



Metro Calvary – Roseville CA
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1 Kings 8:12-66

Related Topics: Solomon; Dedication of the Temple; The Ark of the Lord; Most Holy Place; The Cloud of God's Glory; Man in the Presence of Glory; Solomon Blesses the Lord; Prayer of Dedication; Solomon Blesses the People; The Unfailing Word of God; Solomon's Sacrifices

REVIEW

The Chapter opened with the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord being brought up to the completed structure known as "Solomon's Temple." Solomon would not "open" the Temple until that piece of furniture was brought up — That piece of piece of furniture was the **centerpiece** of Israel's worship. We saw how the Ark of the covenant is all about Jesus — and how Jesus is the centerpiece of our approach to God and worship of God.

- **JESUS - The Righteous One** — *who kept the Law perfectly. I fall so short of it, but my Lord kept it perfectly! I am in Him! Jesus my righteousness before the Holy God of the universe.*
- **JESUS — the one and only place where the Holy God of the universe will meet with sinful man** — *God says — I will meet you there... there where the blood is sprinkled to atone for sin.*
- **JESUS — manifesting the Glory of God.** *2 Cor 4:6 For God who commanded.... Has shined into our hearts....*
- **JESUS — the CENTERPIECE of the Church — The CENTERPIECE of Worship.** There is NO POINT of church or worship without JESUS.

We also noted that Solomon waited eleven months after completion of the building for the dedication. By waiting until that moment Solomon dedicated the tabernacle during the feast of Booths and on the Year of Jubilee. The **Feast of Booths** was a weeklong feast that began on the *fifteenth day of the seventh month*. It celebrates the people's **salvation from Egypt**. Year of Jubilee *Lev. 25:10* — **Debts** were cancelled — Men and women who had been sold into bondage as **slaves** were **set free**. Inaugurating worship in the context of celebrating salvation!

¹⁰And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, ¹¹so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

We saw the many references to this cloud of glory throughout the Scriptures.

God had manifested His presence with such intensity that the priests could not stand and continue their **normal** service. The weightiness of the person and nature of God was that radical! **Speechless** before God. **No action was appropriate** before His presence!

QUOTE: John Ross Macduff *The Night Watches* p.8

¹²Then Solomon said, “The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

Exodus 19:16 ¹⁶On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

Deut. 4:11-12 ¹¹And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. ¹²Then the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire.

Deut. 5:22 ²²“These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness,

Psalms 97:2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT: The “darkness” does not belong to the nature of God, who “is Light, and in him is no darkness at all” (**1 John 1:5**)

We remember that when Moses came down from the presence of the Lord his face was shining with the very glory of the Lord.

Exodus 34:29-30 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

So then — The “darkness” does not belong to the nature of God — but is related to the relationship between God and man, in which are involved problems that man cannot solve.

INTERESTING — All of these references are in the context of God giving the Law — or man's standing in regards to the Law.

REMEMBER — *John 1:14-18* ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

The true and living God — who IS light — is unknown to sinful man — and unknowable by sinful man — HENCE the dark cloud. He thunders from the dark cloud of Sinai — giving the Law. But in Jesus — the God of Glory steps out from the dark cloud of the Law that He might save!

QUOTE: John Ross Macduff *The Night Watches* p.9

¹³I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."

Solomon rightly sensed that the presence of the cloud meant that God dwelt in the temple in a special way. But Solomon was wrong concerning that structure being the dwelling place of God forever.

Rev. 21:1-4; 22-23 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ²²And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

¹⁴Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. ¹⁵And he said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, ¹⁶"Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no 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.'

The parallel account of this is found in *2 Chron. 6:4-6*

‘And he said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, ‘Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there, and I chose no man as prince over my people Israel; ‘but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people — Israel.’

TWO THINGS HERE —

1.) Jerusalem is the CENTER of God’s universe!

By way of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Davidic Covenant — The descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the apple of His eyes and the rightful inhabitants of that **land** and that **city**.

This concept is being challenged by contemporary pastors who are trying to force the Bible to bow down to political correctness. The leader in this movement is a guy named Brian MacLaren

QUOTE: Brian Maclaren — *The need to confront the terrible, deadly, distorted, yet popular theologies associated with Christian Zionism and deterministic dispensationalism. These systems of belief — so common among my fellow evangelical Christians — too often lead people to act as if Jewish people have God-given rights but Palestinians do not. They use a discredited hermeneutic (way of interpreting the Bible) to imply that God shows favoritism*

This remark is patently disingenuous and intellectually dishonest. There is nothing to interpret in Genesis 17

Genesis 17:1** ‘When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ²that I may make my covenant —between me and you and may multiply you greatly.” ³Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴“Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸**And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

BACK TO Brian Maclaren — *They use a discredited hermeneutic (way of interpreting the Bible) to imply that God shows favoritism — that God is concerned for justice for one group of people and not for others.*

It is beyond incredulous that a rational person would conclude that God promising the land to Abraham and his descendants equals injustice unless you are trying to make God an egalitarian. By that same rational I could say God is unfair because He chose to give Danny musical abilities that He did not give to me.

BACK TO Brian Maclaren — *They create bigotry and prejudice against Muslims in general ... and in particular against Palestinians, many of whom are Muslim but many of whom are Christian too. These doctrinal formulations often use a bogus end-of-the-world scenario to create a kind of death-wish for World War III, which — unless it is confronted more robustly by the rest of us — could too easily create a self-fulfilling prophecy.*

CRUCIAL: Turn to **Daniel 9:24** — *“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.*

God has determined a timeline that is exclusive to His dealings — not with the Palestinians or Arabs (Christian or Muslim) — but with Daniel’s people and the city of Jerusalem.

Maclaren clearly falls into the category of those spoken about by Peter in **2 Peter 3:15-16** *just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.*

2.) Solomon recognized that the temple was the fulfillment of *God's* plan, not David's or Solomon's.

David and Solomon were human instruments, but the work was God's.

We are not to try to get God to do our work. We are to say thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

ILLUSTRATION: It is not the work of the surgical instrument to perform open heart surgery. It is the surgeon’s work. The purpose of the instrument is to be sharp and clean and available to the surgeon. When the surgery is finished the instruments do not get the credit. It is the surgeon. He might speak well of the tools that he used — but the person with the repaired heart understands who accomplished the work.

The great news is that the Bible says that Christians are INSTRUMENTS and that God wants to use us.

Romans 6:13 *Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. God wants to let us participate in HIS work.*

We just want to be sharp and pure and useable — available to be in the hand of God for HIS work — in HIS time.

¹⁷Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. ¹⁸But the Lord said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart. ¹⁹Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’

THIS IS HUGE — Although David did not have the opportunity to do the construction — the Lord gives David credit for the finished product!

REMEMBER — It was in David’s heart to build the temple for the Lord. But we remember from 2 Samuel that the Lord told David that he could not build it. Instead, his son would build it. **What did David do?** Did he pout or sulk? NO - He was a man after God’s own heart. He said: *“Lord, if I can not build the house, I will make all of the preparations to build it.”* He went and conquered enemies and took spoils from them and put them into a storehouse for the purpose of building the house of the Lord. When Solomon came along, David said — “Here’s the plans, here’s the supplies, all you have to do is put it together son”

KEY APPLICATION: There are those who say: “If I can not do it, then I am not doing it.” Or — They won’t **say** those exact words, they just go home and pout. That is the flesh. It is within all of us to feel that. You can understand why the Lord was so into David. In light of yesterday’s study we can say — David was not a consumer — he was a true worshipper. He understood that it was not about him —it was about GOD and about others coming to know and worship God.

²⁰Now the Lord has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. ²¹And there I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

TWO THINGS HERE —

1.) The faithfulness of God! More to come on that.

2.) Solomon sets the **present worship** life of Israel in the context of **God saving Israel** from Egypt nearly **500 years earlier!**

THIS IS HUGE — Worship must always begin with our exodus! Our worship must always be seen in the light of our salvation. God saved you so that you might worship Him. It doesn't matter how long ago that was. It is the reference point of true worship. All that I am, all that I do, all that I ever hope to become — poured out to Jesus and for Jesus. Wasn't that the way we lived when we first knew His power and grace to save? If we let that slip we can so easily go from pouring out to drips and drabs!

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord and spread out his hands toward heaven,

This was the most common posture of prayer in the Old Testament. Today — most people close their eyes, bow their head, and fold their hands as they pray. But the Biblical example was to spread out the hands toward heaven in a gesture of surrender, openness, and ready reception.

²³and said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. ²⁵Now therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ ²⁶Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father. ²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. ³⁰And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

In VERSES 22-30 Solomon now turns to address God, reflecting on the nature of God's “dwelling” in the temple. The prayer is important for understanding the books of Kings as a whole. It also gives huge perspective to the temple and God's relationship to it. The temple is an important building. God had promised it would be built. He fulfilled that promise and “set His Name on it.” But God is not confined by a building and is certainly

not dependent on it. He will survive even its destruction, and will hear his people's prayers when they go into exile. Solomon's prayer also gives huge perspective to the relationship of the nation of Israel and every individual Israelite — not to a building — but to the God of Israel.

The key thought of his prayer is that God would hear their cries **from heaven** and be merciful to them in spite of their sins.

HUGE POINT HERE — The condition of Israel's heart was more important than the presence of the temple.

Jer. 7:2 Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.'

The people thought that God would never judge them because they went up HIS temple was in Jerusalem and THEY went up to it. But then they would go home and bake cakes to the queen of heaven. Solomon knew that it was more important to dedicate the people than the building.

³⁰....and when you hear, forgive

Solomon also knew that the most important thing Israel needed was *forgiveness*. This was the greatest answer to prayer Israel could expect from God.

THAT is indeed our greatest need before God. Forgiveness — a Savior!

QUOTE: John Ross Macduff — *The Morning Watches* p. 9-10

KEY OBSERVATION: In verses [31-51](#) we have seven specific requests

³¹"If a man sins against his neighbor — Solomon asks God to be judge and to condemn the **guilty** and clear the **righteous** individual.

[v. 33-34](#) The second request deals with defeat in battle, and subsequent exile from the **land**

[v. 35-36](#) The third request concerns drought (Which by the way God had told them before they entered the land of promise would be the consequence of idolatry)

Deut. 11:16-17 ¹⁶Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; ¹⁷then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the Lord is giving you.

[v. 37-40](#) The fourth request is concerned with **famine, pestilence, and siege**

HUGE — The CAUSE of each of those the problems is sin. The need is forgiveness.

v. 41-43 In his fifth request Solomon turns from praying for Israel to praying for non-Jewish people **who have heard of** the Lord's *great name, mighty hand, and outstretched arm*. And as a result looks to the God of Israel. Solomon asks that the Lord would answer their prayer and that **all the peoples of the earth** should **know** God's **name and fear** him.

Romans 10:14-15 ¹⁴But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

TELL SOMEONE about Jesus!

v. 44-45 The sixth request is concerned with war — *If your people go out to battle*. But unlike the second request the focus is not on defeat as a result of sin but on victory in God's cause

v. 46-51 Solomon's seventh and final request returns to the question of defeat and exile.

⁴⁸if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name, ⁴⁹then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause ⁵⁰and forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them

NOTE THE BASIS of this request —

*⁵¹(**for** they are your people, and your heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace).*

*⁵²Let your eyes be open to the plea of **your** servant and to the plea of **your** people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to you.*

*⁵³**For** you separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be **your** heritage, as you declared through Moses your servant, when **you** brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God.”*

Solomon looks for a “second exodus,” from a different land — to match the first one — because of God's covenant relationship with Israel.

In the New Testament we are spoken of as ransomed and redeemed. He has a covenant relationship with us through the blood of Jesus. Because we have been bought with the blood of Jesus He is faithful to CORRECT us and RESTORE us.

What a great night for COMMUNION