

## Life of King Solomon: The Ark

### STUDY #12: 1 Kings 8:1-21 & 2 Chronicles 5:1-14

#### TEXT:

#### 1 Kings 8:1-21

v. 1 Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David.

v. 2 All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

v. 3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark, v. 4 and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up, v. 5 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

v. 6 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

v. 7 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles.

v. 8 These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

v. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

v.10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord.

v.11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

v.12 Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud;

v.13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

v.14 While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them.

v.15 Then he said: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David. For he said,

v.16 'Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there, but I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.'

v.17 "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

v.18 But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart.

v.19 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.'

v.20 "The Lord has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

v.21 I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers when he brought them out of Egypt."

## **2 Chronicles 5:1-14**

v. 1 When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple

v. 2 Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David

v. 3 And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month.

v. 4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark,

v. 5 and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up;

v. 6 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

v. 7 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

v. 8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles.

v. 9 These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

v.10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

v.11 The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions.

v.12 All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.

v.13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud,

v.14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

## INTRODUCTION:

### (The Roots of Inner Peace: Finding Fresh Courage and Strength in the Face of Fear and Worry by Don Hawkins)

From the instant my plane blew up around me, I opened my heart to God's love. That day, five miles up, with death at my front door, I found my key to life." Those words describe the experience of Captain Scott O'Grady, whose F-16 was shot down over Bosnia on June 2, 1995. O'Grady managed to evade capture for almost a week, living off leaves and insects. After six days, Marine helicopters from the *USS Kearsarge* rescued the young aviator. Within a span of four days he went from wandering in the woods of Bosnia to being welcomed at the White House by President Clinton.

When Scott O'Grady described finding his key to life, he showed that what mattered most wasn't fame and recognition from the media or the president, public acclaim for heroic military exploits, or a contract for a book. Instead, he had discovered what he called "incredible freedom, and a joy that was 'unbounded.'" His priorities were turned around. After his ordeal, the things that mattered most to O'Grady were faith in God, the love of family and friends, and good health. As he explained to the news media the day after his rescue, "Beyond that, everything became negotiable." He adopted the motto "Never sweat the small stuff"—and had realized that almost everything in life is small stuff.

This young man had learned to deal with fear and worry by finding fresh courage from a life rooted in inner peace.

p. 13

## LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUR OF CRISIS

David...patriot, soldier, writer and statesman gave his people the boon of a unique capital, Jerusalem. Now they needed a center for national worship—a home for Jehovah.

Solomon was chosen for the task with the site being in the heart of the city, the rugged summit of Mount Moriah. According to I Chronicles 28:19, "every part of the blueprint was given from the hand of the Lord." Its costly splendor included:

230 million dollars in gold. 50 million dollars in silver.  
800 tons of bronze and 4,600 tons of iron.  
Great qualities of onyx, precious stones, costly jewels and tons of marble.

"Huge trunks of cedar and cypress were sent rushing down the heights of Lebanon by schleppage (slang, to move with effort), and laboriously dragged by road or river to the shore. There they were constructed into immense rafts, which were floated a 100 miles along the coast of Joppa, where they were again dragged with enormous toil for 35 miles up the steep and rocky roads to Jerusalem."

In seven years the 153,000 [183,850] workers finished Solomon's Temple, the palace of Jehovah. "It was to be a forum, fortress, university and sanctuary of the Jewish nation." The actual building was architecturally a poor and commonplace structure: 90' long, 35' broad and 45' high. It was a home for God in the midst of His people, not meant to be a large congregational meeting hall nor a stadium for a Billy Graham rally.

The Taj Mahal took 22 years to complete with 20,000 workmen; 300,000 laborers spent 20 years to build a Egyptian Pyramid; 200 years to build and another 400 years to furnish the Artemis' temple in Ephesus; 500 years to give Westminster Abbey its beauty.

Awesome! Taking just seven years the house of God was built in "majestic silence." The house was made of stones (one stone on the Wailing Wall is 38 feet long by 7 feet high and weighs more than 100 tons) made ready before they were brought from the quarry, so that there was neither hammer, nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building. Read about it in I Kings 6:7.

(From "The Challenge" by Robert D. Foster, February 1, 1997)

(Cowboy Curmudgeon and Other Poems by Wallace McRae)

**THE OLD MEN IN THE LOBBY**

The old men in the lobby,  
 Their frames are lean and spare.  
 They stare and wait expectantly,  
 Each in his own chair.  
 They judge like black-robed justices,  
 In court, beneath the stair.  
 Their verdict's always, "Guilty"—  
 Consistent, if not fair.

The old men in the lobby,  
 Wear expressions wary.  
 Their rounded backs and stringy legs  
 Bespeak the loads they carry.  
 Is the load a long-dead love  
 They did, or didn't marry?  
 The crushing load of coming death  
 That grows, as here they tarry?

The old men in the lobby,  
 Were they ever young?  
 Did they once grasp the keg of life,  
 And gulp wine from its bung?  
 Did they join the raucous song,  
 As loudly it was sung?  
 Or vault life's swaying ladder  
 To the highest giddy rung?

The old men in the lobby,  
 Were they always old?  
 And always on the sidelines  
 Viewing battles, bold?  
 For safety, and complacency,  
 Was all adventure sold?  
 Were they once flushed with passion,  
 Or always grey, and cold?

The old men in the lobby,  
 Watch life show its lies.  
 Stoically they survey it  
 With baleful, rheumy eyes.  
 What are the secrets that they hold,  
 As they gurgle, burp, and sigh?  
 Some day, too soon, I'll understand,  
 When an old grey man am I.

pp. 60-61

(Sportin' a 'Tude by Patsy Clairmont)

I don't want anyone to bring up my age. If you know I'm old and I know I'm old, isn't it kind of redundant? Instead of "at your age," I would have liked him to say, "Winter's winds have weakened your willows, and the sap's lodged in your limbs."

p. 77

(A Gentle Thunder: Hearing God Through the Storm by Max Lucado)

Thought you might enjoy a few:

"You know you are getting older when you try to straighten out the wrinkles in your socks only to find you aren't wearing any."

"At twenty we don't care what the world thinks of us; at thirty we start to worry about what the world thinks of us; at forty we realize the world isn't thinking of us at all."

"I've gotten to the age where I need my false teeth and hearing aid before I can ask where I left my glasses."

"Forty is when you stop patting yourself on the back and start patting yourself under the chin."

I'll leave it to Dave Barry to sum it up:

As a person starts reaching this milestone (your fortieth birthday) you need to take time to learn about the biological changes that are taking place within your body, so you will be better able to understand and cope with the inevitable and completely natural elements of the aging process—the minor aches, pains, dental problems, intestinal malfunctions, muscle deterioration, emotional instability, memory lapses, hearing and vision loss, impotence, seizures, growths, prostate problems, greatly reduced limb function, massive coronary failure, death and, of course, painful hemorrhoid swelling—that can make up this exciting adventure we call "middle age."<sup>1</sup>

1. William Barclay, *The Gospel of John*, vol. 2 (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975), 222. pp. 60-61



**You're My Best Friend**  
*by Don Williams*

You placed gold on my finger,  
 You brought love like I've never known.  
 You gave life to our children,  
 And to me a reason to go on.

***Refrain:***

You're my bread when I'm hungry.  
 You're my shelter from troubled winds.  
 You're my anchor in life's ocean.  
 But most of all, you're my best friend.

When I need hope and inspiration,  
 You're always strong when I'm tired and weak.  
 I could search this whole world over,  
 You'd still be everything that I need.

***Refrain*** (twice)

Last week I received Bob Foster's "The Challenge" which is a biweekly letter from the heart of a man to men. His letter this week was titled "Leadership in the Hour of Crisis" and was a sketch of King Solomon. I enjoyed it so much I want to share a little of it with you at this time to prepare us for this particular study.

SOLOMON, meaning shalom, peace...the 10th son of David, the 2nd by Bathsheba and the 3rd king of Israel who reigned for 40 years. It was a cloudless dawn of a spring morning when his dad said: "My son, be strong and show thyself a man." I Kings 2:2

What a showcase of leadership. From his family upbringing, watching his mentor father David, with a tender heart praying for divine wisdom, to the seven years of building the Temple and his fabulous message of dedication and prayer.

Three words describe Solomon's early reign: Wisdom, Wealth and Worship. "The Lord his God was with him and exalted him greatly" so it was a summer with it's bountiful harvest but obvious evidences of an early fall!

"In an unparalleled operation of cosmetic surgery, Solomon re-constructed the sagging face of Israel. For a duration of at least 20 years, Solomon smoothed the country's architectural wrinkles with pools, houses, resorts, stables, fortresses and his own exquisite home and the breathtaking Temple."

This son of David was a combined Einstein, Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winner. In him we find "authentic spirituality wedded to academic excellence." He spoke 3,000 proverbs, composed 1,005 songs and lectured on such topics as trees, animals, birds and fish. "Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon." I Kings 4:34

When the Queen of Sheba came 1,400 miles to hear his wisdom, "it took her breathe away." He is the outstanding type of earthly greatness, a man of affairs and of wisdom incarnate. A great ruler, loving peace and using power drastically. His judgments became precedents and his intuitions were better than wise men's arguments.

"As we wrap up this thumbnail sketch of Solomon, we see that he was indeed a multitalented, live-life-to-the-hilt type of leader. He used the gifts God had given him to the fullest, and by doing so, gave glory to God." Many are the lessons to be learned from this author, company, architect, administrator, diplomat and businessman."

(From "The Challenge" by Robert D. Foster, January 15, 1997)

Lockyear says:

In contrast to David's record of piety, Solomon's life is composed mainly of details about buildings, organizations and commerce. Through the consolidation of the throne by his father, prospects were never brighter for the nation than when Solomon succeeded David, and he took full advantage of David's preparations, especially for the Temple. Building operations are detailed for us in I Kings 6-10. Solomon practically remade Jerusalem with new streets, walls and public service buildings. It was amid the dazzling beauty of his unique architectural creations that Solomon held court in hitherto unknown grandeur.

Chiefest among his creations were the "House of God" or "Solomon's Temple," which took seven years to build, and his own gorgeous palace, taking some thirteen years to complete. As to the Temple, God Himself designed it (I Chronicles 28:12, 19) and at its dedication took solemn possession of it. One of the wonders of that time, it was a building where scarcely anything appeared which was less valuable than silver and gold. Materials used on the magnificent structure cost millions of dollars.  
p. 111

J. Vernon McGee says:

In the chapter before us the ark of the covenant is brought into the completed temple, the Shekinah glory fills the house of the Lord, and Solomon gives his message and prayer of dedication.  
p. 264

McNeely observes:

Chapter 8 furnishes a climax to the first section of 1 Kings. The Temple dedication climaxed Solomon's accomplishments insofar as God was concerned. This is especially evident in 2 Chronicles. Not only is no reference made to Solomon's apostasy, but each king following Solomon is evaluated on the basis of his service to God through the prescribed rituals.

The chapter is easily divided into four sections. The first recounts the period of "moving in" (vv. 1-21). The most important item to be moved was the one article of furniture from the wilderness tent of meeting that was not replaced—the Ark of the Covenant. Next came the magnificent dedicatory prayer by Solomon (vv. 22-53); the third section is Solomon's exhortation (vv. 54-61); and the chapter concludes with commands to the people and a fourteen-day feast (vv. 54-66).

p. 47

Let us now take time to observe the text and the record of this phase of Solomon's life and rejoice in these two passages that are before us.

We will begin first with 1 Kings 8:1-21:

v. 1 Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David.

We are in the 11TH YEAR OF SOLOMON'S KINGDOM which lasts 40 years.

We are truly at the HIGH POINT. This is the PURPOSE and the PASSION of his life being fulfilled.

The Temple has been completed and many of the furnishings are already in place. It is now time to formally bring the Ark of the Lord's Covenant from Zion up to the new Temple and to put it in place.

This is the only piece of furniture from the wilderness tabernacle that will be used in worship in Solomon's temple. The other items are evidently stored there but not used in the services.

McNeely says:

The day of dedication finally arrived. Workers had labored seven years in its anticipation. Now a great convocation was scheduled for the seventh month of the year at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. All of Israel's major and minor leaders were called to this solemn gathering. Nothing like this had been witnessed since the day the tabernacle had been consecrated (Exod 40).

p. 47

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

After all the new furnishings, utensils, and accessories had been made and place in position (chap. 6; 7:13-51), **Solomon summoned** the people for the installation of **the ark** and the dedication of the temple.  
p. 503

Parker observes:

It is remarkable in connection with the dedication of the temple how the leading part was taken throughout by king Solomon. One would have thought that in the dedication of a sanctuary the leading men would have been the priests, Levites, scribes, and other persons distinctively identified with religious functions and responsibilities. We find, however, that exactly the contrary is the case. The priest occupied a second and tributary position, but it is the king who consecrates the sanctuary, and it is the king who offers the great prayer at its dedication.  
p. 305

v. 2 All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month.

DeVries commenting on the phrase:

“Every Israelite man,” the *hieros logos* assumes universal adult male participation in the dedication ceremony; no tribal, regional, or social segregation was allowed (cf. 2 Sam 6:1) since the temple was intended to be a powerful unifying symbol.

p. 124

"THE TIME OF THE FESTIVAL IN THE MONTH OF ETHANIM, THE SEVENTH MONTH."

1 Kings 6:38 tells us:

The temple was finished in "the month of Bul, the eighth month."

It is now ELEVEN MONTHS since the completion and all the furnishings are in place with the exception of the Ark. We now have this very special occasion coinciding with the feast of tabernacles.

v. 3 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the ark,

Solomon had done his homework and remembered well what happened to David when he had not read the instructions about how the ark was to be handled.

### 2 Samuel 6:3-7

They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals. When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

Solomon realizes the respect that is necessary for the ark which represents the presence of God with the people. He follows specifically the instructions with regard to the carrying of this ark.



v. 4 and they brought up the ark of the Lord and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up,

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

As God had prescribed, **the ark** was carried by **the priests** by means of long poles that passed through rings on its sides. It must have been a great day when the ark and the other **furnishings** of David's tabernacle were **carried** through the crowded streets of Jerusalem to their new home. Apparently the tabernacle and its utensils were set aside. The only piece of furniture installed in the temple that was not new was **the ark**.  
p. 503

McNeely says:

As the witnesses gathered, the priests began the procession that brought the earlier tabernacle and its furnishings to the new site. Many utensils for worship had been preserved from the tabernacle; with the exception of the Ark, all furnishings were replaced with newer and grander pieces.  
p. 47

"AND THEY BROUGHT UP THE ARK OF THE LORD [that is, the priests] AND THE TENT OF MEETING AND ALL THE SACRED FURNISHINGS IN IT. THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES CARRIED THEM UP."

v. 5 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

McNeely observes:

The importance of the Ark is evident by the detail given concerning its carrying, the place in which it was to be located, and the mention of its contents. In addition, Solomon stated that the Temple was built with the Ark in mind (8:20-21).

p. 47

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The temple courtyard buzzed with busy priests **sacrificing** more animals than **could** be **counted** as the people joyfully worshiped **the LORD**.

p. 503

Patrick & Lowth observe:

Here is no mention of Solomon's dancing before the ark as David did; for all holy men were not alike moved by God; their tempers and conditions being very different. Solomon was now in a state of great tranquillity, and constant pleasure; but David has been disturbed by the stroke upon Uzzah, a little before his great transport of joy, at the safe conduct of the ark to Jerusalem.

p. 318

v. 6 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

### 1 Kings 6:23-28

In the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high. One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip. The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. The height of each cherub was ten cubits. He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

These cherubim were each fifteen feet high and their wing span was fifteen feet.

“THE PRIESTS THEN BROUGHT THE ARK OF THE LORD'S COVENANT TO ITS PLACE IN THE INNER SANCTUARY OF THE TEMPLE, [that is, the Holy of Holies] THE MOST HOLY PLACE, AND PUT IT BENEATH THE WINGS OF THE [gold] CHERUBIM [that are also located in the Holy of Holies].”

v. 7 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles.

What a beautiful spectacle this must have been in the Holy of Holies to have all of this beautiful gold work in this place where God is going to be meeting with man in the days that are ahead.

v. 8 These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

These “POLES” had to be long enough so that the priests could carefully carry the ark without touching it. So they were extended beyond the ark itself quite a bit for that very purpose.

v. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

“HOREB” is another name for MOUNT SINAI.

These “STONE TABLETS” the Lord gave to Moses on the mountain are here placed in the ark and still remain there at this time.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

**The two stone tablets** of the Law **placed in** the ark by **Moses** were still there. They served to remind Israel that the nation was still under the blessings and responsibilities of the Mosaic Covenant.  
p. 503

v.10 When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord.

This is exactly what happened when the tabernacle was completed. We read in:

Exodus 40:34, 35

Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

Isn't it amazing that when man follows God's specific instructions and is obedient, the Lord graces such a venture with His presence.

Exodus 39:43

Moses inspected the work and saw that they had done it just as the Lord had commanded. So Moses blessed them.

EIGHT TIMES in Exodus 40 we see the phrase:

“AS THE LORD COMMANDED HIM” or

“AS THE LORD COMMANDED MOSES.”

Much of what we experience today is the lack of God’s presence and it ought to teach us that God will not grace us with His presence in the face of disobedience or unjudged sin in our lives.

### Exodus 33:9-11

As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent. The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

### Exodus 33:13, 14

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

**The cloud that filled the temple** was a visible representation of the Lord’s **glory**. A similar manifestation took place when the tabernacle was dedicated (Ex. 40:34-35).

p. 503

McNeely observes:

When the priests came out of the building, an awesome phenomenon occurred. The cloud of the glory of the Lord filled the house (2 Chron 7:1-2). This visible symbol of God's presence confirmed to Solomon and the people that the Lord was pleased with the work. The same confirmatory evidence marked the dedication of the tabernacle (Exod 40:34-35). The cloud did not remain visible to the people. After the dedication, it was visible only to the high priest when he entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement.  
p. 48

Delitzsch points out:

At the dedication of the tabernacle the glory of Jehovah in the cloud filled the sanctuary, so that Moses could not enter (Ex. xl. 34, 35); and so was it now. When the priests came out of the sanctuary, after putting the ark of the covenant in its place, the cloud filled the house of Jehovah, so that the priests could not stand to minister. The signification of this fact was the same on both occasions. The cloud, as the visible symbol of the gracious presence of God, filled the temple, as a sign that Jehovah the covenant-God had entered into it, and had chosen it as the scene of His gracious manifestation in Israel.  
p. 122

Gaebelein says:

When the ark had been placed the glory-cloud filled the house. Jehovah had appeared in His Glory to dwell in the house. And when that future Temple will be on the earth as seen by Ezekiel in his great Temple-vision, the Glory will return and fill the house, and more than that, the whole earth will be filled with His glory.  
p. 265

(Seeing Through: Reflecting God's Light in a Dark World by David Roper)

"Hell is nigh, but God is nigher; Circling us with hosts of fire."

*It lies around us like a cloud—*

*A world we do not see;*

—HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

p. 204

(Walking With Saints: Through the Best and Worst Times of Our Lives by Calvin Miller)

Henri Nouwen says that all of our lives may be freed of fear if we are content to glory in his presence:

**Three fathers used to go and visit blessed Anthony [St. Anthony: the "father of monks"] every year and two of them used to discuss their thoughts and the salvation of their souls with him, but the third always remained silent and did not ask him anything.**

**After a long time Abba Anthony said to him: "You often come here to see me, but you never ask me anything," and the other replied, "It is enough to see you, Father."<sup>9</sup>**

9. Henri J. M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1991) p. 94.

p. 30

(Even Eagles Need a Push by David McNally)

While we are here we should set goals and achieve them, make the best of things, make others feel good about themselves, and be happy with what we are and what we are doing.

—Janet Evans

p. 130



Solomon has realized his dream, he has accomplished his goal in the building of the temple and now this project comes to a successful termination in the affirmation by God Himself in gracing this dedication service with His presence.

(A Heart Like His: The Shaping of Character in the Choices of Life by Rebecca Manley Pippert)

I have a friend who learned his cholesterol count was extremely high, and his doctor told him he needed to lose some weight. He went to a registered dietician, expecting to hear from her the regular pitch: watch your calories, avoid high-fat foods, start exercising, and so on. Instead, she began, "There are basic laws of the universe that you have been violating. There is an objective basis to reality, and taking care of your health is part of that reality. Either you accept and conform to the way your body functions best, or you can continue to break the laws and suffer the inevitable consequences as you are now. Your high cholesterol count is a blessing in disguise, because it's telling you that you have gone off course."

She continued, "In order to change, you first must be very honest with yourself. You have not abided by the laws of nature, or you wouldn't be here with this cholesterol count. Then you need to change your way of thinking and get your mind in alignment with reality. Next you must get your will in alignment with the truth, too. Once you get your thinking and your will straight, then we'll talk about proper food and exercise. But unless you are willing to admit that you have been wrong and are committed to making the changes, I can't help you. It's your choice."  
p. 129

As Tom Peter writes: "We cover our unwholesome motives and violent acts against others with a veneer of goodness. We sugarcoat our garbage."  
p. 141

Saul failed to learn the first and most essential lesson of human history: The world is not centered around our wills, but rather around the will of God. The price we pay will be enormous if we refuse to accept and live in that reality.  
p. 141

(A Heart Like His: The Shaping of Character in the Choices of Life by  
Rebecca Manley Pippert)

We want him to be able to say, as Estella says in Charles Dicken's *Great Expectations*, "I have been bent and broken, but I hope into a better shape."  
p. 143

v.11 And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

Now we recognize the REASON for this RESPONSE on the part of the God of glory, whose place this temple is, in the phrase:

“THE GLORY OF THE LORD FILLED HIS TEMPLE.”

Selman observes:

The Old Testament sense of divine glory merely prepares the way for its full revelation through the earthly and the exalted Christ (Jn. 1:14). It is particularly associated with certain special moments of Jesus' life, including his birth (Lk. 2:9), his transfiguration (Lk. 9:32), his cross (Jn. 12:23; 13:31-32; 17:1ff), his ascension (Acts 1:9-11), and the coming of his kingdom (Mt. 24:30; 25:31). God's glory, however, is not confined to the Son of God, but is also granted to believers through the work of the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). The New Testament also maintains a strong link between worship and the experience of divine glory, sometimes in the context of Old Testament symbolism such as the ark (*cf.* Heb. 10:19-22; Rev. 11:19). As at the temple dedication, such experiences of God's glory can continue to be quite overwhelming, such as the revelation of the risen Christ given to John (Rev. 1:12-18).  
p. 316

Wiersbe says:

Solomon's temple was a place of glory (vv. 1-12). However, despite its extraordinary beauty, it was just another building until God moved in and consecrated it (Exod. 40:34-38). So it is with our lives (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 5:18) and our assemblies (1 Cor. 14:23-25). The presence of God is the important thing. A. W. Tozer aptly stated, "If God were to take the Holy Spirit out of this world, much of what the church is doing would be right on, *and nobody would know the difference.*"  
p. 200

Parker says:

Solomon and his associates having done all in their power to bring the temple to a completion, we read, as in the case of the tabernacle erected by Moses, that "it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord" (v. 10). So intense was the manifestation of the divine presence, "that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord" (v. II). It was precisely the same in the case of Moses, concerning whom we read, "And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle."  
p. 306

Wouldn't it be PHENOMENAL if we had to call off the church services sometime because the presence of the Lord was so real.

v.12 Then Solomon said, "The Lord has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud;

Patrick & Lowth say:

When he saw the priests come out of the house of God in great consternation, he uttered these words which follow, with his face turned towards the altar, to compose and comfort them.

p. 319

Parker says:

As we saw in the case of Moses, so in the case of Solomon we see that we have no rights to expect the divine presence until our human resources have been exhausted. This indeed is the condition upon which the Almighty has worked in all the dispensations of providence. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." We know, therefore, the way by which to secure the divine revelation amongst us: sighing, repining, moaning, rebuking one another, criticism of methods may all be dismissed as utterly futile; we can only rely upon the disclosure of the divine presence by doing all that within us lies to fulfil our own personal religious duty.

p. 306

v.13 I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

Selman says:

These chapters therefore are not so much about the temple of God as the God to whom the temple belongs. There is no better illustration of this than 5:13c-14, where the priests are unable to carry out their expected duties because of the overwhelming effect of God's glorious presence. In other words, as soon as the temple is opened for business, all the carefully planned ceremonies and services have to be suspended because God takes over the entire building for himself. The temple is to be for God's glory, not for that of human beings (*cf.* comment on 1 Ch. 17), as part of his purpose to forgive, heal, and restore his people (7:14).

pp. 315-16

Delitzsch says:

Hence, being firmly convinced of the presence of Jehovah in the cloud which filled the sanctuary, he adds in ver. 13: "I have built Thee a house to dwell in, a place for Thy seat for ever."

p. 124

Patrick & Lowth say:

He turns his speech from them to God; and expresses his hope that he would be pleased to continue in this house: which he perceived by this glorious cloud he intended to make his habitation.

p. 319

Lange says:

(He announces the mercy of God, in that he allows him to undertake the work whose completion was denied to his father. He who understands a great, holy work must be assured of this—that he is not actuated by ambition, by passion for glory, or by vanity, but that he is called thereto by God, and that it is his sacred duty.)

p. 106

(Windows of the Soul: Experiencing God in New Ways by Ken Gire)

Jesus tried to tell us that when he answered the question posed to Him regarding whether or not we should pay taxes. He had someone in the crowd examine a coin and then asked, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" When the reply was "Caesar's," Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." The inference we can draw from his illustration is that we, like the coin, bear the portrait and inscription of our sovereign. We bear within our soul the very image of God, stamped with His likeness, with the inscription that we belong to Him. The coin can be defaced or devalued, but its origin and ownership are indisputable.

p. 56

(31 Days of Praise: Enjoying God Anew by Ruth Myers)

To think that You not only permit me to come before You, but You actually desire my fellowship, my worship, my prayers, and my eternal presence! Your desire is for me. "That You should allow Your creature to have fellowship with You is wonderful enough; but that You can desire it, that it gives You satisfaction and joy and pleasure, is almost too much for my understanding. Thank You.

p. 105

v.14 While the whole assembly of Israel was standing there, the king turned around and blessed them.

Delitzsch says:

The word "blessed" denotes the wish for a blessing with which the king greeted the assembled congregation, and introduced the praise of God which follows.

p. 124

### Numbers 6:23-26

"Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: "'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.'"

v.15 Then he said: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David. For he said,

Solomon recognizes God's sovereign hand in all of this. He pays tribute by praising:

"THE LORD . . . WHO WITH HIS OWN HAND HAS FULFILLED  
WHAT HE PROMISED WITH HIS OWN MOUTH TO MY FATHER  
DAVID."

Patrick & Lowth say:

He acknowledges the goodness of God in his gracious promise; and his faithfulness in fulfilling it. Which promise was made by Nathan, unto whom the word of the Lord came about this matter (2 Sam. vii. 4).  
p. 319

#### Psalm 66:16

Come and listen, all you who fear God;  
let me tell you what he has done for me.

#### Psalm 27:13

I am still confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

#### Psalm 138:8

The Lord will fulfill [his purpose] for me;  
your love, O Lord, endures forever—  
do not abandon the works of your hands.



1 Thessalonians 5:24

Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

v.16 'Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built for my Name to be there, but I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.'

Here SOLOMON QUOTES what the Lord has said previously.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

The promise Solomon referred to was that God would place His **Name** in Jerusalem (cf. comments on 2 Chron. 6:6). "Name" occurs in Solomon's prayer 14 times (1 Kings 8:16-20, 29, 33, 35, 41-44 [twice in v. 43], 48). The **temple** was not to be a "container" for God (v. 27) but a place for his **Name** to dwell (vv. 16-17, 19-20), that is, a place where His presence and character would be evident.  
pp. 503-4

v.17 "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

J. Vernon McGee observes:

In Solomon's message of dedication he gives proper credit to David.  
p. 264

This was a project David carried in his heart to the grave. He did everything he possibly could to bring about the realization of this day in making all of the provisions that he made for the building of this magnificent structure.

v.18 But the Lord said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a temple for my Name, you did well to have this in your heart.

Here the LORD COMMENDS DAVID for this unselfish desire on his part to pay tribute to God in providing a place to worship. But this was not going to be a part of God's sovereign plan for David.

v.19 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, who is your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.'

We need to always remember that God's "NO" obligates Him to a better plan.

[David] "YOU ARE NOT THE ONE . . . BUT YOUR SON . . . [will be] THE ONE WHO WILL BUILD THE TEMPLE FOR MY NAME."

Now we are witnessing the fruition of GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSE in the kingship of Solomon and the successful completion of the building of the temple.

J. Vernon McGee says:

The desire for a permanent structure to house the ark of God originated in the heart of David, as we have seen in 2 Samuel 7. Solomon merely executed David's plans. I think it should be called David's temple rather than Solomon's temple.  
p. 264

(Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century by Joseph M. Stowell)

It was Dwight Lyman Moody who led Wilbur Chapman to the Lord. Wilbur Chapman became a great national evangelist in the generation succeeding Moody's. During Wilbur Chapman's ministry in Chicago, a baseball player with the White Stockings had a Sunday off, as all professional ballplayers did in that day, and was standing in front of a bar on State Street in Chicago when a Gospel wagon from the Pacific Garden Mission came by playing hymns and inviting people to the 2:30 service down the street. This ballplayer, recognizing the hymns from the home he grew up in, attended that 2:30 service and received Christ as his personal Savior. That afternoon encounter with Christ dramatically changed the life of Billy Sunday. He played ball for two more years and then left professional sports to minister in the YMCA in Chicago which was then a fine and effective organization for Christ. Wilbur Chapman came through town and talked Billy Sunday into joining his crusade team as an advance man to help organize the pastors and set up Chapman's meetings. Billy Sunday enthusiastically agreed. Upon signing up with Chapman, Billy Sunday received word that Chapman was going to leave evangelism and take the pastorate of one of the leading churches in America. This left Billy Sunday stranded, but refocused on national crusade evangelism. He soon began scheduling his own meetings which launched his ministry across America for the cause of Christ. In one of Billy Sunday's meetings, a young man by the name of Mordecai Hamm accepted Christ. Mordecai Hamm became a great evangelist in the Southeastern United States, ministering to massive crowds south of the Mason-Dixon Line. One night in one of those large crowds, a young man and his friend came forward to accept Christ. One was Billy Graham.

And now you know the rest of the story.

What a phenomenal line of the succession of faithful, stellar, maximized servants of Christ. But that's not really the rest of the story. The rest of the story is told where it begins: with a Sunday School teacher in Boston who on one Saturday committed himself to visiting every one of the boys in his Sunday School class, to make sure that they knew Christ as their Savior. One of the boys worked as a shoe clerk in his uncle's shoe store in downtown Boston. Edward Kimball walked through the store, back to the stockroom where Dwight Lyman Moody was stocking the shelves, and confronted him with the importance of knowing Christ as Savior. It was in that stockroom that D.L. Moody accepted Christ as his Savior. Kimball had no idea that that routine faithfulness on his part would reap such unparalleled results in terms of populating heaven.

And what of the pastor who encouraged Kimball to be a faithful participant in ministry? The pastor whose modeling and mentoring had put the passion for eternity in the heart of one of his Sunday School teachers? Perhaps the most encouraging and significant part of the story is that none of us know the name of that pastor who created a church environment where a lay member would initiate such a powerful sequence of events. It's that kind of faithfulness in the trenches that, when placed in the hands of Christ, becomes multiplied in His time for His glory.  
pp. 81-82

(The Message: Proverbs by Eugene H. Peterson)

Proverb 16

Make your motions and cast your votes,  
but God has the final say.

p. 57

Proverb 19

We humans keep brainstorming options and plans,  
but God's purpose prevails.

p. 65

Proverb 21

Nothing clever, nothing conceived, nothing  
contrived,  
can get the better of God.

Do your best, prepare for the worst—  
then trust God to bring victory.

p. 73

v.20 "The Lord has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

v.21 I have provided a place there for the ark, in which is the covenant of the Lord that he made with our fathers when he brought them out of Egypt."

What an incredible statement from Solomon!

Back in verse 15 he praises:

"the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hands has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David."

Now he says it again:

"THE LORD HAS KEPT THE PROMISE."

Then he says further:

"JUST AS THE LORD PROMISED."

In these remaining TWO VERSES I think it is important for us to note the VERBS. There are FOUR that stand out. This is the process in keeping the promise which the Lord had made to David:

1. "I HAVE SUCCEEDED DAVID MY FATHER,"
2. "I SIT ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL,"
3. "I HAVE BUILT THE TEMPLE FOR THE NAME OF THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL," and
4. "I HAVE PROVIDED A PLACE THERE FOR THE ARK."

Delitzsch says:

God had caused Solomon to take possession of the throne of David; and Solomon had built the temple and prepared a place there for the ark of the covenant. The ark is thereby declared to be the kernel and star of the temple, because it was the throne of the glory of God.

p. 125

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

In this address Solomon demonstrated humility and thankfulness.

p. 504

(The Aladdin Factor by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen)

*All who have accomplished great things have had a great aim, have fixed their gaze on a goal which was high, one which sometimes seemed impossible. . . .*

—Orison Swett Marden

p. 75

*If you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on gettin what you've always got.*

Another way of putting this is that if your current actions were enough to produce more of what you want, more would have already shown up. Probably the most potent expression of this principle is the twelve step programs' definition of insanity:

*Insanity is continuing the same behavior and expecting a different result!*

There are only three ways that you can improve the quality of your life:

1. Find out what is working and do more of it.
2. Find out what is not working and stop it.
3. Try out new things and see which ones work and which ones don't. Incorporate the ones that do into your behavior.

p. 101

(First Things First by Stephen R. Covey, A. Roger Merrill, & Rebecca R. Merrill)

A principle-based goal is all three: **the right thing, for the right reason, in the right way.**

Principle-based goal setting involves the full, synergistic use of all four human endowments:

- Through conscience, we connect with the passion of vision and mission and the power of principles.
- Through creative imagination, we envision possibility and synergistic, creative ways to achieve it.
- Through self-awareness, we set goals with realistic stretch and stay open to conscience-driven change.
- Through independent will, we make purposeful choice and carry it out; we have the integrity to walk our talk.

p. 146



(As Iron Sharpens Iron by Howard & William Hendricks)

One of the unfortunate things about my line of work is that I have to travel extensively to do it. That may not sound so bad to you. In fact, people often say to me, “Boy, Howie, it must be great to travel to all these glamorous places around the world and speak to groups of people!” The people and the ministry I love, and I do enjoy seeing new places. But getting there and back is anything but glamorous.

At any rate, in all my travels this never happened to me, and I hope it never happens to you: Imagine that I board a plane leaving Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport for Chicago. Twenty minutes into our flight the pilot comes on the speaker and says, “Well, folks, we’re leveling off at our cruising altitude of thirty-six thousand feet. By the way, I know this flight is booked for Chicago, but I thought we would just fly around instead and see the countryside. We’ll land whenever we’re low on fuel. I really can’t say where we’ll end up. We’ll just see what happens.”

Imagine such an announcement! A flight plan like that not only would be ridiculous—it could be perilous! Yet a lot of guys are no different in terms of life: just flying along. Where are they headed? There’s no telling. Certainly *they* don’t know! Worst of all, they don’t seem to care. They sort of have the attitude, “Wherever I end up, that’s fine by me.”

Now few guys would dream of doing that in their jobs. But the amazing thing is, they’ll do it in their marriages, with their kids, in their spiritual and personal lives, and so on. They have no direction or aim. They just drift.

That’s why earlier I pointed out the importance of establishing objectives, and then translating those objectives into priorities. I was describing the process of goal-setting. Show me a man with a set of well-defined goals, and I’ll show you a man on his way to achieving results. Conversely, show me a man with fuzzy goals—or worse, no goals—and I’ll show you a man with both feet planted firmly in midair, on his way to nowhere, just flying around until he runs out of gas.

pp. 48-49

(Storms of Perfection: In Their Own Words by Andy Andrews)

I know that there are no guarantees in life. I also know that good things rarely come about the first time around. And so my advice to anyone reading this letter would be: whatever your goals - don't give up! More important than talent, strength, or knowledge is the ability to laugh at yourself and enjoy the pursuit of your dreams.

Amy Grant  
(Entertainer)

p. 35

(Life Is a Contact Sport: Ten Great Career Strategies That Work by Ken Kragen & Jefferson Graham)

Opportunities are usually  
disguised as hard work, so most  
people don't recognize them.

—ANN LANDERS

p. 105

(God Isn't in a Hurry by Warren Wiersbe)

In trying to manage our time, we mangle our opportunities, and we miss those "inspired interruptions" that so delight the heart of God. The file-card mentality makes sure that everything is on schedule—and that everything is painfully dull.

p. 117

(No More Excuses: Be the Man God Made You to Be by Tony Evans)

A young concert pianist was asked one day, "How did you learn to play the piano so well?" She answered, "By planning to neglect anything that did not contribute to my goal of becoming a concert pianist."

p. 305

(The Essential Abraham Lincoln by John Gabriel Hunt)

Every man is said to have his peculiar ambition. Whether it be true or not, I can say, for one, that I have no other so great as that of being truly esteemed of my fellow men, by rendering myself worthy of their esteem. How far I shall succeed in gratifying this ambition is yet to be developed. I am young, and unknown to many of you. I was born, and have ever remained, in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealthy or popular relations or friends to recommend me.

(Abraham Lincoln in his Address to the People of Sangamon County, March 9, 1832)

p. 5

(First Things First by Stephen R. Covey, A. Roger Merrill, & Rebecca R. Merrill)

***Climb the Mountain:***

I will live each day with courage and a belief in myself and others. I will live by the values of integrity, freedom of choice, and a love of all God's people. I will strive to keep commitments not only to others but to myself as well. I will remember that to truly live, I must climb the mountain today, for tomorrow may be too late. I know that my mountain may seem no more than a hill to others and I will accept that. I will be renewed by my own personal victories and triumphs no matter how small. I will continue to make my own choices and to live with them as I have always done. I will not make excuses or blame others. I will, for as long as possible, keep my mind and body healthy and strong so that I am able to make the choice to climb the mountain. I will help others as best I can and I will thank those who help me along the way.

p. 318

It is going to be our pleasure to turn to the CHRONICLES ACCOUNT of this to see further amplification of what took place.

### 2 Chronicles 5:1

When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

**Solomon** directed that **the furnishings** be brought into the **temple** and also that the offerings **David had** previously gathered (cf. 1 Chron. 22:14; 29:1-9) be **placed** within the temple **treasuries**. So great were David's and the leaders' contributions that Solomon's craftsmen had not used all those metals.  
p. 624

Dillard observes:

Just as the spoil taken from Egypt had gone into the building of the tabernacle, so also the spoil of Israel's enemies built the temple. The profits often portray the wealth of the nations at the disposal of Israel. David's generosity stimulated the giving of the people (1 Chr 29:6-9); their giving is another parallel chosen by the Chronicler with events at the building of the tabernacle (Exod 35:4-36:7). The dedicated things were stored in the treasuries of the temple (1 Chr 26:26; 28:12), though these rooms are not described in the Chronicler's account of the construction (1 Kgs 6:5-10).  
p. 37

v. 1 When all the work Solomon had done for the temple of the Lord was finished, he brought in the things his father David had dedicated—the silver and gold and all the furnishings—and he placed them in the treasuries of God's temple

One of the KEY WORDS here in verse 1 is the word “FINISHED.”

“WHEN ALL THE WORK SOLOMON HAD DONE FOR THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD WAS FINISHED.”

Solomon has involved 183,850 employees in this project and it has taken him seven and a half years to accomplish it. What an incredible feat!

(Life Is a Contact Sport: Ten Great Career Strategies That Work by Ken Kragen & Jefferson Graham)

The secret of managing is to  
keep the guys who hate you  
away from the guys who are  
undecided.

—CASEY STENGEL

p. 154

(Getting the Right Things Right by Charlie Hedges)

*As long as you don't know where you're going it doesn't matter where you are.*

Apocryphal

p. 102

And every time a dreamer fulfills a dream, someone will call it a miracle, but it's not. It's merely a dream that a person had the courage or audacity to pursue. In *Apollo 13*, Buzz Aldren says of Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon, "It wasn't a miracle. We just decided to do it."

p. 107

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

The Christian faith has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried.

—G. K. Chesterton

p. 8

Too many of us are on the sidelines, keeping a safe distance from the fray—content, apparently, to watch others run the risks, take the losses, sustain the injuries. Too many of us are AWOL from the Lord's army; some have left for lunch and linger long into the afternoon, allowing the business of the King to go lacking.

—George S. Lauderdale

p. 9

(Churchill on Courage: Wisdom for Perseverance by Frederick Talbott)

With the help of God, of which we must all feel daily conscious, we shall continue steadfast in faith and duty till our task is done.

Winston Churchill  
*London, June 12, 1941*

(quote 78)

v. 2 Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the ark of the Lord's covenant from Zion, the City of David

v. 3 And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month.

This of course is a REFERENCE TO THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES which occurs during this month.

v. 4 When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the ark,

v. 5 and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up;

Selman says:

Like the *cloud* which subsequently fills the temple (vv. 13c-14), the ark symbolizes God's presence, so that the chapter describes God taking up residence at the centre of his people's life.

p. 316

Revelation 3:20

'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

J. Vernon McGee says:

After the temple was completed, the ark was brought into the temple. Zion is right up on the hill not very far from the temple area. I have walked it several times, both up and down, because it is not too far.

We don't know the exact spot where David was keeping the ark, but it was in the city of David which is Mount Zion. That is not a very large area and it is not far from the temple area.

p. 413



v. 6 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

We have already noticed this fact in 1 Kings 8.

v. 7 The priests then brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

Selman observes:

The *priests* (v. 7) take over from the Levites in bringing the ark into the Holy of Holies, since only the former were allowed there.  
p. 319

v. 8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles.

We have also discussed the SIZE of these gold covered cherubim that are both 15 feet tall and have a 15 foot wingspread. They are located in the Holy of Holies and the ark is placed right in-between them.

v. 9 These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today.

We have also looked at this verse in 1 Kings 8.

v.10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

J. Vernon McGee says:

Two things that had been placed in the ark by Moses are now missing: Aaron's rod and the pot of manna. The manna, you will recall from the account of Numbers 17, would disappear if the people didn't gather it. And if it was not eaten the same day, it would spoil. However a pot of manna was preserved in the ark as a memorial. Now it is gone. The manna was a symbol of Christ as the Bread of Life, who feeds those who are His own. Aaron's rod that budded (Exod. 16) is a symbol of Christ's resurrection. It has been actualized to us today by the historical fact that Jesus died (that's His humanity), was buried, then rose again the third day—that's not human; it reveals His deity. The priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ rests upon His resurrection, just as Aaron's priesthood was confirmed by the budding of his rod, a type of resurrection.

p. 414

v.11 The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions.

v.12 All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets.

***YES*, THE LORD TRULY DOES INHABIT THE PRAISE OF HIS PEOPLE!**

Gabelein says:

The Levites exercised their holy office. What a sight it must have been when Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun in a lead with their sons and brethren, all clothed in white linen, with cymbals, psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding the trumpets! And they were as one, to make one sound. It expresses the unity of God's people. The one supreme thought and aim was to praise and thank the Lord. This was the one mind in which they all were as one. The mighty volume of many voices, the sound of the trumpets, cymbals and instruments of music broke forth.

p. 424

v.13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud,

## THE PRAISE OF HIS PEOPLE TRIGGERS THE PRESENCE OF GOD AMONG THEM!

### 2 Chronicles 20:21, 22

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever." As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

Gaebelein says:

The one note in praise was "He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." When the foundation of the second house was laid this praise was again uttered (Ezra iii:11). It must be remembered that David in his great prophetic song of praise ended with this note of praise "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. . . . Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for ever and ever. And all the people said 'Amen' and praised the Lord" (1 Chron. xvi:34-36). In Psalm cxxxvi we find twenty-six times "His mercy endureth." How rich was that mercy towards Israel! He had graciously guided and kept them. He brought them into the land and all their enemies had been subdued. The house had been built and all had been accomplished.  
pp. 424-5

Selman says:

Then a united orchestra and chorus of *Levites* from Gibeon (*Heman* and *Jeduthun*) and Jerusalem (*Asaph*), together with *120 priests sounding trumpets*, joined in a song taken from the Psalms to praise God for his goodness and love (*e.g.* Pss. 107:1; 118:1; 136:1. *cf.* 2 Ch. 7:3; Ezr. 3:11). Priests and Levites were indicating through their unity, commitment, and praise their desire to worship God, and the Chronicler clearly intends this to be seen as an example to be followed. When God's people set themselves apart for him to express heartfelt worship and praise, God will surely respond with some sign of his presence.

p. 320

Selman says further:

The quotation from the Psalms (v. 13b) encapsulates in a sentence what the entire temple project was about, that over the years since God's first promise to David (1 Ch. 17:12), God's faithful *love* had ensured the project's success. Underlying the temple was the person of God: *He* is good. That is why he responds to Israel's worship with what later Jews called the *shekinah* glory (vv. 13c-14). Both in the case of the *cloud* and the *glory* filling the temple, the associations with Moses are very close (especially Ex. 40:34-35). Clouds are a particularly rich biblical symbol of God's presence . . . emphasizing his mystery and majesty.

pp. 320-21

Wiersbe says:

The beautiful temple was empty until God's throne was put in place (vv. 2-10) and God's glory filled the house (vv. 13-14). When Moses dedicated the tabernacle, the glory came in when the work was finished (Exod. 40:33-38). It was the song of praise that brought the glory into the temple. When you worship with God's people, does your praise increase His glory in the assembly?

p. 238

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

Praise is almost the only thing we do on earth that we shall not cease to do in heaven.

—**Samuel Brengle**

The unmistakable mark of a living faith is a readiness to praise.

—**Howard H. Jones**

I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation.

—**C. S. Lewis**

If there were more praise for answered prayer, there would be more answered prayer for which to give praise.

p. 158

(Prayer, Praise & Promises: A Daily Walk Through the Psalms by  
Warren W. Wiersbe)

## THE HIGHEST OCCUPATION

The next time you sing the doxology in a worship service, remember that you are singing Scripture, a version of Psalm 100. This psalm is a digest of instructions on how to worship the Lord.

Who should worship the Lord? “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!” (v. 1. God wants the whole world to worship and give thanks to Him. Why are we to go into all the world and preach the Gospel? So that all the world will one day be able to make a joyful shout to the Lord.

How should we worship the Lord? First, *by serving*. “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing” (v. 2). We are to serve the Lord with gladness because there’s joy in our hearts and because the joy of the Lord gives strength.

Second, we worship Him *by singing*. “Come before His presence with singing.” I fear that too often in our services, singing becomes routine. We hold the hymnal and sing the songs that we know so well, but our minds and hearts are a million miles away. Think about and rejoice in the words you sing.

We also worship the Lord *by submitting to Him*. “Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture” (v. 3). Submit to Him. Follow Him. Obey Him.

Finally, we worship the Lord *by sacrificing*. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise” (v. 4). You don’t need to sacrifice animals on an altar, but you can give your time, money and skills.

Why should we worship the Lord? “For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations” (v. 5).



*The highest occupation of the Christian life is worshiping the Lord. Never allow your worship to become routine or artificial. Worship Him with a joyful and thankful heart by serving, singing, submitting and sacrificing.*  
(Day 241)

(Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey)

As Selye summarized his research toward the end of his life, he named vengeance and bitterness as the emotional responses most likely to produce high stress levels in human beings. Conversely, he concluded, *gratitude* is the single response most nourishing to health. I find myself agreeing with Selye, in part because a grateful appreciation for pain's many benefits has so transformed my own outlook.

p. 222



(A Heart Like His: The Shaping of Character in the Choices of Life by  
Rebecca Manley Pippert)

Recently I attended a worship service where I heard a remarkable story from the pulpit. There was an American soldier who was fighting overseas. A mail service existed that arranged for people to write to the soldiers to give them a moral boost. One day this soldier, whom we will call Sam, received a delightful letter from a woman in New York City. They began corresponding and found they had many things in common—for one, a shared Christian faith. He was amazed by how her letters always picked up his spirits. Being at war was a very lonely and difficult experience for him. But she encouraged him with biblical promises, or simply by saying that she prayed for him daily.

Eventually he came home on furlough. When he realized that he was going to have an afternoon in New York before flying out again, he decided to write her. He said that he would love to meet her and thank her in person for how much she'd encouraged him spiritually. He told her that he would be at Central Park, and where to look for him. She wrote back and said she would be wearing a red corsage on her dress so he could spot her easily.

Sam got to the park early and sat and read a paper. He scanned the vicinity to see if there were any women with a red carnation, and then he went back to his paper. Suddenly the most beautiful woman he had ever seen walked up to him, smiling. She was radiant, beautifully dressed, elegant and slim, and her voice was so kind and tender that his heart skipped a beat. He thought to himself, *If only the Lord would send a woman like that to me!* To his astonishment he heard the woman say to him, "Hi, soldier! Would you like to have some lunch? There's a marvelous restaurant right around the corner to your right." He glanced at his watch to see how much time he had before the rendezvous with the woman who had supported him in prayer. He still had five minutes, and he wanted desperately to go, even for just a cup of coffee.

But as he glanced up from his watch, he spotted an elderly woman across from him on another bench. She looked in her eighties, and had a weather-worn face that was deeply lined. She was dressed very poorly, an old black coat around a tattered dress. And in her coat lapel was a bright red carnation. His heart sank, and though he felt torn he said to the beautiful blonde woman in front of him, "I would love to go, you have no idea how much. But I have a prior commitment. I owe a great deal to someone who has helped me through a difficult time, and I am not free to do anything else. But thank you with all my heart for inviting me."

She just smiled and said, "Well, if anything changes your mind, I'll be at the restaurant."

As she strode off he prayed, "Lord, sometimes I wish I didn't know so much about being obedient. Yet, as much as I want to go, if it was your will, you would have worked out the circumstances. So I will obey you and trust in your perfect plan for my life, even though I feel that perfection just walked by me."

He sighed and walked over to the elderly lady. Smiling at her and putting out his hand, he said, "I believe we have a lunch date today."

To his amazement she replied, "No, we don't. But I'll tell you who you *do* have one with. That lovely young lady who just came over to you pinned this red corsage on me. Then she pointed to you and told me that if that soldier sitting on the bench came over and offered to take me to lunch, I was supposed to tell you that *she* was the one you are really looking for. And she is waiting for you at the restaurant right around the corner to your right." He was bowled over, but started to sprint for the restaurant.

They had a glorious lunch, continued corresponding, and got married as soon as he was out of the army. How the pastor ended this story was very moving: "Don't underestimate God's goodness. He has your best interests at heart and he knows what he is doing. But usually we first have to learn the tough discipline of saying no to what we desperately want, so that it doesn't become an idol."

pp. 160-61

Is it any wonder in Revelation 19 when you have those TRIPLE HALLELUJAHS!

You have the Lord Jesus Christ coming as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 19:1

. . . "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;

Revelation 19:3

. . . "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever."

Revelation 19:6

. . . "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Beginning in verse 11 we read:

And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself. And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:11-16).

v.14 and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.

## 2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Dillard says:

The inability of the priests to perform their functions because of the presence of the cloud (5:14; 7:1-2) repeats the experience at the dedication of the tabernacle (Exod 40:34-35); the disciples would find their contact with the transfigured and glorified Christ similarly overwhelming (Matt. 17:6, 7).  
p. 43

Gaebelein says:

And when this mighty praise ascended to Jehovah, when they made but one sound, heaven answered. The house was filled with the cloud. The visible symbol presence of Jehovah had come, as it came at the consecration of the tabernacle (Exod. xl:34-35).  
p. 425

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

Some say revivals don't last. Neither does a bath, but it helps!

—Billy Sunday

p. 171

(Windows of the Soul: Experiencing God in New Ways by Ken Gire)

"The Bible was written in tears," said A. W. Tozer, "and to tears it yields its best treasures."

p. 192

So much is distilled in our tears, not the least of which is wisdom in living life. From my own tears I have learned that if you follow your tears, you will find your heart. If you find your heart, you will find what is dear to God. And if you find what is dear to God, you will find the answer to how you should live your life.

p. 195

## CONCLUSION:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: His presence authenticates obedience.

LESSON #2: His presence will be seen in us when our hearts are full of obedience and our lips are full of praise.

LESSON #3: A promise made is a promise kept.

LESSON #4: The Lord will fulfill His plan and purpose in His own time and way.

LESSON #5: God's "NO" always obligates Him to a better plan.

LESSON #6: What joy to meditate on Solomon's tribute to the Lord: "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who with his own hand has fulfilled what he promised with his own mouth to my father David" (1 Kg 8:15).

LESSON #7: "Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds" (Ps. 72:18).

LESSON #8: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (Prov. 19:21).

LESSON #9: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Prov. 16:3).

LESSON #10: "He has made everything beautiful in its time" (Ecc. 3:11).

LESSON #11: The Lord does inhabit the praise of His people.

LESSON #12: The praise of our lips moves the hand of God.

(Inspiring Quotations compiled by Albert M. Wells, Jr.)

Resolved, never, henceforward, till I die, to act as if I were my own, but entirely and altogether God's.

—Jonathan Edwards

p. 195

God will only mend a broken heart when He is given all the pieces.

p. 195

A country boy was asked what difference Christ had made in his life. He replied: "I feel better now when I feel bad, than I used to feel when I felt good."

—J.K. Gressett

When I met Christ, I felt that I had swallowed sunshine.

—E. Stanley Jones

Joy is the serious business of heaven.

—C. S. Lewis

p. 103

(Shepherding the Church into the 21st Century by Joseph M. Stowell)

Recently I stood on that bend in the river where in 1956 five brilliant, savvy, committed men gave their lives to the spears of Auca warriors who dumped their bodies into the Curaray River. I thought of the kind of faith that it took for Nate Saint, Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Roger Youderian, and Ed McCully to walk into the jaws of danger, knowing full well that it might be their last trip down that river but knowing as well that their God was the kind of God who could take suffering and loss and transition them to great gain. After all, isn't that what God did through the cross and death of His Son? And, sure enough, those five men died in faith. But like trick candles on a birthday cake, the extinguished torches of their lives soon began to spark, flutter, and flame as hundreds of young people across America gave their lives to missionary work, to go and take their place. And then the killing tribe opened its doors to welcome Nate Saint's sister and Jim Elliot's wife and daughter Valerie into the village to learn the language and tell them of Jesus Christ.

When we landed in the Auca Village on our way down to that historical site in the jungle, our plane was met by Indians who came not with spears but smiles on their faces. Most of the villagers today are believers in Jesus Christ. The head of the killing party, now old and a believer himself, was asked what he would do when he gets to heaven and sees Nate Saint, the missionary that he had killed on that day. He responded that when he gets to heaven he will look for Nate Saint, throw his arms around him, and thank him for bringing the good news of the Gospel to his village. And then he said, ". . . and Nate Saint will throw his arms around me and welcome me home." pp. 176-77



(Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions by Kenneth W. Osbeck)

This song of pleading for Holy Spirit power was written by Mrs. Bessie Head, a member of the Church of England. She was the author of numerous hymn texts, several of which appeared in the 1937 *Keswick Hymn Book*, including this hymn.

It would be helpful if each believer, as well as each local church, would use this musical prayer often as a theme song. We need God's continual reviving, renewing, refreshing, comforting, and equipping power if we are to effectively "spread the light" and meet the needs of this hour.

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us. Revive Thy church with life and pow'r; O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us, and fit Thy Church to meet this hour.

O Wind of God, come bend us, break us, till humbly we confess our need; then in Thy tenderness remake us, revive, restore, for this we plead.

O Breath of Love, come breathe within us, renewing thought and will and heart; Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us, revive Thy Church in ev'ry part.

O Heart of Christ, once broken for us, 'tis there we find our strength and rest; our broken contrite hearts now solace, and let Thy waiting Church be blest.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating while harvest fields are vast and white? Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting. Equip Thy Church to spread the light.

p. 267