



The Better Temple

By Jeff Bedwell on March 29, 2024

TODAY'S READING: 1 Kings 8

This chapter is part of the larger story of the building of the Temple under the kingship of Solomon. In chapters 5-7, we find Solomon and the nation of Israel, planning the temple, building the temple, and furnishing the temple. Chapter 8 highlights the dedication of the temple with the largest section of this dedication passage being devoted to Solomon's prayer of dedication.

Solomon prayed to the incomparable God (vs. 23), who is faithful to His covenant and steadfast in His love (vv. 23-24). This God is uncontainable by any building (vs. 27) but had chosen to make Himself available to His people (vv. 28-30). The building of the temple was God's idea (see 2 Samuel 7:13) that Solomon carried out. This reminds us that prayer is a privilege that is only possibly because God in grace, mercy, and love has chosen to make himself available to us.

Today, neither the temple that Solomon built nor the one built by Herod that eventually replaced it are still standing. Jesus told of the destruction of this second temple when He was with His disciples in Jerusalem (Matthew 24:2). We can still pray today to the incomparable, uncontainable, faithful, loving God of all creation because Jesus came as the better temple (see John 2:19-22). The temple of his body was destroyed and raised again. Everything that Solomon's temple represented is now fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the new and better temple.

As we celebrate Good Friday and Easter Sunday, let us renew our passion and practice of prayer, knowing that it is only made possible in the name of Jesus Christ, through His life, death, burial, and resurrection. Not only that, but this same Jesus is at the right hand of the Father even now, making intercession for us (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25). Let us never get over the fact that we can come before the very throne of the Sovereign Creator and Lord of all, knowing that He will hear all, because of Jesus, the better temple!

PRAYER: Father, as I marvel at the cross and the empty tomb, renew in me a love for You and a desire to spend time in Your presence through prayer.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: 2 Chronicles 20

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