



Rise and Fall, Part 2

Key Text: 1 Kings 8

Sunday, June 6, 2021

If you would build a house for God, what kind of house would you build? Solomon's Temple represented the presence of God. The glory of God resided in the Temple. The weight of this was enormous on all those who were present at the dedication of the Temple. It was a place where

people would go to encounter God. Good news, because of the cross of Christ and his glorious resurrection, we have the same access to the glory of God.

Setting the Scene:

1004. **בַּיִת** *bayit*: A noun meaning house, dwelling, family, **temple**, palace. It is used basically to denote a building in which a family lives (Deut. 20:5) but can also refer to the family or household itself (Gen. 15:2; Josh. 7:14; 24:15). When the Old Testament speaks of the **house of the Lord**, it obviously refers to the Temple or Tabernacle (Ex. 23:19; Dan. 1:2). The Word is also found in place names: Bethel, meaning "house of God" (Gen. 12:8); Beth-shemesh, meaning "house of the sun" (Josh. 15:10); and Bethlehem, meaning "house of bread" (Gen. 35:1)¹

1. A house of God (1 Kings 8:1–11)

- Solomon summoned the elders and leaders of Israel to prepare the Temple (House). The word "temple" is used twenty-six times in this passage, for the Temple indeed was a house for God. (vs. 10, 11, 17, etc.).

What made this significant was the presence of God. The glory came down (vv. 10–11). The glory cloud had guided Israel through the wilderness (Num. 9:15–23), but now the glory came to dwell within the beautiful Temple Solomon had built. As the glory filled the house, the priests praised God with voice and instruments, for the Lord inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3).²

- The sin of God's people caused God's glory to depart the tabernacle. (1 Samuel 4:19-22)
- This same glory comes in the person of Jesus Christ. (John 1:14, Matthew 17:1-7)

⁴ You are coming to Christ, **who is the living cornerstone** of God's Temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. 1 Peter 2:4

- The good news with the coming of the Holy Spirit, God's glory resides in each follower of Jesus Christ. He resides in our church and the church all over the world. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:19-20)

¹⁶ Don't you realize that **all of you** together are the Temple of God and that the **Spirit of God lives in you**? ¹⁷ God will destroy anyone who destroys this Temple. For God's Temple is holy, and you are that Temple. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

2. A house of testimony (1 Kings 8:12–21)

- God gives us his Word as a testimony of God and that he is faithful in his promises.

⁷No, the wisdom we speak of is the **mystery of God**—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. ⁸But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our **glorious** Lord. ⁹That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

There is mystery about God that humbles us, because we don't always understand Him and His ways, but this mystery also encourages us to trust Him and rest upon His Word. Solomon didn't want the people to think that God was now their "neighbor" and therefore they could speak to Him or about Him any way they pleased. "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him" (Hab. 2:20, NASB).³

3. A house of prayer (1 Kings 8:22–53)

According to 2 Chronicles 6:13, Solomon knelt on the special platform near the altar as he prayed this prayer, his hands lifted to heaven.

Our traditional posture for prayer ("hands folded and eyes closed") was unknown to the Jews. Their posture was to look up by faith toward God in heaven (or toward the Temple) and lift their open hands to show their poverty

¹ Baker, W., & Carpenter, E. E. (2003). *The complete word study dictionary: Old Testament* (p. 131). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (2002). *Be responsible* (p. 51). Colorado Springs, CO: Victor.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (2002). *Be responsible* (pp. 52–53). Colorado Springs, CO: Victor.

and their expectancy as they awaited the answer (v. 38, 54; Ex. 9:29, 33; Pss. 63:4; 88:9; 143:6). This practice was carried over into the early church (1 Tim. 2:8)⁴

- Solomon acknowledged the greatness of God and was overcome in how the God universe could dwell in a temple built by men. God dwelling with men is a complete act of grace.

(vs 28-29) *7 I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my **house of prayer**. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my **Temple will be called a house of prayer** for all nations. Isaiah 56:7*

¹³ He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a **house of prayer**,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!" Matthew 21:13

Here is what Solomon Prayed for

- forgiveness of sin. (Vs 30,34,39,50)
- Justice (vs. 31–32).
- Humiliation (vs. 33-34)
- Harvest (vs. 35-36)
- Foreigners (vs. 41–43)
- Battle (vs. 44–45)

"The greatest benefit of prayer is not in the answers but simply being in the presence of the Lord. It is here that we behold His beauty and are shaped into His image. It is here that we learn what is on His heart. Linger in His presence is never a waste of time but is an investment in what matters to Him. – Tom Swank

4. A house of praise (1 Kings 8:54–61)

- Notice how King Solomon takes on the role of a priest and blesses the people.
- Praise God for his rest (vs. 56)
- Praise God that he never abandons us (vs. 57)

Praise = desire to obey (vs. 58) *(Have you ever thought about worship going together with obedience?)*

- Praise God for His Justice vs. 59)
- Praise God for His glory (vs. 60)

When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the **glorious presence** of the LORD filled the Temple. ²The priests could not enter the Temple of the LORD because the glorious presence of the LORD filled it. ³When all the people of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glorious presence of the LORD filling the Temple, they fell face down on the ground and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying, "He is good! His faithful love endures forever!" 2 Chronicles 7:1-3

- God heard his prayer and accepted their worship

5. A house of fellowship (1 Kings 8:62–66)

- The people gathered for a feast called the Feast of Tabernacles. It is a reminder that God cares for them while they wandered the wilderness. Jesus often would gather with people around a table.

Next Steps:

- Have I fully surrendered to the leading of the Holy Spirit?
- Is my life a testimony of the goodness of God?
- Am I learning to be a house of prayer?
- Is my life marked by giving God praise for the good and the bad?
- Am I experienced true fellowship which consists of Jesus as the center of my relationships?

These five characteristics should describe the church of Jesus Christ.

⁶¹ And may you be completely faithful to the LORD our God. May you always obey his decrees and commands, just as you are doing today." 1 Kings 8:61

⁴ Wiersbe, W. W. (2002). [Be responsible](#) (p. 54). Colorado Springs, CO: Victor.