

Lesson 8: 1 Kings 8-9:9 The Dedication of the Temple

In our last lesson we read about the building of the Temple, Solomon's palace, the Hall of Judgment and a house for Solomon's wife, the daughter of the Pharaoh. King Solomon made alliances with King Hiram of Tyre for building materials in exchange for providing provisions for his people in the form of wheat and oil. The building of the Temple took seven years. The building of the palace and compound took 13 years to build.

1. Read 1 Kings 8:1-13 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with your group.

a. What are some of the advantages of having a permanent location, like the Temple, for the Ark of the Covenant?

b. 8:4 says “..they brought up the *ark of the Lord and the tent of meeting* with all the sacred vessels that were in the tent.” (Moses was instructed to create the Ark, the tent of meeting or portable Tabernacle, and items for worship in Exodus 25-27.)

What is the *symbolic* meaning of bringing the tent and storing it in the Temple?

c. Read 1 Kings 8:9. Read Exodus 40:20, Exodus 16:33, Numbers 17:10 and Hebrews 9:4 below. What do you think was in the Ark of the Covenant?

Exodus 16:33 ³³ So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it *before the Lord* to be kept for the generations to come.”

Exodus 40:20 He took the tablets of the covenant law and placed them *in the ark*, attached the poles to the ark and put the atonement cover over it.

Hebrews 9:4 This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

d. Why do you think the LORD appeared as a cloud in 8:10-11?
(See also Exodus 13:21-22.)

2. Read 1 Kings 8:14-26.

a. Why was David *not* to build the Temple for the LORD? (1 Chron 22:8)

1 Chronicles 22:8 ⁸ But this word of the Lord came to me: ‘You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight.

b. Solomon addresses the people assembled. How does Solomon begin his prayer?

c. How does Solomon prove that the LORD keeps his promises? (cite the verses)

d. What is expected from the people in return for God's blessings?

3. Read 1 Kings 8:27- 30. After reading these verses, what does Solomon believe about God's presence in the Temple? (See 8:27, 8:29 and 8:30)
4. Read 1 Kings 8:31-40. In these verses Solomon recognizes that the people will sin. There is a pattern here of sin, punishment and forgiveness in these verses.
 - a. In 8:33-34, what prompted sinners to return to the LORD?
 - b. What does Solomon ask of the LORD in return?
 - c. In 8:34-36 what was the LORD's punishment for sin?
 - d. What do the sinners do, before the LORD forgives them?
 - e. Reflection: What does it mean to really "return to the LORD"?
5. Read 1 Kings 8:37-40. The pattern continues with sin, punishment, prayer, and repentance, and forgiveness.
 - a. In 8:37-40, what does Solomon acknowledge about the LORD?
 - b. How does Solomon suggest the LORD should treat individual sinners?
6. Read 1 Kings 8:41-43. Why do foreigners, (Gentiles), deserve special attention from the LORD, God of Israel according to these verses.
7. Read 1 Kings 8:44-51.
 - a. Cite the verses where *confession of sin* is a part of returning to the LORD.
 - b. Solomon's description of what it means to "turn back to the LORD" is more explicit in these verses. How does he describe this in these verses?
 - c. These verses describe the hearts of warriors who have lost a battle with the enemy and have been taken captive. What is the lesson that these captives learn from such a terrible experience?
8. Read 1 Kings 8:52-53. What does King Solomon ask of the LORD in this prayer?
9. Read 1 Kings 8:54- 9:1. The festivities lasted for two weeks and King Solomon provided a great sacrifice and feast for those who were there to be a part of the dedication of the Temple and the Feast of Tabernacles that followed. Then the LORD appeared to King Solomon again. (1 Kings 9:1-9)
 - a. What does the LORD require of King Solomon? See 1 Kings 9:4-5.
 - b. What is required of the people of Israel?
 - c. What will happen to Israel if the people turn away from the LORD? See 1 Kings 9:6-9.