

## Adult Sunday Bible Study Lesson

June 12, 2022

### Solomon's Prayer

#### 1 Kings 8:46-60

**Situational Context:** The temple is finished. Solomon has the Ark brought from the Tabernacle to have it emplaced in the proper place in the temple in a great celebration. **1 Kings 8:1-2 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. <sup>2</sup> And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

This scene is a prototype of Christ's return taking seat in the midst of His temple, the church, the people of God, in the New Jerusalem. Look for the commonalities!

**Lesson Theme: 1 Kings 8:46-48** Solomon offers this dedication prayer to the Lord. Solomon was knowledgeable of the prophecy in Deuteronomy concerning Israel's exile and the reason.

**1. Under Discipline: 1 Kings 8:46-48 (ESV)** <sup>46</sup> "If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, <sup>47</sup> yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,' <sup>48</sup> if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name,

**Interpretation: This is one long sentence.** Exile from the land is one of the most severe curses in the Sinaitic covenant. Exile is also a curse in several ancient Near Eastern treaties.

### **Supporting Texts:**

**Romans 3:10 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;

**Psalm 14:1 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

**Leviticus 26:33-35 (ESV)** <sup>33</sup> And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste. <sup>34</sup> “Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths. <sup>35</sup> As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling in it.

**Deuteronomy 30:1-3 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> “And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, <sup>2</sup> and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>3</sup> then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.

**Acts 11:18 (ESV)** <sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

### **Discussion Starters:**

**What kind of knowledge did Solomon need to pray this prayer?**

**Explain repentance as a gift from God.**

**What is the covenant person’s duty when disciplined by God?**

**What grace is required to repent?**

**2. Forgive: 1 Kings 8:49-53 (ESV)** <sup>49</sup> then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause <sup>50</sup> and forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them <sup>51</sup> (for they are your people, and your heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace). <sup>52</sup> **Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant and to the plea of your people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to you. <sup>53</sup> For you separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be your heritage, as you declared through Moses your servant, when you brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.”**

**Interpretation:** Since God specifically chose Israel and liberated them from Egypt to become His own special inheritance, Solomon prays that God will not forget this history of redemption when Israel finds itself in exile

### **Supporting Texts:**

**Deuteronomy 4:20 (ESV)** <sup>20</sup> But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

**[Moses] Deuteronomy 9:26 (ESV)** <sup>26</sup> And I prayed to the LORD, ‘O Lord GOD, do not destroy your people and your heritage, whom you have redeemed through your greatness, whom you have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

### **Discussion Starters:**

**On what basis does God “hear”?**

**How can God forget? What then is Solomon asking?**

**Can God grant compassion? Grant hostility?**

**What was Israel’s cause?**

**3. Sustain: 1 Kings 8:54-60 (ESV)** <sup>54</sup> Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven. <sup>55</sup> And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, <sup>56</sup> “Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. <sup>57</sup> The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. **May he not leave us or forsake us,** <sup>58</sup> **that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers.** <sup>59</sup> **Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires,** <sup>60</sup> **that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.**

**Interpretation:** After considerable upheaval in the period of wilderness wandering and conquest, Israel had experienced the fulfillment of the good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses. In the New Testament, Christians are exhorted to make every effort to enter God’s rest.

### **Supporting Texts:**

**Deuteronomy 12:10 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety,

**Joshua 23:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> “And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.

**Hebrews 4:11 (ESV)** <sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

### **Discussion Starters:**

**What aspect of Israel's humanity was Solomon well aware of?**

**What was Solomon's prayer in verse 58?**

**What was at stake in the Lord's dealings with Israel?**

**What request in verse 59 resembles the petitions in the Lord's prayer?**