

3. Describe the nature of God revealed in Solomon's prayer in verses 14-18.

4. What was one of the purposes of the temple according to verse 20 and 40?

5. What pattern do you see in verses 22-40? What does this pattern tell us about God and about people?

6. In what way was the temple not just for Israel according to verses 32-33?



In verse 31 Solomon prays that the people would fear God and walk in his ways. R.C. Sproul says that fear of God is the kind of fear a child would have of a loving parent, whom he respects, "a fear of offending, disappointing, or misrepresenting, a fear born in reverence, in a spirit of adoration." This should be our guiding principle in everything we do, that out of love and devotion to God we would not want to offend, disappoint, or misrepresent him in any way.

- Make this your prayer as well. Ask God to cause your heart to love him more and be wholly devoted to him. Pray that your desire and will would be to walk in reverent fear and keep all his ways. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal

to you where you might be lacking in reverent fear. Write it down and talk to God about it.

- Reflect: how does your understanding of the fear of God match with the definition above?

Day 3- 2 Chronicles 7

7. How does God confirm that the temple is the divinely sanctioned place of prayer and sacrifice? What is the people's response?

Digging Deeper: Linger for a minute over the refrain with which the people praised God. Read Psalm 103:11. How does the Psalmist describe God's steadfast love?

8. How does God respond to Solomon's prayer requests (6:22-40) in verse 14? What were the four conditions for national forgiveness of Israel's sins?

For Discussion: How does verse 14 apply to us today? Who is this promise made to? See Galatians 3:29 for help.

9. In verses 16-22 what was God's promise and what were the conditions for the promise?



The bad news is that Israel turns away from God to worship and serve false gods and God keeps his promise to judge the nation for turning away from him. But the good news is as James says, "mercy triumphs over judgment!" "Everything that God requires from us for blessing, he has provided for us through grace and faith in Christ, the one who came to fulfill God's unconditional promise to David."¹

- Spend time now thanking Jesus for obeying God perfectly in heart and action and then giving that perfect record to you who could never hope to obey God perfectly.

"For by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous." Romans 5:19 Praise God!

Day 4- 2 Chronicles 8

The chronicler, who we assume to be Ezra, wrote this history of Israel (1 and 2nd Chronicles) to encourage the returning exiles to come back to God. In it he highlights Solomon's accomplishments and blessings that resulted from his obedience in building the temple. He is emphasizing to the people that only by following God will they prosper.

10. Summarize Solomon's accomplishments regarding:

Building-

People-

Worship-

¹ The Gospel Transformation Bible

11. How does verse 11 imply that Solomon knew his marriage to Pharaoh's daughter was not pleasing to God?

Day 5- 2 Chronicles 9

12. How did the queen of Sheba test Solomon's wisdom? What were the results?

Digging Deeper: Read Luke 11:29-32. What did Jesus say about the queen of Sheba (queen of the South) and about himself?

13. What do you think took the queen's breath away about the burnt offerings made on the altar in the temple?

Digging Deeper: What is significant about the burnt offering? See Leviticus 1:4, 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22. What does the burnt offering represent? Hebrews 9:24-26

Scholar's Note: *Atonement- that which appeases the wrath of God against sin.*

Picture and Ponder: “No nation on earth had anything that would compare to an offering for sin. This was the thing that absolutely amazed her. This was the offering that was pointing to Christ. David had said and written so much about Christ that I don’t think Solomon left her without an explanation of the One who was to come to take away sin.” –J. Vernon McGee

14. What conclusion did the queen come to according to verse 8? What in this verse would be encouraging to the community of exiles, (who the book was written for) newly returned to an Israel that was in ruins?

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

