### 1 Kings

## Chapter 8

1Thereafter, King Solomon held a meeting of all the elders of IsraEl there on [Mount] Zion, to talk about bringing the Chest of the Sacred Agreement of Jehovah out of the city of David (which was on Mount Zion).  
  
2This was in the month of Athanim (the 7th month), and because it was a holiday, all the elders of IsraEl were already there.  
  
3Then the Priests removed the Chest 4from the Tent of Proofs (along with all the holy items that were there), 5and the king and all IsraEl stood before the Chest and sacrificed multitudes of oxen and sheep.  
  
  
6Thereafter, the Priests carried the Chest and put it into its place inside the Holy of Holies (which was near the entrance of the Temple) under the wings of the cherubs 7(for the cherubs had open, spread wings that covered the Chest and the other holy things that were on its lid).  
  
8And the only parts that stuck out of the Holy [of Holies] were the sacred carrying poles… But even these couldn’t be seen from outside [the Temple].  
  
9Of course, there was nothing in the Chest except the two stone tablets of the Sacred Agreement that Jehovah made with the sons of IsraEl after they had left the land of Egypt, and which were put there by Moses at the Dry Place (Horeb).  
  
10Well, as the Priests were coming out of the Holy Place, a mist then filled the whole building! 11So the Priests were unable to stand and officiate before the mist, because the glory of Jehovah filled the whole Temple!  
  
  
12Then Solomon said this concerning the Temple after he’d completed its construction:  
  
 ‘Jehovah made the sun in the sky, and [yet] said he would live in a dimly-lit place.  
  
 13‘[He said:]  
  
 ‘You [must] build a House for me.’  
  
 ‘[Yes,] a good, brand-new house for you to live in!  
  
 ‘Look! Isn’t this written in the song scroll?’  
  
  
14Then he turned around, and all IsraEl started praising the king; for the whole gathering of IsraEl was standing there.  
  
15And [the king] said:  
  
 ‘Praise Jehovah, the God of IsraEl, who spoke with His mouth about my father David, and that filled his hands, saying:  
  
 ‘From the day that I led My people IsraEl out of Egypt, I had never chosen a city [for Myself] in one of the chiefdoms of IsraEl where a Temple would be built to My Name. 16But now, I’ve chosen JeruSalem as the place to put My Name, and I’ve chosen David to lead My people IsraEl.’  
  
17And that’s why the heart of my father David was moved to build a Temple to the Name of Jehovah, the God of IsraEl.  
  
 18‘Then the Lord said to my father David:  
  
 ‘Because your heart was moved to build a Temple to My Name, you’ve done a good thing, since it came from your heart! 19However, you may not personally build the Temple… It will be built by a son who comes from you.’  
  
 ‘He will build the Temple to My Name.’  
  
 20‘So Jehovah caused these things that He spoke of, to happen. I replaced my father David and sat down on the throne of IsraEl, just as Jehovah said...  
  
 ‘And now I’ve built the Temple to the Name of the Lord God of IsraEl.  
  
 21‘I’ve also created a place for the Chest that contains the Sacred Agreement that Jehovah made with our ancestors when He led them out of the land of Egypt.’  
  
  
22Then Solomon stood before the Altar of Jehovah, there in front of the whole gathering of IsraEl, and he raised his arms towards heaven, 23and said:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah, God of IsraEl,  
  
 ‘There are no gods in the skies above or on the earth below who are like You.  
  
 ‘For You’ve kept Your promise and shown mercy to Your servant… The one who’s walked before You with his whole heart, Your servant David, my father.  
  
 24‘You spoke to him with Your mouth, and with Your hands, You’ve fulfilled what [You promised to him].  
  
 25‘And now, O Jehovah, God of IsraEl,  
  
 ‘Keep [the promise] that You made with my father David when You said:  
  
 ‘There will always be a man who sits before Me on the throne of IsraEl for as long as your children continue to follow Me the same as you have followed Me.’  
  
 26‘So now, O Jehovah, God of IsraEl,  
  
 ‘May the words that You said to my father David prove to be true.  
  
 27‘However, will You really live on the earth with men, when the heavens of the heavens can’t contain You? Therefore, how can this Temple that I built to Your Name expect to do so?  
  
 28‘Please listen to my prayer, O Jehovah, God of IsraEl… Hear the prayer that Your servant is praying before You today!  
  
 29‘May Your eyes watch over this Temple both day and night... For it’s the place where You said that You’d put Your Name.  
  
 ‘Then from Your home in the heavens, please listen to the prayers that Your servants will pray in this place both day and night, 30and provide the things for which Your servant and all Your people IsraEl will ask when they pray here…  
  
 ‘Answer them and provide!  
  
 31‘And if they should sin against their neighbors by vowing an oath to curse them, and then they come and openly confess such a thing before Your Altar in this Temple, 32may You listen from the heavens and act… Judge Your people IsraEl!  
  
 ‘Declare the lawless one lawlessness and bring his [evil] ways down upon his own head; but, give justice to the righteous… Treat the righteous with righteousness!  
  
 33‘And when Your people IsraEl sin against You; may they fall before their enemies until they return and acknowledge Your Name, and then pray and beg before You in this Temple.  
  
 34‘Please listen to them from the heavens and forgive the sins of Your people IsraEl, and return them to this land that You gave to their ancestors.  
  
 35‘And when You hold back the sky and don’t allow rain to fall because of their sins against You, and then they come to pray in this place and acknowledge Your Name and turn away from their sins after You’ve humbled them...  
  
 36‘Please listen from the heavens and forgive the sins of Your servants… Your people IsraEl. Show them a better way to act, and then provide rain for this land that You’ve given to Your people as their inheritance.  
  
 37‘And if there should be a famine, a plague, a fire, an infestation of locusts, or a blight [on the crops], or if an enemy should come against one of our cities (no matter what the event or misery)...  
  
 ‘May all the prayers and supplications of every man be heard, so that You’ll come to know the pain in their hearts.  
  
 38‘And whenever a man spreads out his arms in this 39Temple that’s been prepared for You; may You hear him from the heavens, forgive him, and act.  
  
 ‘Give each man what he deserves according to the way that he behaves; for, only You can know what’s really in their hearts.  
  
 ‘Yes, You alone know what’s in the hearts of all the sons of men. 40So, they should fear You all the days of their lives that they spend on this land that You’ve given to our ancestors.  
  
 41‘And as for the aliens who are not from Your people...  
  
 42‘When they come to this place that’s been prepared as Your Home to pray, 43please listen to them from the heavens and do everything that they ask, so that all the people on the earth will know Your Name and come to fear You…  
  
 ‘Just as Your people IsraEl should know that Your Name has been called upon this Temple that I built.  
  
 44‘And if Your people must go to war against their enemies (following Your directions), and if they pray in the Name of the Lord in this city that You’ve chosen and in this Temple that I’ve built to Your Name... 45Please listen to their prayers and supplications from heaven and bring them justice.  
  
 46‘And when they sin against You (for there’s no man who doesn’t sin) and You hand them over to their enemies who thereafter carry them away as captives into a land that’s nearby or far away;  
  
 47‘And if, in the land where they are, they turn back and start begging for Your [help], saying:  
  
 ‘We have sinned; we have done wrong; we have acted lawlessly!’  
  
 48‘And they turn back to You with their whole hearts and souls – there in the land of their enemies who took them there, and pray to You in the direction of the land that You gave to their ancestors, to the city that You’ve chosen, and to the Temple that I built to Your Name... 49Please listen from the heavens and from the home that has been prepared for You.  
  
 50‘Forgive the wrongs that they did when they sinned against You, and for the wicked ways in which they’ve disregarded You, then give compassion to the ones who took them as captives so they’ll pity them.  
  
 51‘For they’re Your people and Your inheritance… They’re the ones whom You led out of the land of Egypt and from the midst of that iron-foundry furnace.  
  
 52‘May Your eyes and Your ears [always] be open to the cries of Your servants and to the pleas of Your people, IsraEl.  
  
 ‘Please listen to them, no matter why they’re calling to You... 53Because, You’ve drawn them and set them apart for Yourself as an inheritance from among all the peoples of the earth, and You spoke to them through Your servant Moses when You led our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, O Lord Jehovah.’  
  
  
54And after Solomon finished his prayer and his requests to Jehovah, he stood up before the Altar of Jehovah (because he’d been kneeling before it), then he raised his arms towards heaven 55and he blest the whole assembly of IsraEl in a loud voice, saying:  
  
 56‘Praise Jehovah, for He’s brought rest to His people IsraEl today, just as He promised among all the many things that He said. For, not a word of the many things that He said through His servants has failed to come true!  
  
 57‘May Jehovah our God be with us, as He’s been with our ancestors.  
  
 ‘May He not abandon us or turn from us.  
  
 58‘May He move our hearts towards Him, so we’ll follow in all His ways and keep the Commandments and orders that He gave to our ancestors.  
  
 59‘And may all the things that I’ve begged for here before Jehovah our God come true today!  
  
 ‘May they be heard by Jehovah our God day and night, and may He always do the right thing for His servant and for His people IsraEl, day in and day out, 60so that all the people on the earth will come to know that Jehovah is The God, and that there is no other!  
  
 61‘May our hearts become perfect to Jehovah our God, and may we follow His orders and keep His Commandments in holiness, as we are doing today.’  
  
  
62Then the king and all the sons of IsraEl offered sacrifices before Jehovah.  
  
63King Solomon offered 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep as a peace offering to Jehovah.  
  
Then the king inaugurated the Temple of Jehovah before all the sons of IsraEl.  
  
64On that holy day, the king stood in the middle of the courtyard (in front of the Temple of Jehovah) and prepared whole burnt offerings as sacrifices. He offered the fat of the peace offerings there, since the bronze Altar that was before Jehovah was just too small and it couldn’t handle all the whole burnt-offerings, gift offerings, and peace-offering sacrifices.  
  
  
65Thereafter, Solomon held a holiday feast that was attended by all in IsraEl.  
  
It was a huge gathering, for people had come from as far away as HaMath and the [Nile] River to stand before Jehovah God at the Temple that [Solomon] had built.  
  
They ate, drank, and rejoiced before Jehovah their God for 7 days!  
  
66Then on the 8th day, [Solomon] sent the people away, and they offered ages of blessings to the king as they left... So they all returned to their tents rejoicing over all the good things that Jehovah had done for His servant David and for His people IsraEl.