

I KINGS 8; May 17; Solomon's Prayer of Dedication"

ANALYSIS:

1. Whom did Solomon assemble of the children of Israel for the event of moving the ark into the temple and dedicating the temple to the LORD?

2. Who actually moved the ark into the most holy place, what was in the ark and what happened then? _____

3. To whom did Solomon speak the words in verses 12-13 _____, verses 14-21 _____, verses 23-53 _____, verses 56-61 _____?

4. In what physical position was Solomon as he prayed the prayer of verses 23-53? _____

5. How many oxen and sheep were offered to the LORD that day?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Solomon foresaw that Israel would fail to walk in the way of the LORD and keep His commandments. Therefore, he pleads with the LORD to hear and answer the prayers made by a repentant people and directed toward His house. Consider the repetition: "hear and forgive" (v 30), "hear and judge, justifying the righteous" (v 32), "hear and forgive the sin" (v 34), "hear and forgive the sin" (v 36), "hear and forgive" (v 39), "hear and maintain their cause" (v 45), "hear and maintain their cause and forgive" (vs 49-50). This request of Solomon for Israel assumes their confession of sin and their supplication toward Him.

The danger of carnality and backsliding, called "the plague of his own heart" (v 38), was captured by Robert Robinson in the words "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above" (Come, Thou Fount).

Let us be quick to confess our sins and accept the promised forgiveness. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" I John 1:9.

HELP:

1. Elders of Israel, heads of the tribes, chief of the fathers (v 1).
2. The priests carried the ark, which contained only the two tables of stone which Moses put there, the cloud of the glory of the LORD filled the house so that the priests could not stand to minister (vs 3, 6, 9-11).
3. Verses 12-13 LORD (v 13), 14-21 people (v 14), 23-53 LORD (v 23, 53), 56-61 people (v 55).
4. Kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven (v 54).
5. 22,000 oxen, 120,000 sheep (v 63).