

## **1 Kings 8 New American Standard Bible**

### **The Ark Brought into the Temple**

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' *households* of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David, that is, Zion. <sup>2</sup> So all the men of Israel assembled themselves before King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, that is, the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> Then all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. <sup>4</sup> And they brought up the ark of the Lord, the tent of meeting, and all the holy utensils which were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up.

<sup>5</sup> And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were gathered together to him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. <sup>6</sup> Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup> For the cherubim spread *their* wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its carrying poles from above.

<sup>8</sup> But the poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; they are there to this day. <sup>9</sup> There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made *a covenant* with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> And it happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

### **Solomon Addresses the People**

<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that He would dwell in the thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I have truly built You a lofty house, A place for Your dwelling forever." <sup>14</sup> Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. <sup>15</sup> He said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and fulfilled *it* with His hands, saying, <sup>16</sup> 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel from Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel *in which* to build a house so that My name would be there, but I chose David to be over My people Israel.'

<sup>17</sup> Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>18</sup> But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he will build the house for My name.' <sup>20</sup> Now the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>21</sup> And there I have set a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord, which He made with our fathers when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

### **The Prayer of Dedication**

<sup>22</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and he spread out his hands toward heaven. <sup>23</sup> And he said, "Lord, God of

Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping the covenant and *showing* faithfulness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart, <sup>24</sup>You who have kept with Your servant, my father David, that which You promised him; You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand, as *it is* this day.

<sup>25</sup> Now then, Lord, God of Israel, keep with Your servant David my father that which You have promised him, saying, 'You shall not be deprived of a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons are careful about their way, to walk before Me as you have walked.' <sup>26</sup> Now then, God of Israel, let Your words, please, be confirmed, which You have spoken to Your servant, my father David.

<sup>27</sup> "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built! <sup>28</sup> Nevertheless, turn Your attention to the prayer of Your servant and to his plea, Lord, my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today, <sup>29</sup> so that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,' to listen to the prayer which Your servant will pray toward this place. <sup>30</sup> And listen to the plea of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive!

<sup>31</sup> "If a person sins against his neighbor and is compelled to take an oath of *innocence*, and he comes *and* takes an oath before Your altar in this house, <sup>32</sup> then hear in heaven and act and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and acquitting the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

<sup>33</sup> "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, if they turn to You again and confess Your name and pray and implore Your favor in this house, <sup>34</sup> then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave their fathers.

<sup>35</sup> "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and praise Your name, and turn from their sin when You afflict them, <sup>36</sup> then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel; indeed, teach them the good way in which they are to walk. And provide rain on Your land, which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

<sup>37</sup> "If there is a famine in the land, if there is a plague, if there is blight *or* mildew, locust *or* grasshopper, if their enemy harasses them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness *there is*, <sup>38</sup> whatever prayer or plea is offered by any person *or* by all Your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house; <sup>39</sup> then hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and forgive and act, and give to each in accordance with all his ways, whose heart You know—for You alone know the hearts of all mankind— <sup>40</sup> so that they will fear You all the days that they live on the and which You have given to our fathers.

<sup>41</sup> "Also regarding the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country on account of Your name <sup>42</sup> (for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house, <sup>43</sup> hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and act in accordance with all for which

the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear You, as *do* Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name.

<sup>44</sup> “When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way You send them, and they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name, <sup>45</sup> then hear in heaven their prayer and their pleading, and maintain their cause.

<sup>46</sup> “When they sin against You (for there is no person who does not sin) and You are angry with them and turn them over to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, distant or near; <sup>47</sup> if they take it to heart in the land where they have been taken captive, and repent and implore Your favor in the land of those who have taken them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong, we have acted wickedly’; <sup>48</sup> if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who have taken them captive, and pray to You toward their land which You have given to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name;

<sup>49</sup> then hear their prayer and their pleading in heaven, Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause, <sup>50</sup> and forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all their wrongdoings which they have committed against You, and make them *objects of compassion* before those who have taken them captive, so that they will have compassion on them <sup>51</sup> (for they are Your people and Your inheritance which You have brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace), <sup>52</sup> so that Your eyes may be open to the pleading of Your servant and to the pleading of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You. <sup>53</sup> For You have singled them out from all the peoples of the earth as Your inheritance, just as You spoke through Moses Your servant, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, Lord God.”

### **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?

### **Pauls observations and insights**

1. In the writing of a commentary for this chapter, I have had to reduce the intensity of the magnification or we will have too much to talk about and the information would be overwhelming.
2. Due to the length of the chapter I have broken it up into two parts.
3. Solomon called the heads of all the religious and societal leadership together at the dedication of the work of the Lord.
4. The plan was to bring up the ark of God to the temple with full reference and respect.
5. All the men gathered at this great feast. Why were the women not there?

6. Together they brought up the Ark. What we do together as God's people is better than what we do alone.
7. They are heading for the tent of meeting because that was where the assembly gathered.
8. They used the best silver and wares at this celebration. Giving God our best has a place.
9. The people were as one before the King and the Lord.
10. The sacrifices of the animals were too many to count. Generosity is the hallmark of God's people.
11. The Ark had its' own place in the temple. Unless God is at the centre of our lives it all goes terribly wrong. Who is at the centre of your life?
12. The Ark is given the most holy place. Does God have the most holy place in you. The most holy place in you is your heart, your spirit.
13. The coverings are the wings of the cherubim. What does this mean?
14. Why is there an outer sanctuary and an inner sanctuary in the temple.
15. The Ark only contained the two stone tablets with the commandments on them.
16. There is a reference to the covenant God made with His people. What is a covenant?
17. The Priest having been in God's presence brought with them the glory of the Lord which was seen in the cloud.
18. The glory cloud was intoxicating to such an extent that the Priests were drunk with the glory of His presence.
19. Solomon recalls, for the benefit of the people, what God had said.
20. Does God speak to you like this?
21. God will dwell in the thick cloud.
22. Solomon invites God to take up residence in the temple so that His presence will dwell there forever.
23. What is it to be blessed by a King?
24. Solomon recalls a conversation David had with God about the fulfilment of a vision.
25. Through Solomon God declares He has no desire to live in a temple made out of stone.
26. God chose the heart of David to live in and God will always choose a heart over a temple.
27. David longs to do good by God, so God would be exalted by the people.
28. God commended David for the good things that were in his heart to get the people to bless the Lord.
29. Because David was a man of bloodshed he chose Solomon to build him his house.
30. In Solomon's kingship he fulfils his fathers' desire to do good by God.
31. Solomon as an administrator sets into motion David's dreams.
32. Solomon is a leader and takes charge – a good leader always leads.
33. In Solomon's prayer he exalts God and reminds the people who God is and what God does.
34. He represents God's faithfulness to the people and to the king and to all who walk in truth with Him.
35. What God says with His mouth, He will do with His hands, because God keeps His promises.
36. Solomon reminds God of the promises to David regarding a king to sit on the throne forever.

37. Is it okay to seek reassurance from God regarding the promises He has made?
38. Reminding God of what He has said is a way of bringing conviction to our own hearts.
39. A temple can't contain God.
40. Solomon invites God to honour His promises and to answer his prayers.
41. God will answer heart prayers but overlook prayers of insincerity, that is prayer without faith.
42. We can pray at anytime and anywhere.
43. We need to stand under the banner of His name when we pray.
44. God will listen if you call with the right heart.
45. What is it for God to hear and forgive?
46. Solomon is saying 'good people will be blessed by God and wicked people will be cursed.' Is that true?
47. Solomon invites God to contract with Him regarding Israel's inconsistencies and them as a people staying faithful.
48. In their repentance God re-establishes a broken people.