

## God's Approval of His Temple (Tishri [October] 960 BC)

1 Kings 8:54–66

2 Chronicles 7:1–10

### Solomon's Blessing

54 When Solomon finished presenting all these prayers and requests to the LORD, he got up from before the altar of the LORD where he had kneeled and spread out his hands toward the sky.

55 When he stood up, he pronounced a blessing over the entire assembly of Israel, saying in a loud voice:

56 "The LORD is worthy of praise because he has made Israel his people secure just as he promised! Not one of all the faithful promises he made through his servant Moses is left unfulfilled!

57 May the LORD our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors. May he not abandon us or leave us.

58 May he make us submissive, so we can follow all his instructions and obey the commandments, rules, and regulations he commanded our ancestors.

59 May the LORD our God be constantly aware of these requests of mine I have presented to him, so that he might vindicate his servant and his people Israel as the need arises.

60 Then all the nations of the earth will recognize that the LORD is the only genuine God.

61 May you demonstrate wholehearted devotion to the LORD our God by following his rules and obeying his commandments, as you are presently doing."

### God's Visible Sign of Approval

### Sacrifices and Celebration

62 The king and all Israel with him were presenting sacrifices to the LORD.

63 Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. Then the king and all the Israelites dedicated the LORD's temple.

64 That day the king consecrated the middle of the courtyard that is in front of the LORD's temple. He offered there burnt sacrifices, grain offerings, and the fat from the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that stood before the LORD was too small to hold all these offerings.

### The Dedication Festival (from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>)

65 At that time Solomon and all Israel with him celebrated a festival before the LORD our God for two entire weeks.

1 When Solomon finished praying,

fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the LORD's splendor filled the temple.

2 The priests were unable to enter the LORD's temple because the LORD's splendor filled the LORD's temple.

3 When all the Israelites saw the fire come down and the LORD's splendor over the temple, they got on their knees with their faces downward toward the pavement. They worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "Certainly he is good; certainly his loyal love endures!"

4 The king and all the people were presenting sacrifices to the LORD.

5 King Solomon sacrificed 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. Then the king and all the people dedicated God's temple.

6 The priests stood in their assigned spots, along with the Levites who had the musical instruments used for praising the LORD. (These were the ones King David made for giving thanks to the LORD and which were used by David when he offered praise, saying, "Certainly his loyal love endures.") Opposite the Levites, the priests were blowing the trumpets, while all Israel stood there.

7 Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that is in front of the LORD's temple. He offered burnt sacrifices, grain offerings, and the fat from the peace offerings there, because the bronze altar that Solomon had made was too small to hold all these offerings.

8 At that time Solomon and all Israel with him celebrated a festival for seven days.

<p>This great assembly included people from all over the land, from Lebo Hamath in the north to the Brook of Egypt in the south.</p> <p><b>The Feast of Tabernacles (from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>)</b></p> <p><b>Solomon Dismisses the People (23<sup>rd</sup>)</b> 66 On the fifteenth day [23<sup>rd</sup>] after the festival started, he dismissed the people. They asked God to empower the king and then went to their homes, happy and content because of all the good the LORD had done for his servant David and his people Israel.</p>	<p>This great assembly included people from Lebo Hamath in the north to the Brook of Egypt in the south.</p> <p>9 On the eighth day [22<sup>nd</sup>] they held an assembly, for they had dedicated the altar for seven days and celebrated the festival for seven more days.</p> <p>10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, Solomon sent the people home. They left happy and contented because of the good the LORD had done for David, Solomon, and his people Israel.</p>
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### Solomon's Palace (960t–948t BC)

1 Kings 7:1–12

- 1 Solomon took thirteen years to build his palace.
- 2 He named it "The Palace of the Lebanon Forest"; it was 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It had four rows of cedar pillars and cedar beams above the pillars.
- 3 The roof above the beams supported by the pillars was also made of cedar; there were forty-five beams, fifteen per row.
- 4 There were three rows of windows arranged in sets of three.
- 5 All of the entrances were rectangular in shape and they were arranged in sets of three.
- 6 He made a colonnade 75 feet long and 45 feet wide. There was a porch in front of this and pillars and a roof in front of the porch.
- 7 He also made a throne room, called "The Hall of Judgment," where he made judicial decisions. It was paneled with cedar from the floor to the rafters.
- 8 The palace where he lived was constructed in a similar way. He also constructed a palace like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had married.
- 9 All of these were built with the best stones, chiseled to the right size and cut with a saw on all sides, from the foundation to the edge of the roof and from the outside to the great courtyard.
- 10 The foundation was made of large valuable stones, measuring either 15 feet or 12 feet.
- 11 Above the foundation the best stones, chiseled to the right size, were used along with cedar.
- 12 Around the great courtyard were three rows of chiseled stones and one row of cedar beams, like the inner courtyard of the LORD's temple and the hall of the palace.

### God's Second Personal Appearance to Solomon (c. 948t BC)

1 Kings 9:1–9

2 Chronicles 7:11–22

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 After Solomon finished building the LORD's temple, the royal palace, and all the other construction projects he had planned,</li> <li>2 the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, in the same way he had appeared to him at Gibeon.</li> <li>3 The LORD said to him, "I have answered your prayer and your request for help that you made to me.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 After Solomon finished building the LORD's temple and the royal palace, and accomplished all his plans for the LORD's temple and his royal palace,</li> <li>12 the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him: "I have answered your prayer and chosen this place to be my temple where sacrifices are to be made.</li> <li>13 When I close up the sky so that it doesn't rain, or command locusts to devour the land's vegetation, or send a plague among my people,</li> <li>14 if my people, who belong to me, humble themselves, pray, seek to please me, and repudiate their sinful practices, then I will respond from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.</li> <li>15 Now I will be attentive and responsive to the prayers offered in this place.</li> </ol> |
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<p>I have consecrated this temple you built by making it my permanent home; I will be constantly present there.</p> <p>4 You must serve me with integrity and sincerity, just as your father David did. Do everything I commanded and obey my rules and regulations.</p> <p>5 Then I will allow your dynasty to rule over Israel permanently, just as I promised your father David, ‘You will not fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’</p> <p>6 “But if you or your sons ever turn away from me, fail to obey the regulations and rules I instructed you to keep, and decide to serve and worship other gods,</p> <p>7 then I will remove Israel from the land I have given them, I will abandon this temple I have consecrated with my presence, and Israel will be mocked and ridiculed among all the nations.</p> <p>8 This temple will become a heap of ruins; everyone who passes by it will be shocked and will hiss out their scorn, saying, ‘Why did the LORD do this to this land and this temple?’</p> <p>9 Others will then answer, ‘Because they abandoned the LORD their God, who led their ancestors out of Egypt. They embraced other gods whom they worshiped and served. That is why the LORD has brought all this disaster down on them.’”</p>	<p>16 Now I have chosen and consecrated this temple by making it my permanent home; I will be constantly present there.</p> <p>17 You must serve me as your father David did. Do everything I commanded and obey my rules and regulations.</p> <p>18 Then I will establish your dynasty, just as I promised your father David, ‘You will not fail to have a successor ruling over Israel.’</p> <p>19 “But if you people ever turn away from me, fail to obey the regulations and rules I instructed you to keep, and decide to serve and worship other gods,</p> <p>20 then I will remove you from my land I have given you, I will abandon this temple I have consecrated with my presence, and I will make you an object of mockery and ridicule among all the nations.</p> <p>21 As for this temple, which was once majestic, everyone who passes by it will be shocked and say, ‘Why did the LORD do this to this land and this temple?’</p> <p>22 Others will then answer, ‘Because they abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors, who led them out of Egypt. They embraced other gods whom they worshiped and served. That is why he brought all this disaster down on them.’”</p>
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