

2 Chronicles 7

New American Standard Bible

The Shekinah Glory

7 Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. ² And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. ³ All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord, *saying*, "Certainly He is good, certainly His faithfulness is everlasting."

Sacrifices Offered

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the Lord. ⁵ King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. ⁶ The priests stood at their posts, and the Levites also, with the musical instruments for the Lord, which King David had made for giving praise to the Lord—"for His faithfulness is everlasting"—whenever David gave praise through their ^[a]ministry; the priests on the other side blew trumpets and all Israel was standing.

⁷ Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that *was* before the house of the Lord, for he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings there, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to contain the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat.

The Feast of Dedication

⁸ So Solomon held the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly *that came* from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt. ⁹ And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, because they held the dedication of the altar for seven days, and the feast for seven days. ¹⁰ Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy in heart because of the goodness that the Lord had shown to David, to Solomon, and to His people Israel.

God's Promise and Warning

¹¹ So Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's palace, and successfully completed everything that ^[b]he had planned on doing in the house of the Lord and in his palace.

¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people, ¹⁴ and My people ^[c]who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the ^[d]prayer *offered in* this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house so that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there ^[e]always. ¹⁷ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, to do according to everything that I have commanded you, and keep My statutes and My ordinances, ¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, '^[f]You shall not lack a man *to be* ruler in Israel.'

¹⁹ "But if you turn away and abandon My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, ²⁰ then I will uproot ^[g]you from My land which I have given ^[h]you, and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight; and I will make it a proverb and an

object of scorn among all peoples. ²¹ As for this house, which was exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the Lord done these things to this land and to this house?' ²² And they will say, 'Because they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who brought them from the land of Egypt, and they adopted other gods, and worshiped and served them; therefore He has brought all this adversity on them.'"

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?
Did anything confuse you?
Did anything move you emotionally?
Did God instruct you to do something?
Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. Having finished praying a fire consumes Solomon's offering. How do you feel about a fire coming down from heaven and consuming an offering?
2. The glory of the Lord filled the house. What does the glory of the Lord look like to you?
3. Why could the Priest not enter into the glory of the Lord?
4. God's people saw this glory come down so it certainly wasn't Solomon's imagination!
5. God's peoples response to this visitation of glory was to humble themselves by bowing down with their faces to the ground.
6. Could you imagine yourself doing something like this?
7. Their response to this glory was too exalt by declaring of all that God is.
8. This experience prompted them to remember the language of love and affection.
9. One way they could have appreciated God is to offer sacrifices. What can we do in these days to show our appreciation to God?
10. We can offer a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we can contribute a free will offering of funds to enhance the service of the church, to the nations and the poor.
11. Music can always be a way of worshipping God. What is Gods loving kindness?
12. This celebration went on for seven days and repeated itself a number of times, each seven days there was a different focus.
13. All Israel were filled with joy. What is it to be joyful?
14. Solomon achieved his objectives and built the Lord's house.
15. God responds to Solomon's prayer. Have you known God respond to your prayers?
16. God presents conditions to the blessing of His people.
17. If my people humble themselves God will respond to them.
18. God is for us, He is not against us, providing we meet His conditions, whether that is in the old testament or the new, God is for us.
19. Have you learnt to cry out to God to have mercy on rebellious sinners?
20. Does it matter where we actually pray?
21. God wants our hearts in His temple.
22. Solomon receives from God his own personal blessing.
23. These blessings will come so long as Solomon keeps the conditions.
24. This new house Solomon built is to honour and glorify His name.
25. Unfaithfulness destroys God's blessings.