

## 1 Kings 8

Verses 1-11

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' *households* of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David, which is Zion. <sup>2</sup> All the men of Israel assembled themselves to King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> Then all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. <sup>4</sup> They brought up the ark of the Lord and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils, which were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites brought them up. <sup>5</sup> And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who were assembled to him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen they could not be counted or numbered.

<sup>2</sup> All the men of Israel assembled themselves to King Solomon at the feast, in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

This was the feast of Tabernacles, one of the three feasts when all the men of Israel were required to be present.

See chart 805

Jewish Feasts						
Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Passover	Lev. 23:05	Nisan 14 At twilight	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Oldest son saved from death
Festival of Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:6-8	Nisan 15-21	March/April	Day 1 & 7 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 28:16-24	The hasty flight from Egypt
Offering the First Fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	After the Sabbath	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Beginning of the barley harvest
Feast Of Weeks (Pentecost)	Lev. 23:15-22	50 days after F.F.	May/June	Special Sabbath	Numbers 28:26-31	beginning of the wheat harvest.
Festival of Trumpets	Lev. 23:23-25	Tishri 1	September	Special Sabbath	Numbers 29:1-6	Civil New Year
Day of Atonement	Lev. 23:26-32	Tishri 10	Sept/Oct	Sabbath	Numbers 29:7-11	Forgiveness of sin for the nation
Tabernacles Temp. Shelters	Lev. 23:33-34	Tishri 15-22	Sept/Oct	Day 1 & 8 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 29:12-38	Wilderness End of harvest

Solomon had finished building the Temple in the eighth month but the dedication ceremonies were delayed for eleven months so that they might coincide with the Feast of Tabernacles.

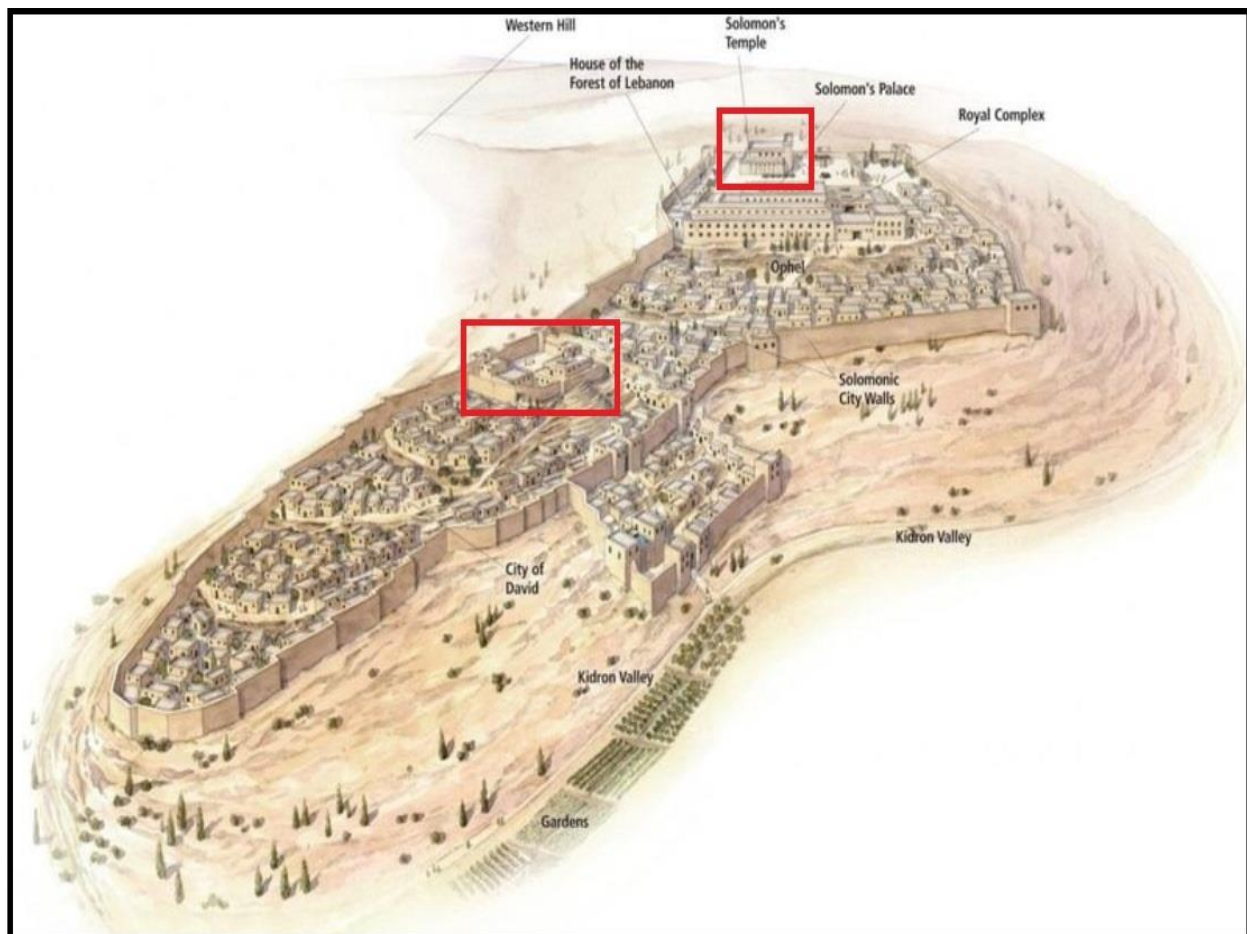
See 1 Kings 6:38

<sup>38</sup> **And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, that is, the eighth month, the house was finished in all its parts and in accordance with all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.**

<sup>3</sup> **Then all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. <sup>4</sup> They brought up the ark of the Lord and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils, which were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites brought them up.**

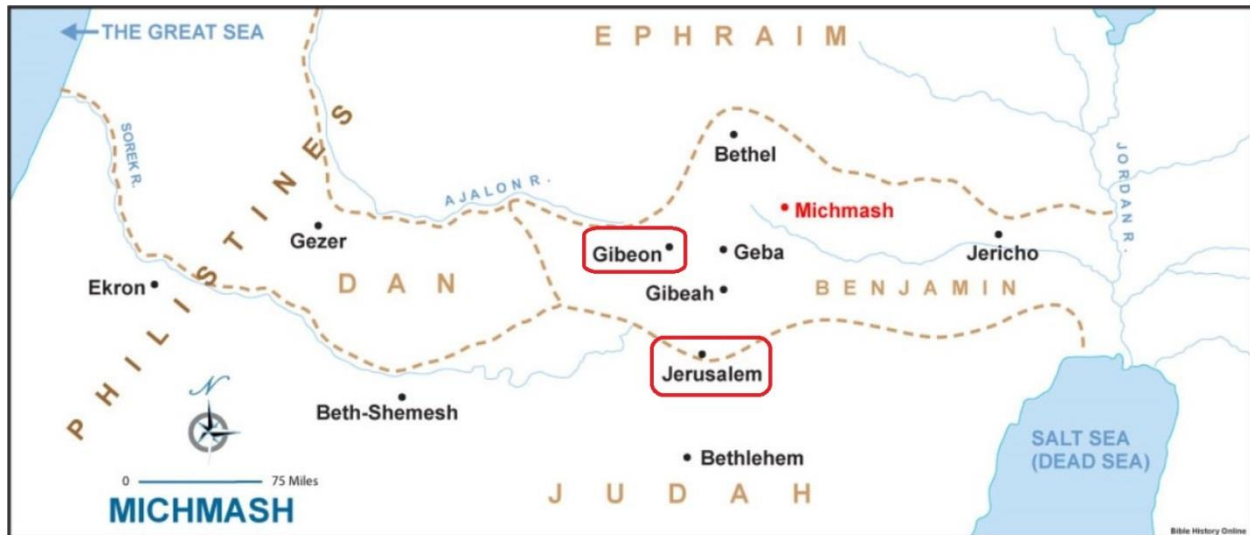
The ark was already in the city of David so it was only a short distance to the temple.

See pic 810



It would be interesting to know what happened to the Tabernacle at Gibeon.

See pic 815 Gibeon



Verses 6 - 11

<sup>6</sup> Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim. <sup>7</sup> For the cherubim spread *their* wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles from above. <sup>8</sup> But the poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; they are there to this day. <sup>9</sup> There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the house, to the most holy place, under the wings of the cherubim.

These were the large cherubim that spanned the entire room.

See pic 820





<sup>7</sup> For the cherubim spread *their* wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim made a covering over the ark and its poles from above. <sup>8</sup> But the poles were so long that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen outside; they are there to this day.

As one can see the poles on the Ark reached from the back of the room to the front.

See Video 825 8.44 Staves of the ark

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.44.html>

<sup>9</sup> There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the sons of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

Originally the Ark included 3 items.

See Pic 830



See Hebrews 9:4

<sup>3</sup> Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup> having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's staff which budded, and the tablets of the covenant; <sup>5</sup> and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the atoning cover; but about these things we cannot now speak in detail.

The manna and the rod may have been lost when the Philistines captured the Ark.

Again the poles are shown on the wrong sides of the Ark.



**<sup>10</sup> It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the Lord, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.**

The Lord marked this occasion with a visible emblem of his Divine presence.

Verses 12 - 21

**<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon said,**

**“The Lord has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud.**

**<sup>13</sup> “I have surely built You a lofty house,  
A place for Your dwelling forever.”**

**<sup>14</sup> Then the king faced about and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. <sup>15</sup> He said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David and has fulfilled *it* with His hand, saying, <sup>16</sup> ‘Since the day that I brought My people Israel from Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel *in which* to build a house that My name might be there, but I chose David to be over My people Israel.’ <sup>17</sup> Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>18</sup> But the Lord said to my father David, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who will be born to you, he will build the house for my name.’ <sup>20</sup> Now the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. <sup>21</sup> There I have set a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord, which He made with our fathers when He brought them from the land of Egypt.”**

**<sup>12</sup> Then Solomon said, “The Lord has said that He would dwell in the thick cloud.**

There were several times that God appeared in thick clouds

1. At the giving of the Law.

See Exodus 20:18

**<sup>18</sup> And all the people were watching *and hearing* the thunder and the lightning flashes, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it all*, they trembled and stood at a distance.**

2. This is what David wrote about God when he was hiding from King Saul.

See Psalms 18:9 - 11

**<sup>9</sup> He also bowed the heavens down low, and came down  
With thick darkness under His feet.**

**<sup>10</sup> He rode on a cherub and flew;  
And He sped on the wings of the wind.**

**<sup>11</sup> He made darkness His hiding place, His canopy around Him,  
Darkness of waters, thick clouds.**

**<sup>12</sup> From the brightness before Him passed His thick clouds,  
Hailstones and coals of fire.**

**<sup>13</sup> “I have surely built You a lofty house,  
A place for Your dwelling forever.”**

Solomon was not able to fulfill what he promised to God because a physical building will not last. However, God did promise that He would raise up a descendant of David that would build a house for His name and God would establish the throne of His kingdom forever.

See 2 Samuel 7:12-13

**The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. <sup>12</sup> When your days are finished and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come from you, and I will establish his kingdom.**

**<sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

**<sup>16</sup> ‘Since the day that I brought My people Israel from Egypt, I did not choose a city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house that My name might be there, but I chose David to be over My people Israel.’**

The Tabernacle was located in the city of Shiloh for 300 plus years but it was a tent.

**<sup>18</sup> But the Lord said to my father David, ‘Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart**

David’s heart was right but his thinking about what God wanted was wrong.

**<sup>20</sup> Now the Lord has fulfilled His word which He spoke; for I have risen in place of my father David and sit on the throne of Israel, as the Lord promised, and have built the house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel.**

Solomon didn't understand what God had said in 2 Samuel 7. God was talking about his only begotten son and the house he built (the Church), a body of people who follow the Lord. The church is not or ever will be a physical building.

However, one should not criticize Solomon for not understanding that prophesy because it had a dual aspect to it. Parts of that prophesy reflected Solomon's time in history and other parts concerned the time of the Christ about 1,000 years later.

Verses 22-26

**Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. <sup>23</sup> He said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and *showing* lovingkindness to your servants who walk before You with all their heart, <sup>24</sup> who have kept with Your servant, my father David, that which You have promised him; indeed, You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with your hand as it is this day. <sup>25</sup> Now therefore, O Lord, the God of Israel, keep with your servant David my father that which You have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me as you have walked.' <sup>26</sup> Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word, I pray, be confirmed which you have spoken to your servant, my father David.**

**<sup>25</sup> Now therefore, O Lord, the God of Israel, keep with your servant David my father that which You have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, **if** only your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me as you have walked.**

A covenant is always conditional. Both parties must keep their part of the agreement. Verse 23 confirms this fact when it says "**keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to your servants who walk before You with all their heart,**

David having someone on the throne was conditional. Most of David's line failed to follow God, and Babylon ruled over them for 70 years. God was very patient with the sons of David but at some point in time His word is always confirmed.



Verses 27-30

**<sup>27</sup> “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house which I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which your servant prays before you today; <sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which you have said, ‘my name shall be there,’ to listen to the prayer which your servant shall pray toward this place. <sup>30</sup> Listen to the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.**

**<sup>27</sup> “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house which I have built!**

Solomon understood that no physical building could contain God but it was a place that people could look to as a representation of His presence. Praying toward the direction of the temple was symbolic of being in God’s presence and that he would hear their prayers and forgive their sins.

**The remainder of this prayer has 7 specific petitions:**

I. FOR GOD TO DETERMINE THE TRUTH IN DISPUTES

Verses 31- 32

**“If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath, and he comes *and* takes an oath before Your altar in this house, <sup>32</sup> then hear in heaven and act and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked by bringing his way on his own head and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.**

See Exodus 22:10-13

**<sup>10</sup> “If someone gives his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep *for him*, and it dies or is injured or is driven away while no one is looking, <sup>11</sup> an oath before the Lord shall be taken by the two of them that he has not laid a hand on his neighbor’s property; and its owner shall accept *it*, and he shall not *be compelled to make restitution*. <sup>12</sup> But if it is actually stolen from him, he shall make restitution to its owner. <sup>13</sup> If it is all torn to pieces, have him bring it as evidence; he shall not *be compelled to make restitution* for what has been torn to pieces.**

## 2. FOR GOD TO FORGIVE ISRAEL WHEN THEY REPENT

Verse 33-34

**When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy, because they have sinned against You, **if they turn to You again** and confess Your name and pray and make supplication to You in this house, <sup>34</sup> then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.**

Israel was under God's protective hand as long as they remained faithful to Him but if they sinned as a nation against the Lord they would be defeated in war. Verse 34 could be seen as prophesy that Israel would be deported.

The Northern tribes were deported and never came back which suggests that they never repented of their sin. Judah was deported but came back after a 70 year stint in Babylon.

## 3. PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM DROUGHT

Verse 35-36

**When the heavens are shut up and there is **no rain**, because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and confess Your name and turn from their sin when You afflict them, <sup>36</sup> then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and of Your people Israel, indeed, teach them the good way in which they should walk. And send rain on Your land, which You have given Your people for an inheritance.**

During David's reign there was drought for 3 years but when David sought the Lord he found out that Israel was being punished for the sin of King Saul.

See 2 Samuel 21:1

**Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David sought the presence of the Lord. And the Lord said, "*It is because of Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.*"**

There was also a drought in the time of King Ahab a very evil king.

See 1 Kings 16:30

**<sup>30</sup> Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord more than all who were before him.**

#### 4. PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM VARIOUS PROBLEMS

Verses 37-40

**If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight or mildew, locust or grasshopper, if their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness *there is*,<sup>38</sup> whatever prayer or supplication is made by any man or by all Your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house;<sup>39</sup> then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart You know, for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men,<sup>40</sup> that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You have given to our fathers.**

**If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence, if there is blight or mildew, locust or grasshopper, if their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness *there is*,**

The problems included famine, pestilence, blight or mildew, locust or grasshopper, if their enemy besieges them, plague, and sickness.

The first 5 involved issues with their crops and the last two with the health of the people.

#### 5. PRAYER FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH

Verses 41-43

**“Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your name’s sake<sup>42</sup> (for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house,<sup>43</sup> hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear You, as *do* Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name.**

Solomon saw the bigger picture or grander mission that God had in His covenant with Israel. God wanted Israel to fear and love Him but He also wanted that for all the nations of the world. In general Israel failed in this mission but God succeeded in bringing His son and the Gospel message to all of mankind.

## 6. PETITION FOR SUCCESS IN BATTLES AGAINST ENEMIES

Verse 44-45

**When Your people go out to battle against their enemy**, by whatever way You shall send them, and they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name, <sup>45</sup> then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

Israel won a number of great battles that never would have been won if not for the intervening hand of God.

## 7. PETITION FOR ISRAEL WHEN THEY ARE MADE CAPTIVES AND CARRIED AWAY TO ANOTHER LAND

Verses 46-53

**When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near; <sup>47</sup> if they take thought in the land where they have been taken captive, and repent and make supplication to You in the land of those who have taken them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and have committed iniquity, we have acted wickedly’; <sup>48</sup> if they return to You** with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who have taken them captive, and pray to You toward their land which You have given to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name; <sup>49</sup> then hear their prayer and their supplication in heaven Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause, <sup>50</sup> and forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You, and make them *objects of compassion* before those who have taken them captive, that they may have compassion on them <sup>51</sup> (for they are Your people and Your inheritance which You have brought forth from Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace), <sup>52</sup> that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and to the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You. <sup>53</sup> For You have separated them from all the peoples of the earth as Your inheritance, as You spoke through Moses Your servant, when You brought our fathers forth from Egypt, O Lord God.”

This request is similar to the prayer in verses 33 & 34 above. Israel was slow to understand some messages (or unwilling to obey) so Solomon used repetition to drive the message home.



Verses 54-61

**When Solomon had finished praying this entire prayer and supplication to the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread toward heaven. <sup>55</sup> And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying:**

**<sup>56</sup> “Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant. <sup>57</sup> May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us, <sup>58</sup> that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, which He commanded our fathers. <sup>59</sup> And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near to 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 requires, <sup>60</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else. <sup>61</sup> Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.”**

**When Solomon had finished praying this entire prayer and supplication to the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread toward heaven.**

This is the first mention of kneeling for prayer in the Bible.

**<sup>59</sup> And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the Lord, be near to 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 requires, <sup>60</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else. <sup>61</sup> Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.”**

Israel had a mission to be wholly devoted to God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments. By this other nations would come to know God.

This request is a repeat of verses 41 thru 43. The message Solomon gave to Israel was quite clear. They were to set the example for the rest of the world. Unfortunately, they often sought to be like the world rather than being an example to the world.

An amazing event occurred when Solomon finished praying to the Lord.

See 2 Chronicles 7:1- 3

**Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. <sup>2</sup> And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. <sup>3</sup> All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the Lord upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the Lord, *saying*, "Certainly He is good, certainly His faithfulness is everlasting."**

This was a miraculous sign to show God's approval.

When the people of Israel saw what happened they bowed down with their faces to the ground.

Fire coming down from heaven to consume sacrifices only happened a few times in the history of Israel.

1. See Leviticus 9:23-24

**<sup>23</sup> And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out and blessed the people, the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. <sup>24</sup> Then fire went out from the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the portions of fat on the altar; and when all the people saw *it*, they shouted and fell face downward.**

2. See 1 Kings 18:38

**<sup>38</sup> Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench. (This took place during the time of Elijah)**

3. See 1 Chronicles 21:26

**<sup>26</sup> Then David built an altar there to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. And he called to the Lord, and He answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.**

Verses 62-66

**Now the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifice before the Lord. <sup>63</sup> Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord. <sup>64</sup> On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the Lord, because there he offered the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat of the peace offerings; for the bronze altar that was before the Lord was too small to hold the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat of the peace offerings. <sup>65</sup> So Solomon observed the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt, before the Lord our God, for seven days and seven *more* days, *even* fourteen days. <sup>66</sup> On the eighth day he sent the people away and they blessed the king. Then they went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the Lord had shown to David His servant and to Israel His people.**

**<sup>63</sup> Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord.**

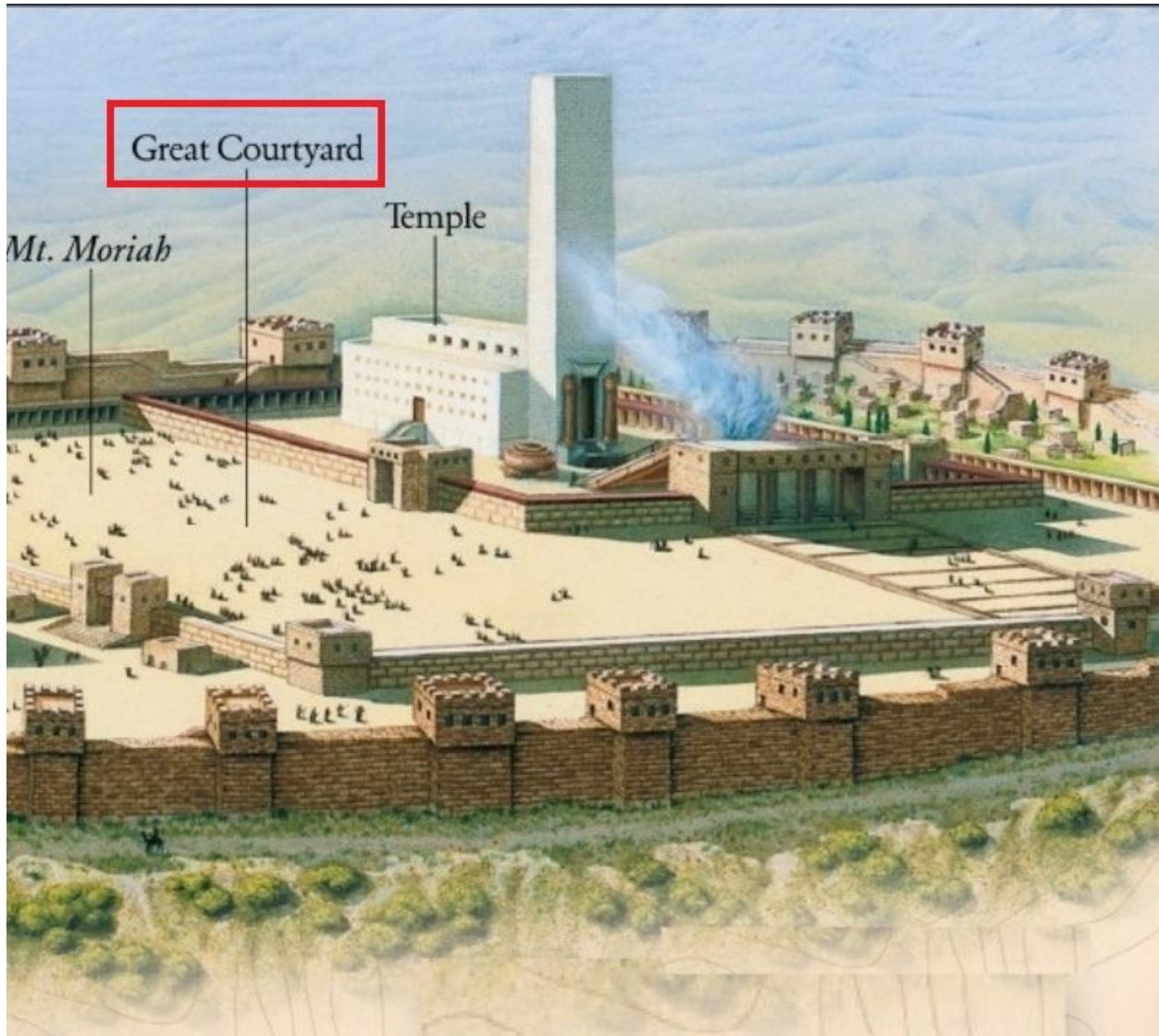
This sounds like a huge amount of animals but there were millions of people in Jerusalem for around 23 days and this was a time of great feasting.

**<sup>64</sup> On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the Lord, because there he offered the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat of the peace offerings; for the bronze altar that was before the Lord was too small to hold the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat of the peace offerings.**

The bronze altar that was in front of the temple was used to cook the meat of the peace offerings while the following were cooked or burnt on other altars that were placed in the middle of the courtyard.

1. Burnt offerings
2. Grain offerings
3. The fat of the peace offerings.

See Pics 835



<sup>65</sup> So Solomon observed the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt, before the Lord our God, for seven days and seven *more* days, even fourteen days.

The feast of Tabernacles took place from the 15th thru the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Concerning the 7 more days it should be noted that the Septuagint does not have this recorded in the text.

**And Solomon kept the feast in that day, and all Israel with him, even a great assembly from the entering in of Hamath to the river of Egypt, before the Lord our God in the house which he built, eating and drinking, and rejoicing before the Lord our God seven days.**



<sup>66</sup> **On the eighth day he sent the people away and they blessed the king. Then they went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the Lord had shown to David His servant and to Israel His people.**

This would have been the day after the Feast of tabernacles. The word for tents here should probably be Tabernacles. The eighth day was a day of rest so the people remained in Jerusalem until the next day.

See Leviticus 23:39

<sup>39</sup> **On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the Lord for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.**