

2 CHRONICLES 6:12-42 -- SOLOMON'S PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Biblical Background: Temple construction began 2nd month of the 4th year of reign, 480 years after Israel came out of Egypt. The temple was completed the 8th month of 11th year of reign. The Ark has been brought in. Now, 11 months later, Solomon stands before the people, spread out his hands toward heaven and gives his great Prayer of Dedication. There are seven pleas in both the 2 Kings 8 account and the account here in 2 Chronicles 6. There are few differences in the two accounts, however, verses 13, and the final two verses, 41-42 are not in the Kings' account.

2Ch 6:12 *Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD* Humility before and praise unto God.

in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands - : This was the most common posture of prayer in the Old Testament, a gesture of surrender, openness, and ready reception.

2Ch 6:13 *(for Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven);*

2Ch 6:14 *and he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You: Solomon* recognized that God was completely unique. The pretended gods of the nations could not compare to Him in any way.

who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

2Ch 6:15 *You have kept what You promised -* Solomon recognizes God as the maker and keeper of promises. - Solomon first thanked and praised God for His *past* fulfillment of promises.

Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.

2Ch 6:16 *Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk in My law as you have walked before Me.'*

2Ch 6:17 *And now, O LORD God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David. -* Solomon called upon God to keep the promises that He made. This is the great secret to power in prayer - to take God's promises to heart in faith, and then boldly and reverently call upon Him to fulfill the promises. He quotes the Scriptures!

2Ch 6:18 *"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! Solomon* asks God to dwell in this place and honor those who seek Him here. - It was important to recognize that though God had a *special* presence in the temple, He was far too great to be restricted to the temple

2Ch 6:19 *Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You:*

2Ch 6:20 *that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place where You said You would put Your name, that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.*

2Ch 6:21 *And may You hear the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. -* Solomon asked God to incline His ear towards the king and the people when they prayed from the temple. For this reason, many observant Jews still pray facing the direction of the site of the temple in Jerusalem.

Hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive. - Solomon knew that the most important thing Israel needed was forgiveness. This was the greatest answer to prayer Israel could expect from God. All men are haunted by guilt!

2Ch 6:22 *"If anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple,* Hear when Your people take an oath at the temple. - The temple grounds were used as a place to verify and authorize oaths.

2Ch 6:23 *then hear from heaven, and act, and judge Your servants,* - Solomon asked the God who can see what man can't - who knows the hidden heart of man - and to enforce from heaven the oaths made at the temple.

bringing retribution on the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

2Ch 6:24 *"Or if Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy - Hear when Your people are defeated.* Many times in their history, Israel suffered defeat and could only cry out to God. It was even worse when the defeat was because they had sinned against the LORD Himself.

because they have sinned against You, and return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this temple, **2Ch 6:25** *then hear from heaven -* Solomon asked God to hear the prayers of a defeated, yet humble and penitent Israel. God answered this prayer of Solomon, and He forgave and restored His defeated people when they came in humble repentance. *and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to them and their fathers.*

2Ch 6:26 *"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain - Hear in times of plague and famine.* - Drought was a constant threat for the agriculturally based economy of Israel. If there was no rain, there was no food.

because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, **2Ch 6:27** *then hear in heaven, -* Solomon doesn't take it for granted that God would forgive and hear His repentant people. God's good response to our repentance comes from His grace, not from justice.

and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

2Ch 6:28 *"When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is;*

2Ch 6:29 *whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows his own burden and his own grief, and spreads out his hands to this temple:*

2Ch 6:30 *then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men),*

2Ch 6:31 *that they may fear You, to walk in Your ways as long as they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.*

2Ch 6:32 *"Moreover, concerning a foreigner, -* Hear when a foreigner prays. - The temple was in Israel but it was always intended to be a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7).

who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for the sake of Your great name and Your mighty hand and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray in this temple;

2Ch 6:33 *then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, -*

Solomon asked God to hear the prayer of the foreigner out of a missionary impulse. He knew that when God mercifully answered the prayers of foreigners, it drew those from other nations to the God of all nations.

as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

2Ch 6:34 *"When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, wherever You send them, -* Hear when Israel goes out to battle and prays from captivity. - Solomon prayed with the idea that

God should answer the prayers for victory made in foreign lands towards the temple, **but only when they battle as God sent them**. This was not a blanket request for blessing on every military adventure.

and when they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name,

2Ch 6:35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

*2Ch 6:36 "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), - **When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin)**: - Romans 3:23 :for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near;

2Ch 6:37 yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, -

***When they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive**: Solomon also asked God to hear Israel's prayer from captivity in a foreign land. This recognized that the God of the Temple could answer **prayers made away from the temple**.*

and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness';

2Ch 6:38 and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name:

2Ch 6:39 then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You. -

2Ch 6:40 Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.

*2Ch 6:41 "Now therefore, Arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. - Conclusion: **God, make Yourself at home among us** - This conclusion of prayer has Numbers 10:35-36 in mind, when Israel moved the ark of the covenant, the tabernacle, and the whole camp of Israel from place to place through the wilderness during the exodus. Solomon used the phrasing of that passage to emphasize that the ark of the covenant and **the symbol of God's presence would wander no more and had finally come to its final resting place**.*

Let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, And let Your saints rejoice in goodness.

*2Ch 6:42 "O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed; - It also reminds us of **the principle of prayer of praying in the name of Jesus, the ultimate Anointed One**.*

Remember the mercies of Your servant David."

SUMMARY:

- A great and awesome prayer by Solomon, King of Israel on the occasion of the dedication of the temple.
- We should note the address of the prayer; the humility of Solomon in praying; the emphasis on praising God for His faithfulness in keeping His promises in the past and having faith of His keeping them in the future!
- Seven occasions or circumstances of Israel and the people in their future needs of calling on God; asking Him to hear their prayers; and to respond with forgiveness and mercy!
- The personal application for each of us as we are referred to Scripturally as having a body, which is the temple of God; the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in us! - cf. **1 Co 3:16-17** *Do you not know that **you are the temple** of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? [17] If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, **which temple you are**. **1Co 6:19** Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love. At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing, always, only for my King. Always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for me.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold. Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love, my God, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee.

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee.

Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee.