**Solomon’s Kingly Prayer**

**I Kings 8:12-66 (Lesson #8)**

***12 Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. 13 I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever." 14 Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. 15 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, 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.’ 17 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. 18 But 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. 19 Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’ 20 Now 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. 21 And 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."***

**Vs 12-13** - On the face, verses 12 and 13 are somewhat paradoxical. Frist Solomon acknowledges that Yahweh **“dwells in the thick darkness.”**

This is how Yahweh spoke to the children of Israel from Mt Sinai (Deut 5:22), this is how Isaiah described Yahweh (Is 45:15). It highlights the separateness of God from us, his **transcendence** (He is high and lifted up). He is GOD! To some degree He is unapproachable and dwells in the **“thick darkness.”**

Yet, in **verse 13**, Solomon indicates that the temple, the exalted house, is a place where Yahweh can **“dwell forever.”** Here in the same thought, Solomon speaks of God’s nearness, His closeness to His people.

These are both theological truths that we embrace. God is indeed **transcendent**. That is the word Theologians use, God is **separate**, He is **absolutely Holy**, He is **morally perfect**. Who dares proceed into His presence? Yet because of the blood of Christ, God is **immanent**. That is another word Theologians use. He is near, He is close, **He is approachable**.

**APPLICATION:** If Solomon could rejoice that the transcendent God would dwell in the Holy of Holies, how much more should we rejoice that the transcendent God has chosen to live within us?

*“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?” (1Co 3:16 ESV)*

Both of these points of Solomon are true about our great God. He is immanent, inapproachable because of his absolute moral purity and holiness. Yet through the blood of Christ, the door is open, the veil is split, and you and I are invited to come into His presence.

**MESSIAH:** Verse 13 is Messianic as well. This temple would be destroyed. But what this temple meant to picture, the Lord Jesus Himself and His body (the church) would never be destroyed. God is building his church (the New Testament temple) and the gates of Hell cannot prevail against it or stop its advance and ultimate completion.

**Vs 13 –** Notice Solomon says, I have built you an ***exalted house.***

**APPLICATION:** Was the temple a princely dwelling for Yahweh? Are we?

**Messiah:** Think with me for a moment. If you could have any house to live in, on the planet, what would it be, what would it look like? Now think we with me again, just for a second. **If God could have any type of house to live in, what would his look like?**

**Vs 14-15 -** The king then turned around and blesses the entire assembly. Notice what he said, in the blessing to the entire assembly, **“Blessed be Yahweh!”**

In effect, Solomon was blessing the people, by blessing their God.

When God blesses us, he bestows gifts upon us, that we might use them for His glory and the furtherance of His kingdom.

There is only one thing that we can give Him that He does not already possess: That is our own personal praise and worship. We bless God by worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ.

*“****9*** *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,* ***10*** *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* ***11*** *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Php 2:9-11 ESV)*

We can only bless God by worshipping God’s Son, Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead.

Solomon goes on to thank God for His many different aspects of faithfulness.

1. **This day, fulfilled promises that were made to David.**

**APPLICATION:** Has God been faithful to you?

**APPLICTION:** David did not get to see the actual promises fulfilled, but he saw them from afar, as he drafted the plans for the temple up, and he embraced them, by trusting in Hiss God to fulfill them.

**Vs 21 –** Notice the ark, carries the covenant of the Lord, that God made with the nation of Israel. The ten commandments and nothing else.

**APPLICATION:** We talked about this previously, but it reminds us of the high value that God places on His word and His commandments.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, 23 and 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; 24 you 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. 25 Now 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.’ 26 Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.**

**Vs 22 -** Picture Solomon, standing before the Bronze Altar, his hands lifted toward heaven, in the courtyard, surrounded by fellow Hebrews. Now, again the writer of Kings, skips over a couple of details that I want you to see. Looking at the same event as described by the writer of Chronicles:

*“****12*** *¶ Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.* ***13*** *Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven,” (2Ch 6:12-13 ESV)*

1. Solomon had made a **special platform** that he actually placed in the courtyard, in front of the Bronze Altar. It was 7 ½ feet long, it was 7 ½ feet wide, it was 4 ½ feet tall. It elevated him above the people.
2. Solomon, from this altar, lifted up his hands, and then went to His knees before the entire nation. The writer of Kings will tell us when Solomon stands back up. As you will see, Solomon was kneeling for this entire prayer, but I want you to picture it in your mind now!

**What was the lesson for Israel? What is the lesson for you and I?**

**He then prayed…** Now before we look at his prayer, place in your mind where he is, draw the picture with me. He is on a special bronze platform, elevated above the people, that is placed in front of the Bronze Altar.

He is standing on this platform that is 7 ½ feet high, directly behind him is the bronze altar, it is 30 feet wide, 30 feet long, and 15 feet high. You are in the crowd, you see Solomon, on his knees, hands lifted to heaven, and what would you see behind him? Yes, the polished (burnished) bronze altar!

**APPLICATION AND MESSIAH:** What is the lesson, the Jew was to get out of this picture. Even your prayers are unacceptable unless there is a sacrifice that atones for your sins!

**APPLICATION and MESSIAH:** Why do we generally close our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ. It is because Jesus has atoned for our sins and that God not only can, but will, hear and indeed respond to our prayers!

**Vs 23-** the prayer begins with **adoration of Yahweh****,** that manifests itself in **five declarations about God!**

1. **Vs 23 -** There is no God (anywhere) like you, then reasons! **God is incomparable!**

When you consider God, stepping out of heaven into time in the person of Jesus, when you consider he announced it all in advance with uncanny accuracy. When you consider Jesus, going to Calvary and there bearing our sin debt to reconcile us to God. **God is incomparable** and **His salvation plan is incomparable**!

1. **Vs 23** – God keeps covenant, he is a covenant keeping God.
	1. *Heb 12:24… Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant…*
2. **Vs 23 -** He is a God who displays His steadfast love to His people. He loves you and I, his children, with a scandalous, lavish, and outlandish love.
	1. *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” (Joh 15:13 ESV)*
3. **Vs 24 –** He is a God who keep His promises, Solomon’s example is the promise he kept to Solomon’s father David.
	1. Namely that Solomon would sit on the throne, he then goes on to quote that promise

\*\*\* It is important to note the Solomon fully understood, that for the promises made to David to be fulfilled in him, he had to follow Yahweh. Do you see what he said in Vs 25b?

**Vs 26 -** Here we find the ask, the request. The word translated ***“confirmed”*** is the Hebrew word **אמן** *(aw-man’).* It means to come true, to confirm, or to be established. Let your word come true, namely:

*“****12*** *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.* ***13*** *He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (2Sa 7:12-13 ESV)*

In Christ, God has established (Jachin) His Throne (forever) as promised:

*“****6*** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* ***7*** *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.” (Isa 9:6-7 ESV)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***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! 28 Yet 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, 29 that 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. 30 And 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.***

**Vs 27 –** In his prayer, we see the invitation for God to come and a recognition that God is more profound that what can be contained in a simple building. See how Solomon sets this up… ***Will God indeed dwell on the earth?******The heavens cannot contain him, much less this house!***

This brings us to two other important words theologians use to describe God. A house cannot contain him, the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. **Because He is omnipresent, and He is omnipotent.**

And Solomon is asking the omnipresent and omnipotent God, to not only dwell among his people, but hear his prayers today, and answers his people’s prayers (even if they sin) in the future.

1. **Vs 29** – we see the **fifth (declaration)** or reason that Solomon is praising Yahweh, **God is an intimate God**. Although the heavens cannot contain Him, **He chooses to dwell among His people**.

His desire, to be among His people is fully realized in Jesus. For 33 ½ years He tabernacled among His people and now in the person of the Holy Spirit, He lives within His people. **Our God is an intimate God!**

**APPLICATION:** God did not need the temple; Israel needed their God to tabernacle with them. God does not need a stone building, rather he chose to manifest His presence there because of GRACE!

**You and I need what this temple represents: Jesus and the church.**

Beginning in verse 31 is Solomon sets up seven examples of things that could happen, what God’s people should do, and what Solomon is asking God to do in response.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***31 "If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house, 32 then hear in heaven and act and judge your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness. 33 "When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and if they turn again to you and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house, 34 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to their fathers. 35 "When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them, 36 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance. 37 "If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemy besieges them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is, 38 whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house, 39 then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind), 40 that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.***

**#1 – Vs 31-32 –** **A prayer for justice.** This prayer should seem very familiar to us, this is the case of the dead baby and the kidnapped baby (I Kings 3:16-28).

Here it seems, if one person has sinned against another, and no one knows the truth. It is the ultimate impossible situation! Solomon is asking God to hear, to judge, and to condemn the guilty and vindicate the one in the right.

1. This could have been done through circumstances following the oath. Where God steps in and condemns the guilty and vindicates the righteous through life circumstances.
2. It could have been done by the High Priest using the Urim and Thummim which were kept in **“the breastpiece of judgment.”**

*“And in the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron’s heart, when he goes in before the LORD. Thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the people of Israel on his heart before the LORD regularly.” (Ex 28:30 ESV)*

**High Priest outfit:**

1. The white fine linen tunic (Ex 39:27)
2. Blue robe (golden bells and pomegranates on it) (Ex 28:34, 39:22-26)
3. Ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet (Ex 28:4, 39:2-5)
4. Onyx stones on shoulders (names of each tribe engraved on stones, six on each shoulder) (Ex 28:9-12, 39:6-7)
5. Sash (Ex 39:29)
6. Turban (Ex 28:4, 39:28)
7. Gold plate on Turban (*Holy to the Lord*) (Ex 28:36, 39:30-31)
8. Breastplate with the twelve stones (Ex 28:17-21, 39:8-21)
9. Urim and Thummim (in breastplate) (Ex 28:30)

**APPLCIATION:** We run into things all the time where we do not have enough information to make an informed decision. We should pray that the righteous would be vindicated.

**MESSIAH:** Jesus is the ultimate and final judge; he does and will judge righteously. He will render every man according to his works.

**#2 – Vs 33-34 –** **A prayer for rescue**. Notice, Solomon understood their **moral depravity**, which means he **understands ours**. ***When they are defeated, because of their sin…***

When Israel went out in battle, and by the way they were normally victorious, but sometimes (Ai and when the ark was lost to the Philistines), they were not victorious, it was often because of sin and here Solomon is praying, when they turn back to God, acknowledge God, and pray and plead with God.

Please hear and forgive, and bring them again, back to the land that you gave them.

**MESSIAH:** On the basis of the atonement the king was praying that there is a **way back home for fallen sinners**, and in Christ there always is. Jesus Christ is the good shepherd, who is always looking for the one who strayed away!

**APPLICATION:** As believers, who can sin, we need that way back do we not?*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1Jo 1:9 ESV)*

**#3 – Vs 35-36 – A this a prayer for provision.** Israel was an agrarian nation, they lived off the land. Sometime God would use the land to chastise them for their sins.

He would withhold the rain, which would impact their food production. **Because of their sin.**

*“****16*** *Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them;* ***17*** *then 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.” (De 11:16-17 ESV)*

Again, if they repent, turn back to you, then please hear from heaven and forgive their sins. We will see this happen in King Ahab’s days (I Kings 17).

**APPLICATION:** When we feel like, God is withholding blessings, maybe our economy has completely fallen apart, maybe we have lost our living. Let’s always take a moment to ensure that it is not happening in response to something we are doing.

**MESSIAH:** *“For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."” (Heb 12:6 ESV)*

**#4 – Vs 37-40 – A prayer for deliverance.** This is similar to **number 3**, but here additional natural disasters are added to the list.

**But notice where the real plague is:** ***each knowing the affliction of his own heart.*** That mankind might know the sin of their own hearts.

Once again we find these prophesied in Deuteronomy where God warned His people about sinning against Him (28:38-39, 52, 58-61).

We will see these play out later in (II Kings 18:13-19:3) as the King of Assyria besieges Jerusalem. But Hezekiah prayed and God miraculously delivered his people (II Kings 19:35-37).

**APPLICATION:** We should not see every natural disaster as a necessary response to someone’s sin. But we should see every natural disaster as a chance to **pray for those impacted**.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***41 "Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name’s sake 42 (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, 43 hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name. 44 "If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, 45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause. 46 "If they sin against you —  for there is no one who does not sin —  and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, 47 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’ 48 if 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, 49 then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause 50 and 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 51 (for they are your people, and your heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace). 52 Let 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."***

**#5 – Vs 41–43 – A prayer for outsiders.** I suspect, for the Hebrews present that day, Solomon’s prayer for the foreigner may have seemed out of place.

**But, the temple was always meant to serve as a place of prayer for all people!**

*“…for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."” (Isa 56:7b ESV)*

*“And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers."” (Mr 11:17 ESV)*

Solomon envisioned foreigners hearing about the great covenant keeping God and turning to Him by faith.

We will read about an actual fulfillment of this prayer in (II Kings 5) in the life of the mighty Syrian captain named Naaman

Notice **Vs 43b**: ***in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you,***

**APPLICATION:** We should be praying for the salvation of the lost.

**APPLICATION:** This place is to be a place of prayer, this place is a place where those who do not know God would be comfortable coming to hear about our great God!

**MESSIAH:** *“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."” (Joh 12:32 ESV)*

**#6 – Vs 44-45 –** **A prayer for victory.** Now the warfare that Solomon has in mind is a **holy warfare**, it is where God has directed the nation into action.

If they were sent into battle, and they cry out for victory. Lord, will you hear in heaven and maintain their cause? This does not have direct application to our armies, of course we do pray for their safety and safe return home.

The real application is the spiritual warfare that the church is engaged in every day.

*“****10*** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.* ***11*** *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* ***12*** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:10-12 ESV)*

We should pray for ourselves, we should pray for one another, we are in a spiritual battle, and what is at stake are the souls of people.

**#7 – Vs 46-53 – A prayer for forgiveness.** For Solomon this **if**, sadly, became a **when**.

Sadly, this is prophetic of the nation of Israel and was fulfilled in 586BC, this is the prayer about the Babylonian captivity, this is the prayer about Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Again, Solomon is simply praying out of the Pentateuch (Deut 28:49, 28:36-37, 64-67).

This was Daniel in Babylon, as he opened his window and prayed toward Jerusalem (Dan 6:10). In case you ever wondered why Daniel prayed towards Jerusalem. Maybe he really believed that God would do what Solomon asked Him to do.

**APPLICATION:** I do not know where you are this morning. I do not know if some sin has gotten a stronghold in your life, this prayer is for you. If you will turn back to Jesus (temple) and pray to him. In spite of how far the enemy has been able to draw you away from camp, God will hear, God will forgive, and God will restore!

**Solomon’s seven prayers touch every situation in life.** Also, we are reminded that everyone needs prayer, including us. We are also reminded that we should pray for one another.

As we close out Solomon’s seven petitions. I want to say one more thing about seven**.**

*“****21*** *¶ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"* ***22*** *Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (Mt 18:21-22 ESV)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***54 Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven. 55 And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, 56 "Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. 57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, 58 that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. 59 Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. 61 Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day." 62 ¶ Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. 63 Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD. 64 The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings. 65 So Solomon held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days. 66 On the eighth day he sent the people away, and they blessed the king and went to their homes joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had shown to David his servant and to Israel his people.” (1Ki 8:12-66 ESV)***

The king began standing up, then fell to his knees and prayed the seven petitions to God. As he arose, Solomons prayer ended the way it had started. A benediction, the bestowing of a blessing.

Solomon blessed the people of Israel, by pronouncing a blessing upon Yahweh!

**Vs 56 –** He reiterated that God had fulfilled his promises and not one word had failed!

**Vs 57 –** May the Lord God continue to be with us, like he was with our fathers.

**Vs 57b –** May He never forsake us.

**Vs 58-** May he incline our hearts towards His. **What a ask!**

We could pray each of these right now!

**Vs 60 -** Solomon, got what the nation never seemed to get. Their lofty place had a purpose beyond themselves: ***that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.***

**Vs 61 -** We join Solomon in the closing words of the benediction as he prayed over his people: ***Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day."***

In the lead-up to this event we were told: *“And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.” (1Ki 8:5 ESV)*

**Vs 63 - *Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep.***

We are told they dedicated the house of Yahweh

**Vs 64 -** Seems to imply that he offered offerings (in the middle court) possibly on some other altar because the 30 foot by 30 foot Brazen Altar was too small to handle all the sacrifices.

**Vs 65 –** Again this was the Feast of Booths aka, the Feast of Tabernacles. There was a great assembly from Lebo-hamath all the way to the Brook of Egypt.

**Vs 66 –** After the weeklong celebration, Solomon sent the people home. They blessed the king, went to their homes in great joy and with gladness of heart for all that Yahweh had done!

**What a week in the life of the nation of Israel!**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_