

Outline

1. Bringing the Ark to the Temple 8:1-11
2. Solomon's Address the People 8:12-21
3. Solomon's Prayer to God..... 8:22-53
4. Solomon's Benediction..... 8:54-61
5. Sacrifice and Feast of Tabernacles 8:62-66
(See Lev. 23:33-44 on this feast in the 7th month)

Selected Spiritual Lessons

1. Verses 46-52: Purity Required in Prayer

Note the pattern given in the verses: they sin; God's anger is aroused; an enemy conquers and carries them away as captives; they come to their senses and repent and pray so.

Then Solomon asks God to hear the prayer and to maintain their cause. But this is not without the people first whole-heartedly returning to God and repenting of their sin. In 1 Kings 8:38 this humble attitude recognizes "the plague of his own heart." He knows the sin of his heart (granted, only some of it—Jer. 17:9-10).

The New Testament reflects this same principle in James 5:16 (the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man); 1 Peter 3:12 (God hears the prayers of the righteous, but He is against those that do evil).

2. Verse 60: There is Only One God

This has always been true. There is only one God (1 Cor. 8:4). Folks like the Mormons try to deceive their audience into thinking that they teach this doctrine, when they do not. Besides supporting polygamy, they are polytheists, plain and simple. Don't be tricked!

3. Verse 27: The Immensity of God

In this verse, Solomon reflects his understanding that God is infinite. One way you can think of the monotheistic doctrine taught above is this: God is so big, there is no room for any other "god"!

God's infinity with respect to time is called his *eternity*. His infinity with respect to space is called is *immensity*. God is Spirit as to His very nature (John 4:24). That is, He is metaphysical (supernatural, incorporeal). He is not material. He is not the sum total of nature as in pantheism.

4. Verse 46: The Sinfulness of Man

This verse very plainly says that there is no man who does not sin. This does not say "there is no unbeliever who does not sin" or "there is no Old Testament saint who does not sin." In fact, there is NO MAN ANYWHERE AT ANYTIME who does not sin, believer or not! There is no room in the Bible for the doctrine of perfectionism. No one reaches sinlessness until a) they become a believer; and also b) they die and go to be with Christ.

5. Verse 58: The Inclination of the Heart is Attributed to God

In verse 38, we noted above that sin is called "the plague of the heart." In verse 58 Solomon says his desire of God is that He "incline our hearts" toward him. The heart of the king is in the hands of God (Prov. 21:1) and the Bible can say that Pharaoh hardened his heart, but so did God (Exodus 4:21, 8:15). Similarly, we must incline our hearts toward God, and we need God to do so in us as well (Joshua 24:23, Ps. 119:36, 141:4).

6. Verses 24-25: Fulfillment of Past Promises Gives Confidence in Prayer

Solomon prays that God has kept all of His promises to David; then he requests that God will simply continue doing that. There is no possible reason to think that He won't!