

1 Kings 7-8

Good evening church, I am glad you could make it out here tonight.

If you are able, please turn in your Bibles to 1 Kings Chapter 7.

Last time we were together we looked at the Temple Solomon had built, it was impressive and very detailed.

Remember it was twice the size as the Tabernacle or Tent of Meeting that the Israelites worship in while journeying through the wilderness.

Now that Israel was secure and in the Land, David had it in his heart to build a glorious Temple for the Lord their God.

But God would not allow him, due to the wars David had fought.

And his son Solomon took up the enterprise.

We saw that Solomon was a grand architect and he was able to build this massive structure with huge quarried stones, and mass amounts of cedar and other wood from Lebanon, also Solomon used countless amounts of Gold to overlay much of the structure.

Now as we move in to Chapter 7 we will deal now with the construction of Solomon's own palace.

The Palace will be made up of many different areas, some for entertaining, some for living quarters, even a porch for judgement.

He will also build a house for his wife, the daughter of Pharaoh.

It will take Solomon 13 years to build his own home verses the House of the Lord, which took 7 years to construct.

I accused Solomon of being worldly and consumed with his earthly legacy, so much more than he was consumed with his spirituality.

And I see that still, however, one commentator pointed out a counter argument, that I thought would make things fair for Solomon here.

He suggests that Solomon was more focused on his work at the Temple, that it took priority over his own house, and thus his house dragged out for 13 years, because for seven years he was going hard at the Temple.

Also, of course David had laid much of the ground work for the Temple, and this may have helped hurry things along.

That should help those of you who want to see Solomon in a better light, but your work will be cut out for you when we get to later on in his life.

Tonight will be kind of the pinnacle of his spiritual journey, from here after it will be a downward spiral.

So the text starts off now...

Solomon's Other Buildings

7:1 But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.

2 He also built the House of the Forest of Lebanon; its length was one hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits, with four rows of cedar pillars, and cedar beams on the pillars. 3 And it was paneled with cedar above the beams that were on forty-five pillars, fifteen to a row. 4 There were windows with beveled frames in three rows, and window was opposite window in three tiers. 5 And all the doorways and doorposts had rectangular frames; and window was opposite window in three tiers.

6 He also made the Hall of Pillars: its length was fifty cubits, and its width thirty cubits; and in front of them was a portico with pillars, and a canopy was in front of them.

7 Then he made a hall for the throne, the Hall of Judgment, where he might judge; and it was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling.

8 And the house where he dwelt had another court inside the hall, of like workmanship. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken as wife.

9 All these were of costly stones cut to size, trimmed with saws, inside and out, from the foundation to the eaves, and also on the outside to the great court. 10 The foundation was of costly stones, large stones,

some ten cubits and some eight cubits. 11 And above were costly stones, hewn to size, and cedar wood. 12 The great court was enclosed with three rows of hewn stones and a row of cedar beams. So were the inner court of the house of the Lord and the vestibule of the temple.

So Solomon built for himself a good sized dwelling, 75 feet by 150 feet, pretty decent sized mansion.

Perhaps three stories, we see its height was thirty cubits approximately 45 feet high, more than enough for three stories.

If that is the case then you would have around a 25,000 square foot house. Chuck Smith

You can really stretch out in that kind of house.

The writer gives us the details about the beam work and details about the windows and doors, the porch of his judgement, and the porch of pillars.

The big main place was more likely for governmental affairs.

We also see a place for his wife.

Now, today we can simply Google Solomon's Temple, and we can get a few pictures in our mind, but in antiquity this description was very important.

It is laborious reading, but it is God's Word non-the-less.

Next we will get into the making of the articles and furnishings of the Temple.

Starting in verse 13...

Hiram the Craftsman

13 Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre. 14 He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.

So Solomon brings over a noted bronze craftsman from Tyre.

Hiram was commissioned to oversee the artistic final touches.

It is interesting that he was half Jewish, from the tribe of Naphtali.

His first project was to build two huge columns as we see next, starting in verse 15...

The Bronze Pillars for the Temple(2 Chron. 3:15-17)

15 And he cast two pillars of bronze, each one eighteen cubits high, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of each. 16 Then he made two capitals of cast bronze, to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits. 17 He made a lattice network, with wreaths of chainwork, for

the capitals which were on top of the pillars: seven chains for one capital and seven for the other capital. 18 So he made the pillars, and two rows of pomegranates above the network all around to cover the capitals that were on top; and thus he did for the other capital.

19 The capitals which were on top of the pillars in the hall were in the shape of lilies, four cubits. 20 The capitals on the two pillars also had pomegranates above, by the convex surface which was next to the network; and there were two hundred such pomegranates in rows on each of the capitals all around.

21 Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz. 22 The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. So the work of the pillars was finished.

These hollow columns were about 3 inches thick all around, the brass was that thick.

About 12 feet round, and 18 feet high, these things were massive, and we see also they were intricately designed.

They sort of flared out at the top.

They designed pomegranates in the casting.

Again you can Google artistic attempts at these massive columns.

They gave them both each a name, the one on the right was Jachin, and the one on the left was Boaz.

Jachin means “He shall establish.”

Boaz means “In it is strength.”

It is interesting, because these two pillars as it seems did not hold anything up, they just were there in the front of the Temple.

There were there for more of a witness, and spoke of the fact that God had established the Jewish people.

The Jews were made strong by the Lord, and were a people established by God.

That is what the names of these two pillars meant.

Next we will see the brass laver called the sea because of its immense size.

Starting now in verse 23...

The Sea and the Oxen

23 And he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

24 Below its brim were ornamental buds encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The ornamental buds were cast in two rows when it

was cast. 25 It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward. 26 It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained two thousand baths.

This massive sea was made for the priests, so they could bathe before they went into the work of the Temple.

It was circular and was 15 feet across, kind of serving as a reservoir.

About seven and half feet deep, and held about 15,000 to 17,000 gallons of water.

It stood on the backs of these bronze oxen, which were in groups of the three, numbering twelve, perhaps for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Again you can Google the artistic renderings to get a better picture in your mind.

Some suggest there were spigots for the priests to wash their hands and feet with, they did not jump in like a bath.

The law gave a penalty of death if the priests did not wash...

Ex 30:20-21 When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister,

to burn an offering made by fire to the Lord, they shall wash with water, lest they die. 21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them — to him and his descendants throughout their generations."

Now, in God's Word, washing water was a picture of the Word of God.

Ps 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to Your word.

Jesus said in John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

We see the imagery also in Eph. 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

The priests would need to cleanse themselves in order not to be defiled in their labor for the Lord.

And God's laborers today should daily allow His Word to cleanse us.

Next is the ten carts and lavers...

The Carts and the Lavers

27 He also made ten carts of bronze; four cubits was the length of each cart, four cubits its width, and three cubits its height. 28 And this was the design of the carts: They had panels, and the panels were between frames; 29 on the panels that were between the

frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. And on the frames was a pedestal on top. Below the lions and oxen were wreaths of plaited work. 30 Every cart had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and its four feet had supports. Under the laver were supports of cast bronze beside each wreath. 31 Its opening inside the crown at the top was one cubit in diameter; and the opening was round, shaped like a pedestal, one and a half cubits in outside diameter; and also on the opening were engravings, but the panels were square, not round. 32 Under the panels were the four wheels, and the axles of the wheels were joined to the cart. The height of a wheel was one and a half cubits. 33 The workmanship of the wheels was like the workmanship of a chariot wheel; their axle pins, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all of cast bronze. 34 And there were four supports at the four corners of each cart; its supports were part of the cart itself. 35 On the top of the cart, at the height of half a cubit, it was perfectly round. And on the top of the cart, its flanges and its panels were of the same casting. 36 On the plates of its flanges and on its panels he engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, wherever there was a clear space on each, with wreaths all around. 37 Thus he made the ten carts. All of them were of the same mold, one measure, and one shape.

38 Then he made ten lavers of bronze; each laver contained forty baths, and each laver was four cubits.

On each of the ten carts was a laver. 39 And he put five carts on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house. He set the Sea on the right side of the house, toward the southeast.

These were wonderfully decorated metal wagons, 6 feet square and four and half feet high.

Each could hold approximately 230 gallons of water, they were kept in the court of the priests next to the sanctuary, five on the north and five on the south.

They were on wheels so they could easily be moved from one place to the other.

They were used for washing and preparing the sacrifices.

I imagine too they were used for the general cleaning of the Temple, as the water that became dirty could be carted away, and easily changed out.

They would be refilled from the Brass Sea.

These stands were beautiful, as well as practical.

They helped keep things holy and clean, and shows us that God sees beauty in holiness.

**Ps 29:2 Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name;
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

Here is a picture that we can look at that shows the immense beauty of all of this.

Picture of Solomon's Temple

Starting now in verse 40...

Furnishings of the Temple(2 Chron. 4:11-18)

40 Hiram made the lavers and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing all the work that he was to do for King Solomon for the house of the Lord: 41 the two pillars, the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the pillars; 42 four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of pomegranates for each network, to cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the pillars); 43 the ten carts, and ten lavers on the carts; 44 one Sea, and twelve oxen under the Sea; 45 the pots, the shovels, and the bowls.

All these articles which Hiram made for King Solomon for the house of the Lord were of burnished bronze. 46 In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zaretan. 47 And Solomon did not weigh all the articles, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

48 Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of the Lord: the altar of gold, and the table of gold on which was the showbread; 49 the lampstands of pure gold, five on the right side and five on the left in front of the inner sanctuary, with the flowers and the lamps and the wick-trimmers of gold; 50 the basins, the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the

censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner room (the Most Holy Place) and for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

51 So all the work that King Solomon had done for the house of the Lord was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and the furnishings. He put them in the treasuries of the house of the Lord.

So everything is set up, everything was made for inside the Temple.

Now, once you enter into the Temple, you're entering into a type or figure of heaven.

Gold is the metal that is symbolic of the heavenly scene.

Brass is the metal of judgement, and silver is the metal for redemption.

So once you enter into the Temple, and all the gold, it is all a model of heaven.

We are told actually that the Tabernacle was a model as well in the New Testament.

The Temple being twice the size as the Tabernacle.

So it is all complete, and now it is time for the dedication of the Temple in chapter 8.

The Ark Brought into the Temple(2 Chron. 5:2-6:2)

8:1 Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the City of David, which is Zion. 2 Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which is the seventh month. 3 So all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. 4 Then they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up. 5 Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. 6 Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. 7 For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 8 The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. 9 Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the

children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

So the chapter starts off here with Solomon bringing the Ark of the Covenant to the New Holy of Holies within the Temple.

Remember David had built another Tabernacle to house the Ark until the Temple was complete.

Verse 2 tells us a huge assembly was gathered in the eleventh month, now remember when it was finished...

1 Kings 6:38 And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

That means it sat about 11 months empty of worshippers, as they prepared the inner sanctum for this day.

Notice in verse 4, the old Tabernacle, and all the holy furnishings were brought up with the Ark into the Temple, some suggest it was set up within one of the areas of the Temple as a sacred relic somewhere.

We see at this time, that there was only the two tablets of stone left in the Ark, remember before it was taken by the Philistines it had the Rod of Aaron that budded and a pot of manna.

It seems after the Philistines took it, they removed those other two objects, and replaced them with some of their own horrid offerings.

Remember in **1 Sam 6:11 And they set the ark of the Lord on the cart, and the chest with the gold rats and the images of their tumors.**

Evidently they were removed as well.

Only the tablet of stone was left.

As the Ark was put into its place, the cloud, the Shekinah Glory filled the house, representing the presence of Yahweh.

The Ark was set before the two large Cherubim that Hiram had made, and the Cherubim on the original golden mercy seat looked at each other, as the new Cherubim looked out toward the Holy Place where the priests ministered.

Warren Wiersbe makes the connection to how the angels of God look into the mysteries of God's Grace as told in **1 Peter 1:12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the**

Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into.

But angels also behold the mysteries of God's people and learn about God's Grace.

1 Cor. 4:9 For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

Now as the Ark was laid between these Cherubim, and Shekinah Glory came down, it all symbolized the throne in the presence of God.

As the Glory of God came to dwell within the Temple it was so awesome and overwhelming the priests had to cease from working.

Understand that the presence of God's Glory was a distinguishing mark for the nation of Israel.

Rom 9:4 who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises

It was unique to them, and really a cloud was the only visible presence of God for them.

This protected them from making any kind of idols or images in His likeness.

Now, today some ministries claim the Shekinah Glory comes into their sanctuary, but I would be careful with this, this was something unique to Israel.

Ever since Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit's coming to the church, God's Glory resides within each of His children individually.

You can see it in every changed life that is touched by God's Grace.

1 Cor. 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Also 1 Cor. 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

His Glory also dwells within the corporate church...

Eph. 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

So I would caution against those who claim special manifestations and impartations of God's Glory.

His Glory is shown through us, not to us in a cloud.

But until Jesus brings us home to our Eternal Glory, we are to live our lives in such a way down here, that we bring Him Glory here on earth.

Now, next the Glorious scene provokes Solomon to speak, and he gives a short poem before he formally dedicates the Temple, look at verses 12 and 13...

12 Then Solomon spoke: "The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud. 13 I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever."

So from his special platform, Solomon opens his address by remembering that the Lord said He would dwell in a dark cloud.

We surely do not think of darkness when we are thinking of God's Glory, but this is how the Bible describes it.

Ex 19:9 And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud... "

And surely this thick cloud was seen as darkness as mentioned in Ex 20:21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Solomon was connecting the events of that day with Israel's past experience on Sinai, the people of God must remain connected to their roots.

And as God's presence overwhelmed the Temple, Solomon like a servant reporting to his Master, Solomon reports that he had built a place for the Lord. Now, next, Solomon will give a speech for the dedication of the building...

Solomon's Speech at Completion of the Work(2 Chron. 6:3-11)

14 Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. 15 And he said: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying, 16 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe 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 my father David to build a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. 18 But the Lord said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. 19 Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.' 20 So the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel. 21 And there I have made a place for the ark, in which is the covenant

of the Lord which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

Now, Solomon speaks to the people to remind them that God has kept His promises to David, his father.

David would have a son, who would be raised up after David, and this son would build a Temple.

God has performed His Word...

Solomon is reminding them of the faithfulness of God's Word and His Promises.

The Temple was one giant memorial that testified of God's Faithful Word.

I imagine if you assessed your own lives tonight, that God has set up for you giant memorials for you to look back upon, to remind you that God is faithful to His Word and Promises.

I also imagine many of you are facing new trials, and new struggles, new tests of faith, when we venture out, it is good to reflect on those memorials that God has set up in our own lives.

Remember His faithfulness, His Word always comes true.

He will see you through whatever is before you, just as He has in the past, simply cling to His Word.

God kept His Word to David, and to Solomon, and from this declaration, Solomon will now move into his prayer.

Solomon moves from talking to the people to talking to God.

Starting in verse 22...

Solomon's Prayer of Dedication(2 Chron. 6:12-39)

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 he said: "Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts. 24 You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day. 25 Therefore, Lord God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.' 26 And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.

Now this promise from God will reach its complete fulfillment in Jesus Christ, when Jesus returns to this earth to establish His Everlasting Kingdom.

27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

Solomon here is making sure that the Lord knows that he does not have a limited concept of Him, thinking that God can be confined to a house made by man's hands.

This was simply a place where God's people could meet with their God.

28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O Lord my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: 29 that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. 30 And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

31 "When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple, 32 then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

33 "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name,

and pray and make supplication to You in this temple, 34 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.

35 "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, 36 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

37 "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; 38 whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: 39 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), 40 that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

In essence Solomon is declaring that this place is a place where they will meet with God in their hearts and minds, not tangibly but spiritually.

When the people are in trouble and they turn toward this place, and cry out to the Lord, Solomon is asking that God hears them from His dwelling place in heaven.

He is asking that God hears their needs and prayers.

He envisions seven different situations that might drive the people to pray.

And as these seven situations would drive the people to prayer, Solomon asks “when they come to You, hear them.”

His hope is that God’s eyes would continually look at, and His ears would continually hear from this Temple the prayers of His people.

These calamities Solomon mentions are from the terms of the covenant made in Duet. 28-29.

And he knows if they break that covenant, that these things will come upon them.

Solomon also knew that the covenant promised forgiveness **Deut. 30:1-4 "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God drives you, 2 and you return to the Lord your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 that the Lord your God will bring you back from captivity, and have**

compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the Lord your God has scattered you."

Solomon knew these seven scenarios were designed to draw the people of God back to Him.

Heb. 12:5-8

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

Understand the purpose many times of our hardships, is to bring us back into the relationship that God desires with us.

Solomon continues now...

41 "Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake 42 (for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, 43 hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know

that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

These were not resident aliens, but those who would be drawn to Israel because they heard of the greatness of their God and their Temple.

It was the responsibility of the Nation of Israel to be a Light to the World, drawing them to the True and Living God.

Solomon has those in mind who would believe because of God's own reputation.

Never forget this about our God, He is a God who loves to bring in the lost, and the outcast.

Now the church today bears the burden of being the light bearers to this lost world.

God blesses us, His people, so that we in turn can bless others.

We are not to hoard the blessings and keep them to ourselves, but to use them to reach the world.

The Jews prayed Ps 67:1-2

God be merciful to us and bless us,

And cause His face to shine upon us,

Selah

2 That Your way may be known on earth,

Your salvation among all nations.

May that be our prayer today church...

Only you know if your life is being used to bless others or not, remember the Jews in Jesus' day had forgotten their great calling, and it was to their great dismay.

We do not want to squander this life we have been entrusted with.

Solomon continues now in verse 44...

44 "When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name, 45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

46 "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; 47 yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness'; 48 and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: 49 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their

supplication, and maintain their cause, 50 and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them 51 (for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace), 52 that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You. 53 For You separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You spoke by Your servant Moses, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God."

Israel's history was one of sin and betraying the Lord their God.

Solomon knew what would happen in the future, he knew that they would ultimately turn from their God. But he knew too, that their chastening would lead them back to Him, so once again he asks God to meet His people there.

After their failure, when they turned their hearts back to Him, he prays that God would hear and God would heal and maintain their cause.

This is still our God, understand, we still let our God down greatly, but many today in the church forget

about how gracious our God is, they look to religion and rites as restorative proof.

But it is by Grace alone that God restores an individual, never by our own works or proof.

A humble and contrite heart, admitting their sin, and asking for God's empowering is the only way to a true healing and restored relationship with God.

Look now starting in verse 54...

Solomon Blesses the Assembly(2 Chron. 6:40-42)

54 And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the Lord, that he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. 55 Then 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. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses. 57 May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, 58 that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers. 59 And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near the Lord our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel,

as each day may require, 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 loyal to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day."

Now Solomon we see ended up kneeling before God, and he rises up now to bless God's people.

Solomon emphasizes here that God would not leave nor forsake His people.

And he encouraged them to remain loyal to their God.

Of course this day, that God's presence was so recognizable and close, was a very significant day.

But the emotion of this day and dedication will wane, and so will the people's memories and love for their God.

It is unfortunate when the people of God forget...

So let's finish up chapter 8 now, starting in verse 62...

Solomon Dedicates the Temple(2 Chron. 7:4-11)

62 Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the Lord. 63 And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord. 64 On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the Lord; for

there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the Lord was too small to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

65 At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the Lord our God, seven days and seven more days — fourteen days. 66 On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the Lord had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.

Now these sacrifices were on top of the sacrifices that were offered as they brought the Ark to the Temple.

An incredible offering, and a great assembly.

It is so wonderful when the people of God come together to worship their God.

Notice the contentment the people of God had when they left the assembly.

They were joyful and glad of heart for the good the Lord had done.

The writer of Hebrews says... **Heb. 10:24-25**

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling

of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Church understand there is something dynamic that happens within us as we gather corporately to worship our God.

Please know that Satan knows this, and he will do all that he can to keep you from the gathering.

But the combination of worship, prayer, singing praises, and hearing from God's Word is so vital to our spiritual growth.

The Word of God washes our minds, cleanses us of this worldly mindset that so quickly overwhelms our lives.

The praises fill our hearts with Joy as we sing to our God who has saved us.

We are glad, because His Word is true, not one promise in it shall fail us.

It is important to maintain the assembling of ourselves together in our journey of faith.

Amen...

Let's pray...