

June 3 Answers

- 1) Dedication of the temple. The priests moved the **ark** into the temple, and when they came out of the holy place, the **cloud** of God's presence filled the temple, and His glory was so great that the priests could not stand to minister (1 Kgs 8:11). This teaches us that when we're faithful to obey God and follow His will, His **presence** will be with us. Solomon was overcome with **gratitude** when he saw God inhabit the temple. He praised God before the people, pointing out that God had been faithful to keep His promise. How wonderful to know that we can always count on God to **keep** His word! Solomon then knelt and spread out his hands toward heaven in prayer. He acknowledged: "There is no God like you" (1 Kgs 8:23). God keeps the covenant of love with all who continue wholeheartedly in His ways (cf. Deut 7:7-9). This reminds us that all God does is motivated by divine mercy and **love**. Solomon continued by asking God to shower His love and grace on Israel, even if one day they **rebelled** against Him. His prayer was grounded in texts like **Leviticus** 26 and **Deuteronomy** 27-28, where Moses told Israel that God would richly bless them for obedience, but would **exile** them for rebellion. Yet even then, if they would repent with all their **mind** and all their **heart**, God would hear them in the land of their enemies and forgive! What a great God we serve!