

TEMPLE BLESSING. 1 KN. 8:54-61. 07/31/22. #23.

=====
⁶²Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD. ⁶³And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD. ⁶⁴On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings. ⁶⁵At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven *more* days—fourteen days. ⁶⁶On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the LORD had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.
=====

1. The great sacrificial feast

- a. It is hard to imagine making the number of sacrifices in one day mentioned in this passage
 - a1. 22,000 bulls (1/4 of what is slaughtered daily in the US)
 - a2. 120,000 sheep
- b. The meat offerings are In addition to the peace or grain offerings
 - a1. The bronze offering in the main sanctuary was too small for the amount of animals
 - a2. The sacrifices had to be done in the outer court (took many priests & Levites)
- c. The offerings were for thanksgiving & dedication
 - a1. A renewal of vows to the Lord
 - a2. Commitment must come with celebration or the celebration means little
- d. The animals were consumed by the people in a 14 day feast (the people shared in the celebration)
 - a1. The assembly had come from the far north (Hamath, NW of Damascus) to the Brook of Egypt, S of Gaza in the south
 - a2. The meat fed hundreds of thousands
- e. God allowed sacrifices to him to be used as food for the people at the feast (Tabernacles)

2. Of feasts and faith

- a. Celebrations were great & ordained of the Lord
 - a1. Celebration of blessings & deliverance
 - a2. Celebration of God's promises
 - b. Celebrations did not guarantee commitment
 - a1. God's blessing should be celebrated
 - a2. God deserves praise for all the blessings he bestows (food, shelter, family, health...)
 - a3. God's blessings should not be taken for granted (not entitled to God's grace)
 - c. Dt. 28 God's continual blessings were contingent upon his people's obedience to him
 - a1. God was very patient with them & they took advantage of it (Hab. 1)
 - a2. Gen. 6 God will not always strive with us
 - a3. Pv. 29:1 eventually justice is meted out
 - d. We often want the blessings of God without cost
 - a1. Jam. 4:1-4 sense of entitlement
 - a2. 1 Cor. 3 a sense of independence
 - a3. Job 1; 2 Cor. 12 we tend to feel ill-used if discomfort or sorrow enters our lives
 - e. Rm. 2 God's grace & blessing is to demonstrate his goodness to us & draw us close to him
 - f. Celebration of his goodness is to motivate us to continue to serve the good God
- ### 3. Dismissal to life
- a. As Israel went home after the dedication, they could choose to serve God or fall back to serving self
 - a1. The tendency was to revert back to sin
 - a2. Under Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Ahab, other wicked kings, Israel worshipped idols, violated the Law, & were immoral
 - b. Celebrating God's goodness is not the same as being dedicated to following God (Eph. 4)
 - c. God only can be celebrated if he is worshipped, & he can only be worshipped if he is obeyed
 - a1. The love of Word, witness, praying, & serving determines our spirituality
 - a2. Jam. 2 lip service is empty, but faith is seen