God always keeps His promises.**

A Day of Celebration

For Solomon and the people of Israel, the day that the temple was dedicated was a day of great celebration. We are blessed to celebrate the Lord's presence in our lives through the Holy Spirit every day. Today, we are going to have a special time of celebration. Prepare a simple "feast" to celebrate God's goodness and His faithfulness to all of His promises.

Have all of the children gather into a circle. Have napkins available for all of the children. Bring some small, simple snacks (raisins, carrots, fruit slices or popcorn). Allow the children who won the "Hop to the Temple" game to serve the other children in the circle.

After serving the snack, pray with the children, thanking the Lord for all of His goodness. Next, allow each child to share ways that they are thankful to the Lord. After snack lead the children in a praise song and allow them to use their instruments to make a "joyful noise" unto the Lord.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for His faithfulness to keep all of His promises. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.