

IMPACT

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A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Ekklesia Containing Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

Our Memory Verse

59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the Lord, be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night...

60 That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else. 61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

—1 Kings 8:59-61—



STRAIGHT FROM THE

Lesson No. 39: THE TEMPLE DEDICATION **1 Kings 8:1-9:28; 2 Chronicles 5:1-7:22**

C. Solomon's Prayer of Dedication (1 Kings 8:22-23, 33-34, 46-51). The ark was now in the Temple and the people were reminded of the history that had brought them to this moment. Solomon offered a public prayer in the presence of God and the assembly.

1. His prayer began with recognition of the empowering presence of God. Israel was not a great nation because the people were great but because they had a great God. God had sought Abraham and God had walked with His people throughout their history (1 Kings 8:22-23).

2. Solomon issued a warning about the ongoing need for repentance. The Temple was to be a symbol of the relationship that existed between God and the people of Israel (1 Kings 8:33-34).

3. Solomon recognized that there would be times when they would not enjoy the blessings of God but God had a remedy for such a situation. If the people would turn to God and confess His name in the Temple, God would hear in Heaven and forgive their sins and bless them once more. Repentance is the continuing theme in the Bible because it is a continuing need in the hearts of men (1 Kings 8:33-54; Ps. 51:12; Rev. 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

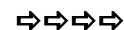
4. Our sins will never prevent God from fulfilling His promises but they can separate us from Him in fellowship. If there is any sin in your heart, repent now and turn to God for He will hear, forgive and restore you back into fellowship with Him (2 Thess. 3:3; Ps. 32:1-2; 86:5-7; Eph. 5:1-2).

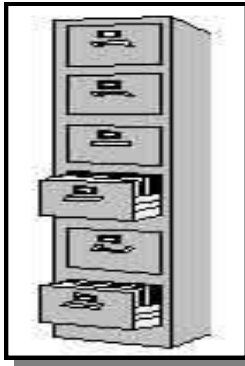
D. Solomon's Blessings and Sacrifices (1 Kings 8:54-63, 66). This service ended with a blessing and a sacrifice.

1. Solomon's blessing was a challenge for Israel to remain true to God. Solomon failed at keeping his own words and later, the nation did the same. These words speak for themselves and need little comment, but they echo the heartfelt sentiments of those who were present on this grand and wonderful occasion (1 Kings 8:54-61).

2. The intent of this service was not self-glorification for the people of Israel. The purpose was that all the earth should know that the Lord is God and all men would be encouraged to walk in His statutes and keep His ordinances (1 Kings 8:57-60).

3. At the close of this service, Solomon ordered a great feast throughout the land, from Hamath to the river of Egypt. This lasted 14 days but no one complained.





The BMA ARCHIVES

Dr. Benny M. Abante's
PREACHING MATERIALS

**NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.**



**THROUGH THE BIBLE
IN A YEAR**

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

DECEMBER 18	JONAH 2:2
DECEMBER 19	1 KINGS 19:1-7
DECEMBER 20	ACTS 9:1-19
DECEMBER 21	1 SAM 20:32-42
DECEMBER 22	ECC 4:9-10
DECEMBER 23	JOHN 15:13
DECEMBER 24	PROV 25:11

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

Contd. from p. 1

There were 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep sacrificed at that time. This was an expensive service in every way but the things we give to God and use in His service are never wasted.

CONCLUSION

The dedication of the Temple had accomplished its purpose. It took the dedicated efforts of hundreds of people to bring it about but no one regretted the time and effort put into it. Instead, their hearts were full, happy and glad because of this great occasion (1 Kings 8:62-66; Psalm 107:8).

**—BP's Messages/David Robinson,
Through the Bible 12.18.16**



Matthew Henry's Commentary on 1 Kings 8:54-61

He blesses himself and the congregation, expressing his earnest desire and hope of these four things:—1. The presence of God with them, which is all in all to the happiness of a church and nation and of every particular person. This great congregation was now shortly to be scattered, and it was not likely that they would ever be all together again in this world. Solomon therefore dismisses them with this blessing: "The Lord be present with us, and that will be comfort enough when we are absent from each other. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers (1 Kgs. 8:57); let him not leave us, let him be to us to day, and to ours for ever, what he was to those that went before us." 2. The power of his grace upon them: "Let him be with us, and continue with us, not that he may enlarge our coasts and increase our wealth, but that he may incline our hearts to himself, to walk

*in all his ways and to keep his commandments," 1 Kgs. 8:58. **Spiritual blessings are the best blessings, with which we should covet earnestly to be blessed.** Our hearts are naturally averse to our duty, and apt to decline from God; it is his grace that inclines them, grace that must be obtained by prayer. 3. An answer to the prayer he had now made: "Let these my words be nigh unto the Lord our God day and night, 1 Kgs. 8:59. Let a gracious return be made to every prayer 2078 that shall be made here, and that will be a continual answer to this prayer." What Solomon asks here for his prayer is still granted in the intercession of Christ, of which his supplication was a type; that powerful prevailing intercession is before the Lord our God day and night, for our great Advocate attends continually to this very thing, and we may depend upon him to maintain our cause (against the adversary that accuses us day and night, Rev. 12:10) and the common cause of his people Israel, at all times, upon all occasions, as the matter shall require, so as to speak for us the word of the day in its day, as the original here reads it, from which we shall receive grace sufficient, suitable, and seasonable, in every time of need. 4. The glorifying of God in the enlargement of his kingdom among men. Let Israel be thus blessed, thus favoured; not that all people may become tributaries to us (Solomon sees his kingdom as great as he desires), but that all people may know that the Lord is God, and he only, and may come and worship him, 1 Kgs. 8:60. With this Solomon's prayers, like the prayers of his father David, the son of Jesse, are ended (Ps. 72:19, 20): Let the whole earth be filled with his glory. We cannot close our prayers with a better summary than this, Father, glorify thy name.*

He solemnly charges his people to continue and persevere in their duty to God. Having spoken to God for them, he here speaks from God to them, and those only would fare the better for his prayers that were made better by his preaching. His admonition, at parting, is, "Let your heart be perfect with the Lord our God," 1 Kgs. 8:61.