

Solomon Finishes Building the Temple (Bul [November] 961 BC)

1 Kings 6:14, 38

14 So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

38 And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which *is* the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

The Ark is Moved Into the Temple (Tishri [October] 960 BC)

1 Kings 8:1–11

2 Chronicles 5:2–14

1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.

2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which *is* the seventh month.

3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up.

5 And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, *were* with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy *place, even* under the wings of the cherubims.

7 For the cherubims spread forth *their* two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

8 And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy *place* before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.

9 *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables 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 were come out of the holy *place*,

that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.

3 Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which *was* in the seventh month.

4 And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark.

5 And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the tabernacle, these did the priests *and* the Levites bring up.

6 Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

7 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy *place, even* under the wings of the cherubims:

8 For the cherubims spread forth *their* wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

9 And they drew out the staves *of the ark*, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day.

10 *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put *therein* at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

11 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*:
(for all the priests *that were* present were sanctified, *and* did not *then* wait by course:

12 Also the Levites *which were* the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, *being* arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever:
that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD;

14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

Solomon Praises God For Keeping His Promise (Tishri [October] 960 BC)

1 Kings 8:12–21	2 Chronicles 6:1–11
<p>12 Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. [cf. Exod 19:9]</p> <p>13 I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever.</p> <p>14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)</p> <p>15 And he said, Blessed <i>be</i> the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled <i>it</i>, saying,</p> <p>16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein;</p> <p>but I chose David to be over my people Israel.</p> <p>17 And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.</p> <p>18 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart.</p> <p>19 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name.</p> <p>20 And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.</p> <p>21 And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein <i>is</i> the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.</p>	<p>1 Then said Solomon, The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness.</p> <p>2 But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever.</p> <p>3 And the king turned his face, and blessed the whole congregation of Israel: and all the congregation of Israel stood.</p> <p>4 And he said, Blessed <i>be</i> the LORD God of Israel, who hath with his hands fulfilled <i>that</i> which he spake with his mouth to my father David, saying,</p> <p>5 Since the day that I brought forth my people out of the land of Egypt I chose no city among all the tribes of Israel to build an house in, that my name might be there;</p> <p>neither chose I any man to be a ruler over my people Israel:</p> <p>6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.</p> <p>7 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.</p> <p>8 But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart:</p> <p>9 Notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name.</p> <p>10 The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.</p> <p>11 And in it have I put the ark, wherein <i>is</i> the covenant of the LORD, that he made with the children of Israel.</p>

Solomon's Dedicatory Prayer (Tishri [October] 960 BC)

1 Kings 8:22–53	2 Chronicles 6:12–42
<p>22 And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel,</p> <p>and spread forth his hands toward heaven:</p> <p>23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, <i>there is</i> no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:</p> <p>24 Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled <i>it</i> with thine hand, as <i>it is</i> this day.</p> <p>25 Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me.</p>	<p>12 And he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands:</p> <p>13 For Solomon had made a brazen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,</p> <p>14 And said, O LORD God of Israel, <i>there is</i> no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and <i>shewest</i> mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:</p> <p>15 Thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him; and spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled <i>it</i> with thine hand, as <i>it is</i> this day.</p> <p>16 Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me.</p>

26 And now, O God of Israel,
let thy word, I pray thee, be verified,
which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth?
behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;
how much less this house that I have builded?

28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant,
and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry
and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to day:

29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house
night and day, *even* toward the place of which thou hast said,
My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the
prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant,
and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this
place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place:
and when thou hearest, forgive.

31 If any man trespass against his neighbor, and an oath be laid
upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before
thine altar in this house:

32 Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants,
condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his
head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to
his righteousness.

33 When thy people Israel be smitten down before the
enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn
again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray,
and make supplication unto thee in this house:

34 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy
people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou
gavest unto their fathers.

35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain,
because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward
this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin,
when thou afflictest them:

36 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy
servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them
the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy
land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

37 If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence,
blasting, mildew, locust, *or* if there be caterpillar;
if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities;
whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness *there be*;

38 What prayer and supplication soever be *made*
by any man, *or* by all thy people Israel, which shall
know every man the plague of his own heart,
and spread forth his hands toward this house:

39 Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive,
and do, and give to every man according to his ways,
whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, *even* thou only, knowest
the hearts of all the children of men;)

40 That they may fear thee all the days that they
live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

41 Moreover concerning a stranger, that *is* not of thy people
Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake;

42 (For they shall hear of thy great name,
and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;)
when he shall come and pray toward this house;

17 Now then, O LORD God of Israel,
let thy word be verified,
which thou hast spoken unto thy servant David.

18 But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth?
behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;
how much less this house which I have built!

19 Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant,
and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry
and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee:

20 That thine eyes may be open upon this house
day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said
that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the
prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.

21 Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant,
and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this
place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, *even* from heaven;
and when thou hearest, forgive.

22 If a man sin against his neighbor, and an oath be laid
upon him to make him swear, and the oath come before
thine altar in this house;

23 Then hear thou from heaven, and do, and judge thy servants,
by requiting the wicked, by recompensing his way upon his own
head; and by justifying the righteous, by giving him according to
his righteousness.

24 And if thy people Israel be put to the worse before the
enemy, because they have sinned against thee; and shall return
and confess thy name, and pray
and make supplication before thee in this house;

25 Then hear thou from the heavens, and forgive the sin of thy
people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou
gavest to them and to their fathers.

26 When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain,
because they have sinned against thee; *yet* if they pray toward
this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin,
when thou dost afflict them;

27 Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy
servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them
the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy
land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.

28 If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence,
if there be blasting, or mildew, locusts, or caterpillars;
if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land;
whatsoever sore or whatsoever sickness *there be*:

29 *Then* what prayer *or* what supplication soever shall be made
of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when every one shall
know his own sore and his own grief,
and shall spread forth his hands in this house:

30 Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive,
and render unto every man according unto all his ways,
whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest
the hearts of the children of men:)

31 That they may fear thee, to walk in thy ways, so long as they
live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

32 Moreover concerning the stranger, which is not of thy people
Israel, but is come from a far country for thy great name's sake,

and thy mighty hand, and thy stretched out arm;
if they come and pray in this house;

43 Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as *do* thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name.

44 If thy people go out to battle against their enemy, whithersoever thou shalt send them, and shall pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and *toward* the house that I have built for thy name:

45 Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

46 If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;

47 Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;

48 And so return unto thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

49 Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause,

50 And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:

51 For they *be* thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron:

52 That thine eyes may be open unto the supplication of thy servant, and unto the supplication of thy people Israel, to hearken unto them in all that they call for unto thee.

53 For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, *to be* thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant, when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God.

33 Then hear thou from the heavens, *even* from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as *doth* thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

34 If thy people go out to war against their enemies by the way that thou shalt send them, and they pray unto thee toward this city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name;

35 Then hear thou from the heavens their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

36 If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before *their* enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;

37 Yet *if* they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land

of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;

38 If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and *toward* the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name:

39 Then hear thou from the heavens, *even* from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.

40 Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open,

and *let* thine ears *be* attentive unto the prayer *that is made* in this place.

41 Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.

42 O LORD God, turn not away the face of thine anointed: remember the mercies of David thy servant.

Chronological Notes

- 1) Concerning the date of the dedication of the Temple, I follow House in understanding that “Solomon dedicated the temple eleven months after it was constructed.”¹ He simply waited until the symbolic Feast of Booths occurred and used the extra months to furnish the worship center and allow the priests to make necessary arrangements.²

¹ Paul R. House, “1, 2 Kings,” *NAC*, 137.

² John Gray, “I and II Kings: A Commentary,” *The Old Testament Library*, 193.