



SOLOMON DEDICATES THE TEMPLE

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 8:22–53

VERSES TO REMEMBER

Whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the suffering of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house; then hear in heaven your dwelling place.
(1 Kgs. 8:38–39a)

Daily Bible Readings

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M	Sept. 2	Rom. 8:18–28	Sighs Too Deep for Words
T	Sept. 3	Ps. 34:11–22	God Hears Our Cry for Help
W	Sept. 4	Neh. 12:27–30, 44–47	Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Sing
Th	Sept. 5	2 Chron. 7:12–22	Bring Your Requests before God
F	Sept. 6	Luke 11:1–13	Lord, Teach Us to Pray
Sa	Sept. 7	1 Kgs. 8:22–24, 27–30, 37–43	God the Promise Keeper

STEPPING INTO THE WORD

Solomon’s dedication of the temple holds great significance in the history of Israel and offers profound insights into our worship, which can be understood as the redemption of time, space, and matter for the glory of God. During this lesson, we will explore the themes presented in 1 Kings 8:22–53, where King Solomon, in the presence of the entire assembly, offered a prophetic prayer for the dedication of a worship space. Solomon’s prayer highlights the devotion, humility, and understanding of God’s greatness that characterized this momentous occasion.

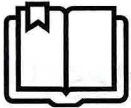
Momentous occasions often arise out of a commitment to complete significant projects. In the dedication of the temple, Solomon and the people of Israel committed themselves to building and consecrating a significant project, showing their devotion to God. When we complete projects, we commemorate them with celebrations. The dedication of the temple in 1 Kings 8 is a momentous occasion marked as a community with joy and prayer, seeking God’s presence and naming the prayers and pleas of the people.

When we achieve success in our projects, we often draw meaning from those accomplishments, considering them to

be building blocks for the future. Similarly, in the dedication of the temple, Solomon's prayer acknowledges that the completion of the temple is a significant milestone that holds meaning for the future of the people. Among the building blocks for the future are the trust and faith of the people in their relationship with God and each other.

However, great achievements don't always result in building blocks of trust. Sometimes, after experiencing success and celebration, adults struggle with inflated expectations or pressure to continually meet or surpass previous achievements. Solomon's prayer reflects a humble acknowledgment that the people of Israel will face afflictions and hardships, and they will turn to God for help and guidance.

Redeeming God, just as the people of Israel sought you in the dedication of the temple, may our study, worship, and prayers be the building blocks of the future you share with us. Bring our feet to the path you have prepared, and let our lives be a testament to your glory and your redemptive work. Amen.



SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 8:22–24, 37–39, 46, 48–50a

8:22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. . . .

³⁷“If there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in any of their cities; whatever suffering, whatever sickness there is; ³⁸whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the suffering of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house; ³⁹then hear in heaven your dwelling place, forgive, act, and render to all whose hearts you know—according to all their ways, for only you know the human heart. . . .

⁴⁶“If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy,

