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⁵⁴ And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. ⁵⁵ Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying: ⁵⁶ "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses. ⁵⁷ May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us, ⁵⁸ that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers. ⁵⁹ And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require, ⁶⁰ that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; *there is no other.* ⁶¹ Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day."
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1. Solomon blesses the people

a. After Sol.'s prayer, he both blesses the assembly & challenges them to faithfulness

b. Solomon's blessing was based upon God's faithfulness to Israel

- a1. God had fulfilled all the promises that he had given to Israel through Moses
- a2. Isr. was given the Promise Land
- a3. Israel's enemies were defeated
- a4. Israel now experienced peace on all sides

2. Solomon desires that God continue to bless Israel

a. Solomon asks God to *incline our hearts* to keep his commands, statutes, & judgments

- a1. This is the one thing God will not do
- a2. God will give the knowledge, strength, & motivation to serve him, but he will not force compliance or devotion to himself
- a3. Gen. 4:7; 1 Kn. 18:21; Jos. 24:15 God will offer us a choice, warning, & an encouragement to serve him, but he will not override our will if we choose not to

b. Ezk. 36:26 God promised that he would one day change their stony heart to a heart of flesh

- a1. Like the strength given to Samson & signs given to Moses, God will impose righteousness on his people
- a2. Until God imposes holiness upon us, we are responsible to choose to be holy
 - a1. 2 Cor. 10:3-5 God gives us the power to be holy
 - a2. 1 Cor. 3:12-15 God gives us the motivation to be holy
 - a3. Eph. 4:22-24 we must choose holiness daily (Eph. 5:18)

c. It would be much easier to bypass our will & have God impose his will on us, but he could not reward our obedience if we had no choice but to obey

3. A plea for God to heed Solomon's prayer

a. Sol. asks that God hear & continually heed his prayer (keeping them close to Him)

- a1. Wants God to promote Solomon's cause based upon the covenant
- a2. Sol. relies heavily on the Mosaic & Davidic Covenants

b. Solomon adds the God should heed his prayer so that the entire world will know that He is the true God

c. Solomon ends by imploring the assembly to keep God's laws & be faithful to him

- a1. Solomon does not follow this advice as his many foreign wives turned his heart against God
- a2. The high set words were ideals that many in Israel wanted to follow, but did not have the desire, commitment, & perseverance to maintain

d. Holiness is a single dedication to God, submitting all matters of life from thought to deed under his authority: simple prayer of dedication isn't enough

e. It is the walk & not the talk that reveals the soul