

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 25

God's glory fills the temple

1 Kings 8:1-9:9



DAY 1

God's glory filled the temple • 1 Kings 8:1-21

READ 📖

1 Kings 8:1-21

EXPLAIN 🎯

The truth of 1 Kings 8:1-21

The temple was not man's gift to God. It was God's gift to man. God allowed Israel to enjoy His presence at the temple. The ark, which represented God's presence, was moved into the temple (8:3-9), and God confirmed His presence by filling the temple with the cloud of His glory, the thick darkness that served as a symbol of God's holy presence (8:10-13; Exod 40:34-35). The dark cloud showed that God was present with Israel in a way they could know and experience. But it also showed that God was much bigger than they could understand or appreciate, for the cloud hid the fullness of His presence (1 Tim 6:16). This is the truth the temple teaches us: the God who is too great for us to fully comprehend (Rom 11:33) is willing to be present with His people. Since God was faithful to be present with Israel at the temple (1 Kgs 8:14-21; 2 Sam 7:13-14; Lev 26:12; Deut 12:5-11), you also can trust His promises to be even more present with you through Jesus Christ (Isa 7:14; Rom 8:38-39).

ASK ❓

1. What was moved into the temple?
The ark of the covenant.
2. What did the ark of the covenant represent?
The ark represented the presence of God.
3. What does the cloud of God's glory show us about how we can know God?
We can know something about God, but not everything.
4. How did the temple prove God's faithfulness?
God kept His promise that David's son would build the temple.

DISCUSS 🗣️

1. How was the temple a gift from God? Why isn't there a temple today (Eph 2:22)? How can you experience God's presence today (Rom 8:9; Gal 2:20)?
2. What are some things about God that He has clearly revealed to us? What are some things about God that are too great for us to totally understand (Deut 29:29)?

DAY 2

Solomon asked God to hear the prayers of His people •
1 Kings 8:22–53

READ

1 Kings 8:22–53

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Kings 8:22–53

The temple was a gift because it was a place of prayer and forgiveness. After praising God for His matchless glory (1 Kgs 8:23–26), Solomon asked God to hear when anyone turned to God and prayed toward the temple (8:27–30). God is so great that not even the highest heavens can hold Him (8:27), yet God kindly chose to live with His people in the temple. Solomon especially asked God to hear prayers for forgiveness (8:31–53). Solomon knew that Israel would sin, so he prayed for God’s mercy, His kindness to forgive. Solomon prayed that God would hear from the temple and forgive all who repent. He asked God to remove the charges against the sinner. Even though Israel’s sin would be very great, the temple gave hope to Israel—and to all sinners—by reminding that God’s mercy is even greater. You should pray like Solomon, praising God’s glory, presenting your requests, and seeking forgiveness. All the while, pray humbly and reverently as Solomon did. He began his prayer while standing (8:22), but by the end he was kneeling, humbled and overwhelmed by God’s glorious presence (8:54).

ASK

1. How could God be present in the temple if the whole world is too small to hold God? *God was not kept in the temple, but He identified Himself with the temple and was specially present with His people there.*
2. What did Solomon ask God to do at the temple? *To hear people’s prayers and forgive them at the temple.*
3. How did Solomon pray? *Humbly and reverently.*

DISCUSS

1. There is no temple today, so how can your prayers come to God (Heb 4:15–16; 9:24)? They directed their prayers toward the temple, so how do you direct your prayers (John 14:13)?
2. When you pray, are you aware of who you are praying to and how glorious He is? How can you show reverence for God when you pray or listen to others pray (Eccl 5:1–2)?

DAY 3

Solomon blessed Israel • 1 Kings 8:54–66

READ

1 Kings 8:54–66

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Kings 8:54–66

Solomon’s prayer for Israel is one you should copy, for yourself, for your family, and for all believers. First, pray for God’s presence (1 Kgs 8:54–57). God’s presence blesses, guides, and protects you (Ps 27:4–5). God’s presence empowered Moses (Exod 3:12), Joshua (Josh 1:9), Gideon (Judg 6:12), and David (1 Sam 16:18) to do amazing things for God. His presence is where you will find true joy (Ps 16:11). Second, pray that God will

give an obedient heart. Pray that God would do this “as each day requires,” because true obedience is a daily struggle, not a one-time experience (1 Kgs 8:58–59). Pray for God’s presence and a heart of obedience so that through these God would be honored by all people as the one and only God (8:60–61). Then, like Israel, present your sacrifice to God with great joy (8:62–66; Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15). The temple was the place of God’s presence in Israel, the center of Israel’s worship of God, and a testimony to all nations of God’s glory. May this also be true of you and your family (1 Pet 2:5, 9).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Solomon ask God to do?
Bless Israel.
2. What blessings did Solomon ask for?
God's presence and a heart of obedience.
3. Why did Solomon ask for these things?
So that when people heard of Israel and the temple, they would all see God's glory.
4. Why did Solomon ask God to draw the hearts of the people near to Him each day?
Because Solomon recognized that obedience is a daily struggle.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you often pray for God's presence in your life, and for a heart of obedience? Why are these two things so important to pray for?
2. What kinds of sacrifices do you offer to God (Ps 51:17; Rom 12:1; Heb 13:15)?

DAY 4*God answered Solomon's prayer • 1 Kings 9:1–9***READ** 

1 Kings 9:1–9

EXPLAIN **The truth of 1 Kings 9:1–9**

Obedience leads to blessing, and disobedience leads to trouble. This was God's answer to Solomon's prayer. God promised to be present in the temple (1 Kgs 9:1–3) and to keep His covenant with David (9:4–5). But He also warned that He would punish if Israel turned away from Him (9:6–9). God was always near and ready to bless from the temple, but Israel repeatedly rejected God. In fact, at the time the book of Kings was written, Israel was living in exile and the temple was destroyed. Later, Israel again rejected God when He came to them as their Messiah (John 1:11). Yet God's promise of blessing was still true. Israel's disobedience led to Christ's death, and Christ's death brings salvation to all people (Acts 2:23, 38), just as Solomon prayed the temple would (1 Kgs 8:41–43; Gen 12:3). What the stone temple failed to do through Israel's disobedience, the fleshly temple of Jesus Christ has accomplished. Just as God promised to forgive the Israelites who repented and prayed toward the temple, so God now forgives everyone who repents and looks to Christ for salvation (John 6:40).

ASK 

1. How do we know that God heard Solomon's prayer?
God appeared to Solomon a second time.
2. What did God require of Israel in order to be with them and hear their prayers?
God required that they be committed to Him, obeying Him with their whole hearts.
3. What had already happened by the time the book of Kings was written?
Israel was exiled and the temple was destroyed. This is what God warned would happen.

DISCUSS 

1. Solomon still disobeyed even after hearing God's warning. Do you know that disobedience leads to trouble? Do you sometimes choose to disobey anyway? Why (Jer 17:9)?
2. How was God able to keep His promise to punish sin, but also keep His promise to keep His covenant with David?

DAY 5

It is Christ who lives in me • Galatians 2:20

READ

Galatians 2:17–21

EXPLAIN

The truth of Galatians 2:20

Just as God was present with Israel in the temple, so He is present in you if you are a believer (Gal 2:20). If you are a believer, then you share in Christ's crucifixion and victory over sin. In His death, you also died to sin. You are no longer under the control of the old self. You no longer have to obey your old corrupt nature and sinful desires (Rom 6:6–7). This is because when you died to sin, you now live with Christ. Christ is in you through His Spirit who lives within you (1 Cor 6:19). This gives great comfort, because the Holy Spirit guarantees your salvation (Eph 1:13). Still, despite your new freedom and the Spirit's guarantee, it is still true that obedience leads to blessing and disobedience leads to trouble, because you experience the Spirit's influence in your life only as you submit to His control (Eph 5:18). So if you try to live by your own flesh, you will get bad results, but when you walk with the Spirit according to the word, you will produce good fruit (Gal 5:16–23).

ASK

1. How is God present with believers?
The Spirit of Christ lives in every believer permanently.
2. What does salvation free us from?
Slavery to sin.
3. Do believers always enjoy the blessings of Christ's presence?
No, because we experience greater fullness of the Spirit only as we obey Him.
4. If Christ is in you, how should you live?
Not by our own strength or desires, but in dependence on Christ.

DISCUSS

1. Is it possible to do good things (read the Bible, pray, go to church) trusting in your flesh instead of by faith in Christ? What happens when you act in your own strength?
2. Have you put your faith in Christ? If so, do you believe that your old self actually died with Him and that He is really in you? How does this help you say no to sin?

NEXT WEEK

God punishes Solomon

1 Kings 11:1–43

