

1 Kings Chapter 08 Commentary Verses 22-32

In the first part of this chapter, we have seen the ark of the covenant placed in the most holy place in the temple, and the house of the Lord is filled with "***the cloud of the glory of the LORD***," so that the priests had to get out of the temple. My heart trembles at this thought of seeing the cloud of the glory of the LORD. How long has it been since Israel has seen the cloud of the glory of the Lord descend where the ark of the covenant was? We know from ***1Ki 6:1 ¶ "And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD."*** Thus, we know that Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness before entering the land of promise, which gives us 440 years: plus, the seven years to build the temple, gives us a good estimate that it has been 447 years since Israel witnessed the cloud of the glory of God. No doubt all Israel had heard of "***the cloud of the glory of the LORD***," but very probably no one present had ever witnessed it.

Israel is at the zenith of God's blessings upon them. With the building of the temple of God, to have a permanent place for the name of the Lord to be placed, and to witness the temple filled with "***the cloud of the glory of the LORD***," must have been a great wonder to see, and surely made a lasting impression on all present.

This sight must have been as astonishing for Israel, as the sight of our risen Saviour was to those, who saw him before he ascended to his rightful place on the throne of God. Israel can say "surely the LORD is in this place." May God never let us forget that He has descended into our minds, souls, and bodies, in the form of the Holy Spirit. The knowledge, that we have been born again, should astonish us as much as "***the cloud of the glory of the LORD***" must have astonished Israel.

1Ki 8:22 ¶ "And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven: 23 And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart: 24 Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. 25 Therefore now, LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel; so that thy children take heed to their way, that they walk before me as thou hast walked before me. 26 And now, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father."

King Solomon stands before the altar of sacrifice, between God's presence and the people of the Lord, giving thanks, and declaring the faithfulness of God to those who follow God with their whole heart. Solomon also reminds Israel of God's promise to keep one of the lineage of King David upon the throne, "***if*** Israel is obedient to God, and does not turn aside to idolatry. Solomon is acting as an intermediator between God and Israel, and praying to God to fulfill the covenant promise that God made with King David, Solomon's father.

As we look at these words, we remember that King David committed adultery and murder, yet God forgave him because when confronted with his sins, King David immediately repented and asked God's forgiveness. The point I am trying to make is King David was a sinner, just as we are all sinners, by nature, but we are not to be sinners by practice. Remember, King David didn't commit adultery again, nor did he commit murder again.

We have already pointed out that King Solomon has failed to keep God's commandments in his position as king. Remember he is married to an Egyptian woman, the Pharaoh's daughter, and has made a league with them. Wherefore, we say again, since the body of Jesus Christ was the only human body that was holy sinless and pure, God has nothing but sinners to work with here on earth. God knows that we are going to mess up, but if we repent and beg his forgiveness, God will continue to use us to fulfill his purpose for us. Wherefore, do not let Satan deceive you into believing that you are to great a sinner to be a part of the New Testament Church.

We are told here that King Solomon stood giving thanks to God. However, when we get to ***1Ki 8:54 ¶ "And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven."*** I believe that King Solomon, after giving of thanks to God in these verses, goes from standing to kneeling before God, as he begins to pray for God's blessings upon himself and Israel, as confirmed in ***2Ch 6:12-13; 12 ¶ "And he***

stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands: 13 For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,"

27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? 28 Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee today: 29 That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place. 30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive."

King Solomon, having assumed the posture of prayer, begins his prayer to God, first signifying that this tiny temple cannot contain God's presence, for God is everywhere. Solomon asks of God, **29 "That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place."** hear thou our prayers from heaven and answer us in kindness and mercy, and forgive the sins and trespasses of thy people. There is a song we sing based on this prayer of Solomon. Maybe I can attach a PDF version of it.

31 "If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house: 32 Then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness." King Solomon asks God to judge righteously between those who are at fault with one another, condemning the wicked and justifying the righteous, that your name may be glorified upon the earth, and your people may learn to reverence and fear you as they ought.

Do you understand that if there be faults between brethren, God has given us the pathway of resolution, that right will be brought forth. When we do as God has commanded in Matthew chapter 18 it brings glory to God's name.