

**1 Kings 6-8:1-21**  
**November 17, 2024**

**Open with Prayer**

**HOOK:**

Q: When you want to connect with God, do you have a special place you like to meet Him? Do you have a “go to” spot in the house, a favorite location elsewhere, a park you like?

Q: And once you are in your favorite place to meet God, how do you approach Him? How would you describe your heart posture? [Let people engage]

**Transition:** As we have studied Solomon so far, we can easily see that he was passionate about having God’s presence. Solomon searched God out at Gibeon, and he built the Temple for God to dwell in. Solomon understood the importance of having a “go to” place to meet with God and experience His presence. Solomon has completed the building of the Temple, and now it’s time to dedicate it to God. It’s almost like there is a “grand opening” going on, but initial steps need to be taken before we see God move into His temple to reveal His presence. Let’s begin.

**BOOK:**

**Solomon Builds the Temple**

**6** In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>The temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty wide and thirty high. <sup>3</sup>The portico at the front of the main hall of the temple extended the width of the temple, that is twenty cubits, and projected ten cubits from the front of the temple. <sup>4</sup>He made narrow clerestory windows in the temple. <sup>5</sup>Against the walls of the main hall and inner sanctuary he built a structure around the building, in which there were side rooms. <sup>6</sup>The lowest floor was five cubits wide, the middle floor six cubits and the third floor seven. He made offset ledges around the outside of the temple so that nothing would be inserted into the temple walls.

<sup>7</sup>In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built.

<sup>8</sup>The entrance to the lowest floor was on the south side of the temple; a stairway led up to the middle level and from there to the third. <sup>9</sup>So he built the temple and completed it, roofing it with beams and cedar planks. <sup>10</sup>And he built the side rooms all along the temple. The height of each was five cubits, and they were attached to the temple by beams of cedar.

<sup>11</sup>The word of the LORD came to Solomon: <sup>12</sup>“As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. <sup>13</sup>And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel.”

<sup>14</sup>So Solomon built the temple and completed it. <sup>15</sup>He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of pine. <sup>16</sup>He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. <sup>17</sup>

The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long.<sup>18</sup> The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen.

<sup>19</sup> He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there.<sup>20</sup> The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold, and he also overlaid the altar of cedar.<sup>21</sup> Solomon covered the inside of the temple with pure gold, and he extended gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, which was overlaid with gold.<sup>22</sup> So he overlaid the whole interior with gold. He also overlaid with gold the altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary.

<sup>23</sup> In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.<sup>24</sup> One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip.<sup>25</sup> The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape.<sup>26</sup> The height of each cherub was ten cubits.<sup>27</sup> He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.<sup>28</sup> He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

<sup>29</sup> On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.<sup>30</sup> He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.

<sup>31</sup> For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood with five-sided jambs.<sup>32</sup> And on the two olive wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with beaten gold.<sup>33</sup> In the same way he made four-sided jambs of olive wood for the entrance to the main hall.<sup>34</sup> He also made two pine doors, each having two leaves that turned in sockets.<sup>35</sup> He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

<sup>36</sup> And he built the inner courtyard of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams.

<sup>37</sup> The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv.<sup>38</sup> In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.

### *Solomon Builds His Palace*

**7** It took Solomon thirteen years, however, to complete the construction of his palace.<sup>2</sup> He built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon a hundred cubits long, fifty wide and thirty high, with four rows of cedar columns supporting trimmed cedar beams.<sup>3</sup> It was roofed with cedar above the beams that rested on the columns—forty-five beams, fifteen to a row.<sup>4</sup> Its windows were placed high in sets of three, facing each other.<sup>5</sup> All the doorways had rectangular frames; they were in the front part in sets of three, facing each other.<sup>6</sup> He made a colonnade fifty cubits long and thirty wide. In front of it was a portico, and in front of that were pillars and an overhanging roof.

<sup>7</sup> He built the throne hall, the Hall of Justice, where he was to judge, and he covered it with cedar from floor to ceiling.<sup>8</sup> And the palace in which he was to live, set farther back, was similar in design. Solomon also made a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.

<sup>9</sup> All these structures, from the outside to the great courtyard and from foundation to eaves, were made of blocks of high-grade stone cut to size and trimmed with a saw on their inner and

outer faces. <sup>10</sup> The foundations were laid with large stones of good quality, some measuring ten cubits and some eight. <sup>11</sup> Above were high-grade stones, cut to size, and cedar beams. <sup>12</sup> The great courtyard was surrounded by a wall of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams, as was the inner courtyard of the temple of the LORD with its portico.

### *The Temple's Furnishings*

<sup>13</sup> King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram, <sup>14</sup> whose mother was a widow from the tribe of Naphtali and whose father was a man of Tyre and a craftsman in bronze. Hiram was highly skilled and experienced in all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him.

<sup>15</sup> He cast two bronze pillars, each eighteen cubits high and twelve cubits around, by line. <sup>16</sup> He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars; each capital was five cubits high. <sup>17</sup> A network of interwoven chains festooned the capitals on top of the pillars, seven for each capital. <sup>18</sup> He made pomegranates in two rows encircling each network to decorate the capitals on top of the pillars. He did the same for each capital. <sup>19</sup> The capitals on top of the pillars in the portico were in the shape of lilies, four cubits high. <sup>20</sup> On the capitals of both pillars, above the bowl-shaped part next to the network, were the two hundred pomegranates in rows all around. <sup>21</sup> He erected the pillars at the portico of the temple. The pillar to the south he named Jakin and the one to the north Boaz. <sup>22</sup> The capitals on top were in the shape of lilies. And so the work on the pillars was completed.

<sup>23</sup> He made the Sea of cast metal, circular in shape, measuring ten cubits from rim to rim and five cubits high. It took a line of thirty cubits to measure around it. <sup>24</sup> Below the rim, gourds encircled it—ten to a cubit. The gourds were cast in two rows in one piece with the Sea.

<sup>25</sup> The Sea stood on twelve bulls, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south and three facing east. The Sea rested on top of them, and their hindquarters were toward the center. <sup>26</sup> It was a handbreadth in thickness, and its rim was like the rim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It held two thousand baths.

<sup>27</sup> He also made ten movable stands of bronze; each was four cubits long, four wide and three high. <sup>28</sup> This is how the stands were made: They had side panels attached to uprights. <sup>29</sup> On the panels between the uprights were lions, bulls and cherubim—and on the uprights as well. Above and below the lions and bulls were wreaths of hammered work. <sup>30</sup> Each stand had four bronze wheels with bronze axles, and each had a basin resting on four supports, cast with wreaths on each side. <sup>31</sup> On the inside of the stand there was an opening that had a circular frame one cubit deep. This opening was round, and with its basework it measured a cubit and a half. Around its opening there was engraving. The panels of the stands were square, not round. <sup>32</sup> The four wheels were under the panels, and the axles of the wheels were attached to the stand. The diameter of each wheel was a cubit and a half. <sup>33</sup> The wheels were made like chariot wheels; the axles, rims, spokes and hubs were all of cast metal.

<sup>34</sup> Each stand had four handles, one on each corner, projecting from the stand. <sup>35</sup> At the top of the stand there was a circular band half a cubit deep. The supports and panels were attached to the top of the stand. <sup>36</sup> He engraved cherubim, lions and palm trees on the surfaces of the supports and on the panels, in every available space, with wreaths all around. <sup>37</sup> This is the way he made the ten stands. They were all cast in the same molds and were identical in size and shape.

<sup>38</sup> He then made ten bronze basins, each holding forty baths and measuring four cubits across, one basin to go on each of the ten stands. <sup>39</sup> He placed five of the stands on the south side of the

temple and five on the north. He placed the Sea on the south side, at the southeast corner of the temple. <sup>40</sup> He also made the basins and shovels and sprinkling bowls.

So Hiram finished all the work he had undertaken for King Solomon in the temple of the LORD:

- <sup>41</sup> the two pillars;
- the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars;
- the two sets of network decorating the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars;
- <sup>42</sup> the four hundred pomegranates for the two sets of network (two rows of pomegranates for each network, decorating the bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars);
- <sup>43</sup> the ten stands with their ten basins;
- <sup>44</sup> the Sea and the twelve bulls under it;
- <sup>45</sup> the pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls.

All these objects that Hiram made for King Solomon for the temple of the LORD were of burnished bronze. <sup>46</sup> The king had them cast in clay molds in the plain of the Jordan between Succoth and Zarethan. <sup>47</sup> Solomon left all these things unweighed, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

<sup>48</sup> Solomon also made all the furnishings that were in the LORD's temple:

- the golden altar;
- the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence;
- <sup>49</sup> the lampstands of pure gold (five on the right and five on the left, in front of the inner sanctuary);
- the gold floral work and lamps and tongs;
- <sup>50</sup> the pure gold basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, dishes and censers;
- and the gold sockets for the doors of the innermost room, the Most Holy Place, and also for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

<sup>51</sup> When all the work King Solomon had done for the temple of the LORD was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of the LORD's temple.

### *The Ark Brought to the Temple*

**8** Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the City of David. <sup>2</sup> All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

<sup>3</sup> When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark, <sup>4</sup> and they brought up the ark of the LORD and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up, <sup>5</sup> and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

<sup>6</sup> The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup> The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles. <sup>8</sup> These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner

sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. <sup>9</sup> There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

<sup>10</sup> When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. <sup>11</sup> And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.

<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; <sup>13</sup> I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever.”

<sup>14</sup> While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them. <sup>15</sup> Then he said:

“Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David. For he said, <sup>16</sup> ‘Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there, but I have chosen David to rule my people, Israel.’

<sup>17</sup> “My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. <sup>18</sup> But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.’

<sup>20</sup> “The LORD has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. <sup>21</sup> I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with our fathers when he brought them out of Egypt.”

### **Process Observations/Questions:**

Q: What did you most like about this passage? What resonated with you? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you least like about this passage? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you find in this passage that you didn't understand? [Let people engage]

Q: What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? [Let people engage]

### **LOOK:**

Sometimes it is good for us to remember that not all of our good plans will be brought to reality in our own lifetime. In 8:18 Solomon recalled that God said it was good for David to have the building of a Temple in his heart. Our dreams should exceed our grasp. Often others will get the joy of doing what we would like to have done for God.

### **Close in Prayer**

## **Commentaries for Today's Lesson:**

**Constable, C.L. (1985). 1 Kings. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 1, pp. 503-504) Wheaton, IL: Victor Books**

### *a. The placing of the ark (8:1–11)*

8:1–2. After all the new furnishings, utensils, and accessories had been made and placed in position (chap. 6; 7:13–51), **Solomon summoned** the people for the installation of **the ark** and the dedication of the temple. **All the heads of ... tribes and ... families in Israel** received special invitations. The ceremony was scheduled for **the festival in the month of Ethanim** (the Feast of Tabernacles in September–October [Lev. 23:33–36]; see the chart “Calendar in Israel,” near Ex. 12:1). Formerly the ark had rested in the tabernacle David pitched (2 Sam. 6:17) on Mount **Zion**, the southeast portion of Jerusalem called **the City of David** (cf. 2 Sam. 5:7). (See the map “Jerusalem in the Time of the Kings,” near 1 Kings 9:15.)

8:3–5. As God had prescribed, **the ark** was carried by **the priests** by means of long poles that passed through rings on its sides. It must have been a great day when the ark and the other **furnishings** of David’s tabernacle were **carried** through the crowded streets of Jerusalem to their new home. Apparently the tabernacle and its utensils were set aside. The only piece of furniture installed in the temple that was not new was **the ark**. The temple courtyard buzzed with busy priests **sacrificing** more animals than **could** be **counted** as the people joyfully worshiped **the LORD**.

8:6–9. **The priests** put **the ark** in **its place** under the outstretched **wings of the golden cherubim** in **the most holy place**. As God had commanded they left the **carrying poles** in the rings (Ex. 25:15). When the doors into the most holy place were open the **poles ... could be seen from the holy place ... but not from outside**. The statement that the poles **are still there today** suggests that this part of 1 Kings was written before the temple was destroyed in 586 B.C. **The two stone tablets** of the Law **placed in** the ark by **Moses** were still there. They served to remind Israel that the nation was still under the blessings and responsibilities of the Mosaic Covenant. The pot of manna and Aaron’s rod that budded, which had been preserved in the ark (Heb. 9:4) for many years, were no longer there. They may have been removed by the Philistines or some other enemy. Or perhaps the objects, being in front of the tabernacle, not in the ark (cf. Ex. 16:33–34; Num. 17:10), were added to the ark sometime later than Solomon and then eventually were lost.

8:10–11. **The cloud** that **filled the temple** was a visible representation of the Lord’s **glory**. A similar manifestation took place when the tabernacle was dedicated (Ex. 40:34–35).

### *b. Solomon’s address to the people (8:12–21)*

8:12–14. **Solomon** explained to the people that God had **said ... He would dwell in the cloud** over the temple. A cloud often symbolized God’s presence (cf. Ex. 19:9; 34:5; Lev. 16:2; Deut. 4:11; 31:15). It was Solomon’s intention that God should abide in the **temple** he had built as God had dwelt within the tabernacle. Solomon had sought to reflect the magnificence of Yahweh in the temple. **Forever** should be interpreted to mean “as long as possible.” Turning from addressing **the LORD**, Solomon spoke to the people **standing** reverently before him.

8:15–21. **With His own hand** means Himself (cf. v. 24). The promise Solomon referred to was that God would place His **Name** in Jerusalem (cf. comments on 2 Chron. 6:6). “Name”

occurs in Solomon's prayer 14 times (1 Kings 8:16–20, 29, 33, 35, 41–44 [twice in v. 43], 48). The **temple** was not to be a “container” for God (v. 27) but a place for his **Name** to dwell (vv. 16–17, 19–20), that is, a place where His presence and character would be evident.

Solomon gave **David** the credit due him for purposing to build the **temple** (vv. 17–18). Solomon explained that **God** had promised David that his **son** would **build the temple** (cf. 2 Sam. 7:12–13). God had been faithful, and Solomon glorified Him for it. The temple was primarily a **place ... for the ark**, the throne of God on earth and the repository of God's covenant promises to His redeemed people. In this address Solomon demonstrated humility and thankfulness.

**Mathews, K. A. (1998). *The Historical Books*. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman Concise Bible Commentary* (pp. 137-138). Broadman & Holman Publishers.**

**Temple Dedication (8:1–66).** This event was the highlight of Solomon's career just as the bringing of the ark into Jerusalem was David's (2 Sam. 6). Solomon was accomplishing what the Lord promised to David's descendants. After the ark was set under the cherubim in the holy of holies, the whole house was filled with a cloud. The glory of the Lord was so great that it prohibited entry into the temple (see Exod. 40:34–35). This meant that the presence of the Lord was in the temple. The ark was moved in the wilderness from place to place, but the temple provided a permanent dwelling for the ark.

**Tatum, S. L. (1972). *1 Kings*. In H. F. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The Teacher's Bible Commentary* (pp. 196-197). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.**

### **The Dedication of Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 8:1–9:9)**

*The passage*—The dedication ceremonies for King Solomon's Temple began with the assembling of the elders and heads of the various tribes. It was to be a national sanctuary and the center of worship for all of the tribes. They brought the ark of God from its temporary resting place to its permanent quarters. They sacrificed so many animals that they could not be numbered.

When the priests came out of the holy of holies where they had placed the ark, a cloud filled the Temple. It symbolized the glory of God which filled the house.

Solomon made a long speech of dedication. He praised God and he blessed the people. He recalled David's desire to build the Temple. God had fulfilled the promise he had made to David. He declared the Temple as the dwelling place of the eternal God.

God's covenant to David and Solomon that the throne of David would be preserved is the subject of much of the dedicatory speech. Following his dedicatory speech there was a dedicatory prayer.

The Temple was to be a place of prayer. Solomon listed the objects of prayer which God would hear. Forgiveness for sin against God is a constant need. Offence against one's neighbor is another daily problem. In time of war God's people need to pray for deliverance. Drought was a frequent problem, and the people of Israel would need to pray for rain. Various plagues and diseases would call the people to prayer. In verse 38 the term “whatever prayer” seems to cover all other kinds of need. Included in the listing were the prayers of foreigners and prayers from men far away in battle or in exile.

Solomon's prayer of dedication had been made on his knees with his hands outstretched toward heaven. He rose to bless the people again. They offered many more sacrifices to God.

God appeared to Solomon again. He promised to hear the prayers offered at the Temple. He renewed the promise to establish the throne of Israel forever. He warned that Israel would be cut off if they were to forsake God.

*Special points*—The Temple was not just a private place of worship for Solomon and the royal family. It was for all the people. The passage in 8:41–43 gives special attention to the foreigner and his missionary significance.

The ark of the covenant was so called because it contained the tablets of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written. This was God's covenant with his people and the standard of their obedience and conduct.

*Truth for today*—Sometimes it is good for us to remember that not all of our good plans will be brought to reality in our own lifetime. In 8:18 Solomon recalled that God said it was good for David to have the building of a Temple in his heart. Our dreams should exceed our grasp. Often others will get the joy of doing what we would like to have done for God.

Institutional religion is too frequently scorned in our day. Throughout the Bible there is the teaching that a strong base of operation for world missions is wise. The person who does not worship in a special place seldom worships anywhere else either.

**The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). (1 Kings 6-8). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.**