

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

1 Kings 6:14, 38

14 So Solomon built the temple and finished it.

38 In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, that is, the eighth month, the house was finished *according* to all his specifications and *according* to all his plans. He had built it in seven years.

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

1 Kings 8:1–11

2 Chronicles 5:2–14

1 At that time, Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, and the leaders of the families of the Israelites before King Solomon, in order to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yahweh from the city of David, that is, Zion.

2 All the men of Israel assembled before King Solomon at the festival in the month of Ethnaim, that is, the seventh month.

3 All the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark.

4 So they brought up the ark of Yahweh and the tent of assembly and all of the holy vessels that *were* in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up.

5 King Solomon and all the assembly of Israel who were assembling with him in the presence of the ark *were* sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted nor numbered because of abundance.

6 The priests brought the ark of the covenant of Yahweh to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim,

7 for the cherubim *were* spreading their wings over the place of the ark. The cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles from above.

8 The poles *were* long, and 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* the outside, and they are there until this day.

9 There was not *anything* in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses had placed there at Horeb, where Yahweh made *a covenant* with the Israelites after they went out from the land of Egypt.

10 When the priests went out from the holy place,

the cloud filled the house of Yahweh.

11 The priests *were* not able to stand to minister because of the presence of the cloud, for the glory of Yahweh filled the house of Yahweh.

2 Then Solomon assembled all the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the families for the Israelites, to Jerusalem in order to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yahweh from the city of David, which *is* Zion.

3 And all the men of Israel assembled before the king at the feast that *is 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, the tent of assembly, and all the holy objects that *were* in the tent; the Levitical priests brought them up.

6 And King Solomon and the whole community of Israel that was assembled before him *were* before the ark, sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted nor numbered for abundance.

7 Then the priests brought up the ark of the covenant of Yahweh to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, into the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

8 The cherubim were spreading *their* wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim were covering the ark and over its poles *from* above.

9 But the poles were *so* long that the ends of the poles from the ark were seen from before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from the outside. And they are there until this day.

10 There was nothing in the ark but the two stone tablets that Moses had put *inside* at Horeb *on* which Yahweh had made a covenant with the Israelites when they went out from Egypt.

11 And when the priests came out of the sanctuary (for all the priests who were present sanctified themselves without keeping their divisions)

12 and all the Levitical singers—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, their sons, their brothers, dressed *in* fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and stringed instruments—*they* were standing to the east of the altar. And with them outside *were* one hundred and twenty priests *who were* trumpet blowers.

13 And it was the primary *duty* of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard *with* one voice, to praise and give thanks to Yahweh. And when a sound from the trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments of song was raised to Yahweh—for he *is* good, because his loyal love *is* everlasting—then the house, the house of Yahweh, was filled with a cloud.

14 And the priests were not able to stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of Yahweh 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 Solomon said, “Yahweh has said that <i>he</i> would dwell in the very thick cloud. [cf. Exod 19:9]</p> <p>13 I have certainly built a lofty house for you, a place for you to live forever.”</p> <p>14 <i>Then</i> the king turned his face around, and he blessed all of the assembly of Israel. (Now all the assembly of Israel was standing).</p> <p>15 Then he said, “Blessed be Yahweh the God of Israel who has promised with his mouth <i>to</i> David my father and fulfilled by his oath, saying,</p> <p>16 ‘From the day that I brought out my people Israel from Egypt I have not chosen a city from all the tribes of Israel to build a house where my name might be,</p> <p>but I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’</p> <p>17 David my father desired to build a house for the name of Yahweh the God of Israel,</p> <p>18 but Yahweh said to David my father, ‘Because you desired to build a house for my name, you did well in that it was within your heart.</p> <p>19 However, you will not build the house, but your son who has come from your loins, he shall build the house for my name.’</p> <p>20 Yahweh has carried out his promise which he had made; I have risen in place of David my father, and I sit on the throne of Israel as Yahweh promised, and I have built the house for the name of Yahweh the God of Israel.</p> <p>21 I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant which Yahweh made with our ancestors when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.”</p>	<p>1 Then Solomon said, “Yahweh has decided to dwell in the deep gloom.</p> <p>2 But I have built for you an exalted house, even a place for you to dwell in forever.”</p> <p>3 Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, and all the assembly of Israel were standing.</p> <p>4 And he said, “Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, who spoke with his mouth with David my father, and with his hands he has fulfilled <i>it</i>, saying,</p> <p>5 ‘From the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt I did not choose a city among all the tribes of Israel to build a house in order for my name <i>to be</i> there. Nor did I choose a man to be leader over my people Israel.</p> <p>6 But I have chosen my name to be there in Jerusalem, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’</p> <p>7 Now, it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel.</p> <p>8 But Yahweh said to David my father, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart,</p> <p>9 but you yourself will not build the house, but your son who will proceed from your loins; he himself will build the house for my name.’</p> <p>10 Now Yahweh has fulfilled his word that he spoke. I have risen in the place of David my father and am seated on the throne of Israel as Yahweh has spoken. I have built the house for the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel.</p> <p>11 And I have there the ark <i>in</i> which <i>is</i> the covenant of Yahweh that he made with the Israelites.”</p>

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

1 Kings 8:22–53	2 Chronicles 6:12–42
<p>22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of Yahweh in the presence of all of the assembly of Israel,</p> <p>and he spread out his hands <i>to</i> the heavens,</p> <p>23 and he said, “O Yahweh, God of Israel, there is no god like you in the heavens above or on the earth beneath, keeping the covenant and the loyal love for your servants who are walking before you with all their heart.</p> <p>24 You have kept for your servant David my father what you promised to him, and you have spoken with your mouth, and with your hand you have fulfilled <i>it</i> this very day.</p> <p>25 So then, O Yahweh, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you promised to him, saying, ‘For you, no man will be cut off from before me who <i>will be</i> sitting on the throne of Israel, if only your sons keep their ways to walk before me just as you have walked before me.’</p> <p>26 So then, O God of Israel, please let your word be confirmed which you have promised to your servant David my father.</p>	<p>12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of Yahweh before all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.</p> <p>13 (For Solomon had made a platform of bronze five cubits long and five cubits wide and three cubits high, and placed it in the midst of the outer court.) And he stood upon it, then knelt down on his knees before the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven.</p> <p>14 And he said, “O Yahweh, God of Israel, there is none like you, a God in the heavens and on the earth, keeping the covenant and loyal love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart,</p> <p>15 that you have kept for your servant David my father what you spoke to him. You spoke with your mouth, and by your hand you have fulfilled <i>it</i> on this day.</p> <p>16 And now, O Yahweh, God of Israel, keep for your servant David, my father, what you have spoken to him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel before me, if only your sons keep their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.’</p> <p>17 And now, O Yahweh, God of Israel, let your word that you have spoken to your servant David be confirmed.</p>

27 For will God really dwell on the earth?
Behold, the heavens and the heaven of heavens could not contain you! How could this house that I have built?

28 You must regard the prayer of your servant and his plea!
O Yahweh my God, listen to the pleading and to the prayer that your servant *is* praying before you this day,
29 so that your eyes *will* be open to this house night and day, to the place which you said, 'My name will be there,' to hear the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.

30 You must listen to the plea of your servant and your people Israel which they pray *toward* this place; and you must hear from the place where you live, from heaven you must hear and you must forgive.

31 *If* a man sins against his neighbor and he pronounces an oath against him to curse him, and the curse comes before your altar in this house,
32 then you shall hear in heaven and you shall act and you shall judge your servant, to declare the wicked guilty by bringing his way upon his head and to declare the righteous innocent by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

33 When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they sinned against you, and *when* they turn to you and confess your name and pray and beg for mercy from you in this house,
34 then you shall hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel, and you shall bring them back to the ground which you gave to their ancestors.

35 When you shut up the heavens so there is no rain because they have sinned against you, then they pray to this place and they confess your name and they return from their sin because you punished them,
36 then you shall hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants and your people Israel, for you will teach them the good way in which they should go, and you will give rain upon your land which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

37 If there should be in the land famine or disease, if there should be blight or mildew or locust or caterpillars, if it happens that his enemy lays siege against him in the land of his gates, if any plague or any disease,
38 any prayer or any plea which is *offered* by any person for all of your people Israel, who each knows the infestation of his *own* heart and spreads out his palms to this house,
39 then you shall hear in heaven the place of your dwelling, and you shall forgive and act and give to the man whose heart you know, according to all his ways, for you alone know the heart of all the sons of man.

40 *Do these things* so that they may fear you all the days that they live on the face of the land that you gave to our ancestors.

41 Also for the foreigner who is not from your people Israel, and he comes from a distant land because of your name,
42 (for they shall hear of your great name and your powerful hand and your outstretched arm), and he shall come and pray toward this house,

18 "But will God indeed dwell with humankind upon the earth? Look, the heavens and the highest heavens cannot contain you! Surely then this house that I have built *will not contain you!*

19 But turn to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Yahweh my God, to hearken to the pleading and to the prayer that your servant is praying before you,
20 that your eyes may be open day and night to this house, to the place that you have promised to place your name there, that you may hear the prayer that your servant has prayed to this place.

21 And listen to the pleas of your servant and your people Israel when they pray toward this place, that you yourself might hear from the place of your dwelling, from the heavens, that you might hear and forgive.

22 "If a man sins against his neighbor and makes him swear an oath and comes *with* an oath before your altar in this house,
23 then may you yourself hear from the heavens and act and judge your servants, to repay the guilty by bringing his way upon his head and to vindicate the righteous by giving to him according to his righteousness.

24 "And if your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against you and they repent and confess your name and pray and plead before you in this house,
25 then may you yourself hear from the heavens and forgive the sin of your people Israel and again bring them back to the land that you gave to them and to their ancestors.

26 "When the heavens are stopped up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you and they pray to this place and confess your name and turn back from their sin when you humble them,
27 then may you yourself hear from the heavens and forgive the sin of your servants and your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and give rain upon your land that you have given to your people as an inheritance.

28 "If there is a famine in the land; if there is disease, blight, mildew, locust, and caterpillar; if it happens that his enemy lays siege to him in the land *and* his gates; any kind of plague, any kind of disease,
29 *then* any prayer, any plea that is *made* by any person and by all your people Israel, each one who knows his own affliction and his own anguish and *who* spreads out his hands to this house,
30 then may you yourself hear from the heavens, your dwelling place, and forgive and give to each according to all his ways, since you know the heart of the children of humankind,
31 that they may fear you *and* walk in your ways all the days that they *are* alive upon the face of the land that you have given to our ancestors.

32 "And also, with respect to the foreigner, he who *is* not of your people Israel, but comes from a distant land, for the sake of your great name and your powerful hand and outstretched arm, when he comes and prays to this house,

43 you shall hear in heaven, the place of your dwelling, and act according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name, to fear you as your people Israel, and to know that your name has been invoked over this house that I have built.

44 If your people go out to battle against his enemy in the way that you shall send them and they pray to Yahweh, toward the city which you have chosen and the house which I have built for your name,

45 then you shall hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and you shall vindicate them.

46 “If they sin against you (for there is not a person who does not sin) and you are angry with them and you give them to an enemy and they take them captive to the land of the enemy far or near,

47 and then they return their heart in the land where they have been taken captive and they return and plead to you in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and we did wrong. We acted wickedly,’

48 if they return to you with all of their heart and with all of their soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive and they pray to you toward their land which you gave to their ancestors, the city that you have chosen and the house that you built for your name,

49 then you shall hear in heaven, the place of your dwelling, their prayer and their plea, and you shall vindicate them.

50 You shall forgive your people who sinned against you, *even* for all their transgressions which they committed against you. You shall give them compassion before their captors so that they may have compassion on them,

51 for they *are* your people and your inheritance whom you brought from Egypt from the middle of the smelter of iron.

52 *O*, that your eyes *may* be open to the plea of your servant and to the plea of your people Israel, to listen to them in all things *when* they call to you.

53 For you have separated them for yourself as an inheritance from all the peoples of the earth, as you promised through the hand of Moses your servant when you brought out our ancestors from Egypt, my Lord Yahweh!”

33 then may you yourself hear from the heavens, from your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner asks of you, so that all peoples of earth will know of your name and fear you, as *do* your people Israel, and that they may know that your name possesses this house that I have built.

34 “When your people go out to battle against their enemy according to the way that you have sent them, and they pray to you toward this city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

35 then may you hear their prayer and their pleas from the heavens and uphold their case.

36 When they sin against you—for there is no person who does not sin—and you become angry with them and place them before their enemy that they carry them away as captives to a land far or near,

37 but if they repent in the land where they were taken captive and repent and beg you for mercy in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and acted perversely and done wickedly,

38 and we return to you,’ with their whole heart and with all their inmost being in the land of their captivity where they took them captive, and *if* they pray toward their land that you have given to their ancestors and the city that you have chosen and to the house that I have built for your name,

39 then may you hear their prayer and their pleas from the heavens, from your dwelling place, and uphold their case and forgive your people who sinned against you.

40 Now, O my God, please let your eyes be open

and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place!

41 “And now arise, O Yahweh God, to your resting place, you and the ark of your strength! O Yahweh God, let the priests be clothed with salvation, and let your holy ones rejoice in your goodness!

42 O Yahweh God, do not turn away the face of your anointed one! Remember the loyal love of your servant, David!”

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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.