

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

1 Kings 6:14, 38

14 So Solomon built the house and finished it.

38 In the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished throughout all its parts and according to all its plans. So he was 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 leaders of the fathers' *households* of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the city of David, which is Zion.

2 All the men of Israel assembled themselves to King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

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

4 They brought up the ark of the LORD and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils, which were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites brought them up.

5 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were assembled to him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen they could not be counted or numbered.

6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim.

7 For the cherubim spread *their* wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles from above.

8 But the poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; they are there to this day.

9 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

10 It happened that when the priests came from the holy place,

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 filled the house of the LORD.

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

3 All the men of Israel assembled themselves to the king at the feast, that is *in* the seventh month.

4 Then all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark.

5 They brought up the ark and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils which *were* in the tent; the Levitical priests brought them up.

6 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

7 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the holy of holies, under the wings of the cherubim.

8 For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles.

9 The poles were so long that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; and they are there to this day.

10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put *there* at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

11 When the priests came forth from the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to divisions),

12 and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them one hundred and twenty priests blowing trumpets

13 in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the LORD *saying*, "He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting," then the house,

the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD 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, “The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud. [cf. <a href="#">Exod 19:9</a>]</p> <p>13 “I have surely built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever.”</p> <p>14 Then the king faced about and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.</p> <p>15 He said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has fulfilled <i>it</i> with His hand, saying,</p> <p>16 ‘Since the day that I brought My people Israel from Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel <i>in which</i> to build a house that My name might be there,</p> <p>but I chose David to be over My people Israel.’</p> <p>17 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.</p> <p>18 But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.</p> <p>19 Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he will build the house for My name.’</p> <p>20 Now the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.</p> <p>21 There I have set a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD, which He made with our fathers when He brought them from the land of Egypt.”</p>	<p>1 Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud.</p> <p>2 “I have built You a lofty house, And a place for Your dwelling forever.”</p> <p>3 Then the king faced about and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.</p> <p>4 He said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has fulfilled <i>it</i> with His hands, saying,</p> <p>5 ‘Since the day that I brought My people from the land of Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel <i>in which</i> to build a house that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man for a leader over My people Israel; 6 but I have chosen Jerusalem that My name might be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.’</p> <p>7 Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.</p> <p>8 But the LORD said to my father David, ‘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 Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he shall build the house for My name.’</p> <p>10 Now the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in the place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.</p> <p>11 There I have set the ark in which is the covenant of the LORD, which He made with the sons of Israel.”</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 the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel</p> <p>and spread out his hands toward heaven.</p> <p>23 He said, “O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and <i>showing</i> lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart,</p> <p>24 who have kept with Your servant, my father David, that which You have promised him; indeed, You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand as it is this day.</p> <p>25 Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant David my father that which You have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me as you have walked.’</p> <p>26 Now therefore, O God of Israel, let Your word, I pray, be confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant, my father David.</p> <p>27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth?</p>	<p>12 Then he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.</p> <p>13 Now Solomon had made a bronze platform, five cubits long, five cubits wide and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven.</p> <p>14 He said, “O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no god like You in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and <i>showing</i> lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart;</p> <p>15 who has kept with Your servant David, my father, that which You have promised him; indeed You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.</p> <p>16 Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant David, my father, that which You have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way, to walk in My law as you have walked before Me.’</p> <p>17 Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, let Your word be confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant David.</p> <p>18 But will God indeed dwell with mankind on the earth?</p>

Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!

28 Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today;

29 that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,' to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place.

30 Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

31 If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath, and he comes *and* takes an oath before Your altar in this house,

32 then hear in heaven and act and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked by bringing his way on his own 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, if they turn to You again and confess Your name and pray and make supplication to You in this house,

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, and they pray toward this place and confess Your name and turn from their sin when You afflict them,

36 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and of Your people Israel, indeed, teach them the good way in which they should walk. And send rain on Your land, which You have given Your people for an inheritance.

37 If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight *or* mildew, locust *or* grasshopper, if their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness *there is*,

38 whatever prayer or supplication is made by any man *or* by all Your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house;

39 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each 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 have given to our fathers.

41 Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your name's sake

42 (for they will 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, to fear You, as *do* Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name.

44 When Your people go out to battle against their enemy,

Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built.

19 Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You;

20 that Your eye may be open toward this house day and night, toward the place of which You have said that *You would* put Your name there, to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place.

21 Listen to the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel when they pray toward this place; hear from Your dwelling place, from heaven; hear and forgive.

22 If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath, and he comes *and* takes an oath before Your altar in this house,

23 then hear from heaven and act and judge Your servants, punishing the wicked by bringing his way on his own head and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

24 If Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and they return *to You* and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this house,

25 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You have given to them and to their fathers.

26 When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin when You afflict them;

27 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel, indeed, teach them the good way in which they should walk. And send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people for an inheritance.

28 If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight *or* mildew, if there is locust *or* grasshopper, if their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities, whatever plague *or* whatever sickness *there is*,

29 whatever prayer or supplication is made by any man *or* by all Your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own pain, and spreading his hands toward this house,

30 then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men,

31 that they may fear You, to walk in Your ways as long as they live in the land which You have given to our fathers.

32 Also concerning the foreigner who is not from Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your great name's sake and

Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray toward this house,

33 then hear from heaven, from 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 which I have built is called by Your name.

34 When Your people go out to battle against their enemies,

<p>by whatever way You shall send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name, 45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.</p> <p>46 When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near;</p> <p>47 if they take thought in the land where they have been taken captive, and repent and make supplication to You in the land of those who have taken them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and have committed iniquity, we have acted wickedly';</p> <p>48 if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who have taken them captive, and pray to You toward their land which You have given to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name;</p> <p>49 then hear their prayer and their supplication in heaven Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause,</p> <p>50 and forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You, and make them <i>objects of</i> compassion before those who have taken them captive, that they may have compassion on them</p> <p>51 (for they are Your people and Your inheritance which You have brought forth from Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace),</p> <p>52 that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and to the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You.</p> <p>53 For You have separated them from all the peoples of the earth as Your inheritance, as You spoke through Moses Your servant, when You brought our fathers forth from Egypt, O Lord God."</p>	<p>by whatever way You shall send them, and they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name, 35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.</p> <p>36 When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to a land far off or near,</p> <p>37 if they take thought in the land where they are taken captive, and repent and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have committed iniquity and have acted wickedly';</p> <p>38 if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been taken captive, and pray toward their land which You have given to their fathers and the city which You have chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Your name, 39 then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, their prayer and supplications, and maintain their cause and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.</p> <p>40 Now, O my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and Your ears attentive to the prayer <i>offered</i> in this place.</p> <p>41 Now therefore arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your might; let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation and let Your godly ones rejoice in what is good.</p> <p>42 O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your anointed; remember <i>Your</i> lovingkindness to Your servant David."</p>
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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."<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Paul R. House, "1, 2 Kings," NAC, 137.

<sup>2</sup> John Gray, "I and II Kings: A Commentary," *The Old Testament Library*, 193.