

Then Solomon assembled the elders of **Israel** [Ex 3.16-18] and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the **fathers**-to-sons **houses** [Ex 6.25] of the **Israelites**, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the **ark** of the **covenant** of **YHWH** [Ex 25.22] out of the city of **David**, which is Zion. All the men of **Israel** assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim [Deut 16.10-16; Ex 23.15-18], which is the seventh month. And all the elders of **Israel** came, and the priests carried the **ark**. So they brought up the **ark** of **YHWH**, the tent of meeting [Deut 31.14; Ex 27.21 etc], and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. King Solomon and all the congregation of **Israel** [Ex 12.3], who had assembled before him, were with him before the **ark**, **sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered**. Then the priests brought the **ark** of the **covenant** of **YHWH** to its **place** [Deut 16.2ff], in the inner sanctuary of the **house**, in the holy of holies [Ex 26.33-34], underneath the wings of the cherubim [Ex 25.18-22]. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the **place** of the **ark**, so that the cherubim made a covering above the **ark** and its poles [Ex 25.13-15]. The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy **place** in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to **this day**. There was nothing in the **ark** except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb [Deut 9.8-10; Ex 24.12; 31.18], where **YHWH** made a **covenant** with the **Israelites**, when they came out of the **land** of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the holy **place**, a cloud [Deut 5.22; Ex 16.10] filled the **house** of **YHWH**, so that the priests could not stand to minister [Ex 24.13] because of the cloud; for the glory of **YHWH** [Deut 5.24; Ex 16.7] filled the **house** of **YHWH**.

DAVIDIC COVENANT

Then Solomon said, "**YHWH** has said that he would dwell in thick darkness [Deut 5.22; Ex 20.21]. I have indeed built you an exalted **house**, a **place** for you to dwell in forever." **Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly** of **Israel** [Ex 12.6], while all the assembly of **Israel** stood. He said, "Blessed be **YHWH**, the God of **Israel**, who with his hand has fulfilled what he **worded** with his mouth to **my father David**, saying,

'Since the day that I **brought my people Israel out of Egypt**, I have not chosen a city [Deut 16.2-16] from any of the tribes of **Israel** [Ex 24.4; Deut 29.21] in which to **build** a **house**, that my **name** might be **there**; but I chose **David** to be over my **people Israel**.'

My father David had it in his heart to **build** a **house** for the **name of YHWH, the God of Israel**.

But **YHWH** said to **my father David**, 'You did well to have in your heart **building** a **house** for my **name**; nevertheless you shall not **build** the **house**, but your son who shall be born to you shall **build** the **house** for my **name**.'

Now **YHWH** has stood on the **word** that he **worded**; for I stand in the **place** of **my father David**; I sit on the throne of **Israel**, as **YHWH worded**, and have **built** the **house** for **the name of YHWH, the God of Israel**.

There I have provided a **place** for the **ark** [Deut 31.26], in which **there** is the **covenant** of **YHWH** that he cut with our ancestors when he **brought them out of the land of Egypt**."

Then Solomon stood in the face of the altar of **YHWH** opposite all the assembly of **Israel**, and spread out his hands [Ex 9.29] to the **sky**. He said, "O **YHWH**, God of **Israel**, there is no God like you in the **sky** above or on earth beneath [Deut 4.39], keeping **covenant** and steadfast love [Ex 15.13] for your **slaves** who **walk before your face** with all their heart, that you kept for your **slave my father David** as you **worded** to him; you **worded** with your mouth and have **this day** fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O **YHWH**, God of **Israel**, keep for your **slave my father David** that which you **worded** him, saying, 'There shall never cut off a man before my face to sit on the throne of **Israel**, if only your children look to their way, to **walk before my face** as you have **walked before my face**.' Therefore, O God of

Israel, please let your word be confirmed, which you worded to your slave my father David.

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the sky and the sky of sky cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Turn toward your slave's prayer and his plea, O YHWH my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your slave prays to your face today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there [Deut 16.2, 6, 11];' that you may heed the prayer that your slave prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your slave and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in the sky your dwelling place; heed and forgive [Deut 29.19].

"If someone sins against a man and is given an oath to swear and comes and swears before your altar in this house, then hear in the sky, and act, and judge your slaves, guiltning the guilty by giving their way on their own head, and righting the righteous by giving them to righteousness.

"[Deut 28.25] When your people Israel, having sinned against you, are defeated before an enemy but turn again to you, confess your name, pray and plead with you in this house, then hear in the sky, forgive the sin of your people Israel, and return them again to the land that you gave to their ancestors.

"[Deut 28.23-24] When the sky is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, and then they pray toward this place, confess your name, and turn from their sin, because you answer them, then hear in the sky, and forgive the sin of your slaves, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk; and grant rain on your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

"[Deut 28.21ff] If there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in any of their cities; whatever plague, whatever sickness [Ex 15.26; 23.25] there is; whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the afflictions of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house; then hear in the sky your dwelling place, for-
give, act, and render to all whose hearts you know--according to all their ways, for only you know what is in every human heart-- so that they may fear you all the days that they live in the face of the ground that you gave to our fathers.

"Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name --for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm [Deut 4.34; 26.8]--when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in the sky your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

"If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to YHWH toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, then hear in the sky their prayer and their plea, and make justice.

"[Deut 28.36-37, 64-68] If they sin against you--for there is no one who does not sin--and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near; yet if they return in their heart in the land to which they have been taken captive, and return, and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned, and have acted perversely; we become guilty; if they return with all their heart and being in the land of their enemies, who took them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name; then hear in the sky your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, make justice and forgive your people who

have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have transgressed against you; and grant them compassion [Deut 13.17] in the sight of their **captors**, so that they may have compassion on them—for they are your **people** and heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron-smelter [Deut 4.20]. Let your eyes be open to the **plea** of your **slave**, and to the **plea** of your **people Israel**, **hearing** them whenever they call to you. For you have separated them from among all the **peoples** of the earth, to be your heritage, just as you promised through Moses, your **slave**, when you brought our **fathers** out of Egypt, O Lord **YHWH**."

MOSAIC COVENANT

Now when Solomon finished offering all this **prayer** and this **plea** to **YHWH**, he arose from facing the altar of **YHWH**, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward **sky**; **he stood and blessed all the assembly** of **Israel** with a loud voice: "Blessed be **YHWH**, who has given rest to his **people Israel** according to all that he **worded**; not one **word** has failed of all his good **word**, which he spoke through his **slave** Moses. **YHWH** our God be with us, as he was with our **fathers**; may he not leave us or abandon us, but incline our hearts to him, to **walk** in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his ordinances, which he commanded our **fathers**. Let these **words** of mine, with which I **pleaded** before **YHWH**, be near to **YHWH** our God day and night, and may he make justice for his **slave** and the justice of his **people Israel**, as each day requires; so that all the **peoples** of the earth may know that **YHWH** is God; there is no other. Therefore let your hearts be completely devoted to **YHWH** our God, **walking** in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at **this day**."

Then the king, and all **Israel** with him, offered sacrifice before **YHWH**. Solomon **offered as sacrifices of well-being to YHWH twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred twenty thousand sheep**. So the king and all the **people** of **Israel** dedicated the **house** [cf. Deut 20.5] of **YHWH**. The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the **house** of **YHWH**; for there he offered the burnt offerings and the grain offerings and the fat pieces of the sacrifices of well-being, because the bronze altar [Ex 38.30; 39.39] that was before **YHWH** was too small to receive the burnt offerings and the grain offerings and the fat pieces of the sacrifices of well-being. So Solomon held the festival at that time, and all **Israel** with him--a great assembly, **people** from Lebo-hamath to the Wadi of Egypt--before **YHWH** our God, seven days. On the eighth day he sent the **people** away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents, joyful and good-hearted because of all the goodness that **YHWH** had shown to his **slave David** and to his **people Israel**.

When Solomon had finished building the **house** of **YHWH** and the king's **house** and all that Solomon desired to build, **YHWH** appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon. **YHWH** said to him, "I have heard your **prayer** and your **plea**, which you made before me; I have consecrated this **house** that you have **built** and put my **name** there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time. As for you, **if you will walk before me**, as **David** your **father walked**, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my ordinances, then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I **worded** to your **father David**, saying, 'There shall never cut off a man on the throne of **Israel**.' "If you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut **Israel** off from the land that I have given them; and the **house** that I have consecrated for my **name** I will cast out of my sight; and **Israel** will become a proverb and a taunt among all **peoples** [Deut 28.37]. This **house** will become a heap of ruins [Jer 9.11; 26.18]; everyone passing by it will be astonished, and will hiss [Jer 19.8]; and they will say, 'Why has **YHWH** done such a thing to this land and to this **house**?' Then they will say, 'Because they have forsaken **YHWH** their God [Deut 28.20], who brought their ancestors out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, worshipping them and serving them; therefore **YHWH** has brought this disaster upon them.'