

# THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

## INTRODUCTION:

*1 Corinthians 3:9, KJV For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry (field, farm), ye are God's BUILDING.*

*2 Corinthians 5:1, KJV For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a BUILDING of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

*Ephesians 2:19-22, KJV Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*

*20 And are BUILT upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

*21 In whom all the BUILDING fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:*

*22 In whom ye also are BUILDED TOGETHER (sunoikodomeo) for AN HABITATION OF GOD THROUGH THE SPIRIT.*

**NOTE:** “BUILDING” = *oikodome*, a compound of *oikos* (house, building, home, family) and *demo* (to build).

**PRINCIPLE:** We do not gather to dedicate a BUILDING MADE WITH HANDS. We gather to CELEBRATE and to DEDICATE the REAL BUILDING, the PEOPLE of God! In particular, we come to CELEBRATE and to CONSECRATE the life of the set man/woman of the house, his/her family, and his/her church!

**NOTE:** In this message, “THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE” (taken from 1 Kg. 8 and 2 Chron. 6 – the dedication of Solomon’s Temple), we will examine THREE key principles:

1. The SETTING or the TIMING of this DEDICATION.
2. The POSTURE of this DEDICATION.
3. The SEVEN-FOLD BLESSING of this DEDICATION.

## THE SETTING OR THE TIMING OF THIS DEDICATION

*1 King 8:1-2, KJV Then SOLOMON (Jesus as KING of kings) ASSEMBLED the ELDERS OF ISRAEL, and ALL THE HEADS OF THE TRIBES, the CHIEF OF THE FATHERS of the children of Israel, UNTO KING SOLOMON in JERUSALEM (habitation of peace), that they might BRING UP THE ARK of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.*

*2 And all the men of Israel ASSEMBLED themselves UNTO KING SOLOMON at the FEAST (of Tabernacles) in the month ETHANIM (also called TISHRI), which is the SEVENTH MONTH.*

NOTE: The SEVENTH MONTH is called *ETHANIM* or Tishri (*ay-thaw-neem*) = “the permanent brooks; enduring.” This was the 7<sup>th</sup> Jewish month, corresponding to our modern October to November; so named because permanent streams still flowed. This word is derived from *ay-thawn*, which means, “to continue; permanence, permanent; perpetual, constant, peren-nial, ever-flowing; specifically, a chieftain.” *Ay-thawn* is translated in the King James Version as, “hard, mighty, rough, strength, strong.”

### TWO THOUGHTS:

1. We must ENDURE or CONTINUE from day one until day fifteen of the 7<sup>th</sup> month (we must hear TRUMPETS; humble ourselves at ATONEMENT, then stay on through the next seven days of the Feast of TABERNACLES). What follows is an enduring continuing of His Presence that never ends.
2. FIRST, there are those who, because of manmade traditions, stop at the Feast of PASSOVER or the Feast of PENTECOST, and are not even aware of the reality of the SEVENTH MONTH. SECOND, there are others who make it to the SEVENTH MONTH, but who have a wrong spirit from all the pressures, and consequently faint. THIRD, there are those who endure to the SEVENTH MONTH, and, despite the circumstances, STILL FLOW! The NAME or NATURE of these overcomers is *ETHANIM*, a “perpetual, constant FLOW of the RIVER of God!”

## THE POSTURE OF THIS DEDICATION

**2 Chronicles 6:12-13, KJV** *And he (King Solomon) 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 BRASON SCAFFOLD (pulpit or platform or stage), 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 (stretched out) his HANDS toward heaven (to offer his life of SERVICE and PRAYER),*

**Exodus 27:1, KJV** *And thou shalt make an (brazen) ALTAR of shittim wood (place of SACRIFICE – the CROSS), FIVE CUBITS LONG, and FIVE CUBITS BROAD; the altar shall be foursquare: and THE HEIGHT THEREOF SHALL BE THREE CUBITS.*

**PRINCIPLE:** As KING SOLOMON humbled himself before God and his congregation to offer his PRAYER OF DEDICATION, he postured himself to literally become a “LIVING SACRIFICE”—the living sacrifice of a LIFE OF PRAYER AND SERVICE!

**Romans 12:1, KJV** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies A LIVING SACRIFICE, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

**Romans 12:1, AMP** *I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies—presenting all your members and faculties—as a LIVING SACRIFICE, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.*

**Romans 12:1, Message Bible** *...Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an OFFERING.*

## THE SEVEN-FOLD BLESSING OF THIS DEDICATION

**NOTE:** Solomon's DEDICATORY PRAYER for the TEMPLE besought the EYES and EARS and HAND of God to ever INCLINE TOWARD this TEMPLE. God is ever mindful of the PRAYERS of His HOUSE, His PEOPLE. His POWER is revealed in the SEVEN-FOLD BLESSING that rests upon the DYNAMIC of our CORPORATE LIFE—God hears the prayers of a PEOPLE!

*2 Chronicles 6:19-21,40, KJV Have respect therefore to the PRAYER of Thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which Thy servant prayeth before thee:*

*20 That Thine EYES MAY BE OPEN UPON THIS HOUSE DAY AND NIGHT, upon the place whereof Thou hast said that Thou wouldest put Thy name there; TO HEARKEN UNTO THE PRAYER which Thy servant prayeth toward this place.*

*21 Hearken therefore unto the supplications of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: HEAR THOU FROM THY DWELLING PLACE, even from heaven; and WHEN THOU HEAREST, FORGIVE.*

*40 Now, my God, LET, I beseech Thee, THINE EYES BE OPEN, and LET THINE EARS BE ATTENT unto the prayer that is made in this place.*

**NOTE:** This SEVEN-FOLD BLESSING is revealed in Solomon's PRAYER (2 Chron. 6:22-40):

1. When there is SIN in the camp among relationships – THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

*2 Chronicles 6:22-23, IF A MAN SIN against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to make him swear, and the oath come before Thine altar in this house;*

*23 THEN HEAR THOU FROM HEAVEN, and do, and judge Thy servants, by requiting the wicked, by recompensing his way upon his own head; and by justifying the righteous, by giving him according to his righteousness.*

2. When the people are SMITTEN DOWN before the enemy – PERPETUAL VICTORY OVER THE ENEMY.

*2 Chronicles 6:24-25, KJV And IF THEY PEOPLE BE PUT TO THE WORSE BEFORE THE ENEMY, because they have sinned against Thee; and shall return and confess Thy name, and pray and make supplication before Thee in this house;*

*25 Then HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS, and forgive the sin of Thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which Thou gavest to them and to their fathers.*

3. When HEAVEN IS SHUT UP, and there is NO RAIN – AN OPEN HEAVEN WITH A STEADY RAIN (OUTPOURING).

*2 Chronicles 6:26-27, KJV WHEN THE HEAVEN IS SHUT UP, AND THERE IS NO RAIN (outpouring of the Holy Spirit), because they have sinned against Thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin, when Thou dost afflict them;*

*27 THEN HEAR THOU FROM HEAVEN, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy people Israel, when Thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon Thy land, which thou hast given unto Thy people for an inheritance.*

4. When there is FAMINE, or PESTILENCE, or SICKNESS – PROTECTION AND DELIVERANCE FROM FAMINE.

*2 Chronicles 6:28-31, KJV IF THERE BE DEARTH IN THE LAND, if there be PESTILENCE, if there be blasting, or mildew, locusts, or caterpillars; if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land; whatsoever sore or whatsoever SICKNESS there be:*

*29 Then what prayer or what supplication soever shall be made of any man, or of all thy people Israel, when every one shall know his own sore and his own grief, and shall spread forth his hands in this house:*

**2 Chronicles 6:30 THEN HEAR THOU FROM HEAVEN Thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart Thou knowest; (for Thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men:)**

**31 That they may fear Thee, to walk in Thy ways, so long as they live in the land which Thou gavest unto our fathers.**

- 5. When a STRANGER calls upon the Name of the Lord – UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR THE STRANGER.**

**2 Chronicles 6:32-33, KJV Moreover concerning the STRANGER, which is not of Thy people Israel, but is come from a FAR COUNTRY (the OLD NATURE or the OLD ORDER) for Thy great name's sake, and Thy mighty hand, and Thy stretched out arm; IF THEY COME AND PRAY in this house;**

**33 THEN HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS, even from Thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to Thee for; that all people of the earth may know Thy name, and fear Thee, as doth Thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by Thy name.**

- 6. When the people go out to WAR or FIGHT against the enemy – THE EVER-ABIDING PRESENCE OF THE LORD IN EVERY SITUATION.**

**2 Chronicles 6:34-35, KJV IF THY PEOPLE GO OUT TO WAR AGAINST THEIR ENEMIES by the way that Thou shalt send them, and they pray unto Thee toward this city which Thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for Thy name;**

**35 THEN HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.**

- 7. When the people are CARRIED CAPTIVE by the enemy – THE FULL POSSESSION OF THE PROMISED INHERITANCE.**

**2 Chronicles 6:36-39, KJV** *IF THEY SIN* against Thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and Thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and **THEY CARRY THEM AWAY CAPTIVES** they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near;

**37** Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto Thee in the land of their captivity, saying, We have sinned, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;

**38** If they return to Thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which Thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which Thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Thy name:

**39** **THEN HEAR THOU FROM THE HEAVENS**, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.

**40** Now, my **GOD**, let, I beseech thee, Thine **EYES** be **OPEN** (wide), and let Thine **EARS** be **ATTENT** (hearken, incline, listen with [pay] attention) unto the **PRAYER** that is made in this place.

## **CONCLUSION**

**2 Chronicles 7:1-4, KJV** Now when **SOLOMON** had made an **AND OF PRAYING**, the **FIRE** came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the **GLORY** of the **LORD FILLED** the house.

**2** And the priests could not enter into the house of the **LORD**, because the **GLORY** of the **LORD** had filled the **LORD's** house.

**3** And when **ALL** the children of Israel saw how the **FIRE** came down, and the **GLORY** of the **LORD** upon the house, they **BOWED** themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and **WORSHIPPED**, and **PRAISED** the **LORD**, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.

**4** Then the **KING** and **ALL** the people **OFFERED SACRIFICES** before the **LORD**.