

Jan 26, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Prayer helps us see things as God sees them

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
King Solomon's temple dedication prayer shows this balance. Solomon began by highlighting God's holiness and faithfulness. Then he gave God credit for the success of the project and emphasized God's greatness

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built
(2 Chron 6:18 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 06, 2016)

Series: Honoring God

UNIT: Jesus Teaches About True Worship

NEXT WEEK

Single-Minded Obedience (Matt 4:1-11)

Solomon Anticipates Praise 1 Kings 8:54-61

Lesson Background and Introduction

The lesson text for this week comprises the final words of King Solomon's dedicatory address. A parallel account is found in 2 Chronicles 5-7. The dedication ceremony closed with a 14-day celebration, an expansion of the great annual harvest festival known as the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:34; 1 Kings 8:2, 65). Solomon's opening and closing remarks demonstrate similarities that make them fitting bookends for his prayer. The dedication of the temple was a time to remember the past, to celebrate the present, and to anticipate the future work of God for and with His people. The Lord had done great things for Israel, and He could be trusted to bless the nation in the future. These blessings would turn out for good—not only for Israel but also for those who came to know the Lord as the only true God. Given God's past faithfulness and given the anticipation of His future faithfulness, Israel was reasonably called to have unswerving devotion to God. The words of Solomon during the dedication of the temple highlight the loyalty God had demonstrated to His covenant people. Prayerful consideration of what God has already done for us in Christ, is doing for us in the present, and will do for us in the future likewise is to motivate us to lead holy, godly lives.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

God Promised Rest - Solomon rose from his knees after his prayers and made a final plea to the Lord, a benediction, in a loud voice. Solomon prayed for his people to continue a total, heartfelt loyalty to the Lord, constantly drawing closer to Him. Solomon recalled Israel's history, all the way back to Egypt under the leadership of Moses, when God promised His people rest in the promised land. God had kept all His promises to that time. Solomon also realized God's blessing depended on their obedience. So, the king prayed for God to work in the hearts of the people. He asked that their hearts would be turned to the Lord so that they would always keep His ways, commandments, and statutes.

The People's Obedience - Solomon prayed for the people to continue to be serious and sincere, willing to obey. They were not to be divided between several gods. Then he once again reminded God of His promises to this nation. The Lord had committed Himself to the forefathers of Israel and pledged to take care of their future generations. This was not just about Israel, but God intended to bless the entire world through this nation.

Our Response - We too should pray to be close to the Lord at all times and obedient: "Lord, let us pray to be near to You always, 24/7. Step into our situations, and show us now to deal with others fairly and rightly. We thank You for Your faithfulness. May we remember that no one, no god, nothing compares to You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Solomon's Blessing (1 Kings 8:54-56)

Blessing for Israel (54-55)

- Blessing Israel by God being gracious and providing peace (Num 6:23-26)
- Blessing Israel by blessing them in the name of God (2 Sam 6:18)
- Blessing Israel by seeking God to fulfill His promises to them (1 Kings 8:14-15)
- Blessing Israel by seeking God to bless because He is the greatest (Heb 7:7)
- Blessing Israel by seeking God to provide rest (Josh 21:44)
- Blessing Israel by seeking God to allow them to enter His rest (Heb 4:9-10)

Blessing of the Lord (56)

- Bless God for His Name (Matt 6:9)
- Bless God for His deeds (Ps 72:18)
- Bless God for His redemption (Ps 111:9)
- Bless God for His holiness (Isa 6:3)
- Bless God because He is worthy (Rev 4:11)

Solomon's Requests (1 Kings 8:57-61)

For the Lord's presence (57-58)

- God's presence is everywhere (Ps 139:7-12)
- God's presence brings rest (Ex 33:14)
- God's presence confirms that God is pleased with us (Ex 33:15)
- There is joy in the presence of God (Ps 16:11)
- God's presence is a hiding place of refuge (Ps 31:20)
- There is a light of guidance in the presence of God (Ps 89:15)
- There should be a godly fear of God in His presence (Nah 1:5)

For the Lord's help (59-60)

- Help from God through prayer (Ps 5:2)
- Help from God because He is the ever-present help in trouble (Ps 46:1)
- Help from God because He is the one who sustains (Ps 54:4)
- Help from God because He loves us (Ps 109:26)
- Help from God because He takes our hand and dispels fear (Isa 41:13)

For the people's loyalty (61)

- Be loyal because He is holy and good (Josh 24:19-22)
- Be loyal because He is just (Dan 4:31-37)
- Be loyal because it is desirable and right (Josh 24:15)
- Be loyal because He has eternal life (John 6:66-69)
- Be loyal because He delivers (2 Cor 1:8-10)
- Be loyal because those who endure will reign with Him (2 Tim 2:12)
- Be loyal because it brings rewards from God (Rev 3:9-13)