

1 KINGS 8	2 CHRONICLES 5.1-7.10	EZRA 6
Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHWH out of the city of David, which is Zion. All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, 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, 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, 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, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. 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. 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, 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 filled the house of YHWH, so that the priests could not stand	Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of YHWH was finished. Solomon brought in the things that his father David had dedicated, and stored the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the treasuries of the house of God. Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the people of Israel, in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of YHWH out of the city of David, which is Zion. And all the Israelites assembled before the king at the festival that is in the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites carried the ark. So they brought up the ark, the tent of meeting, 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, who had assembled before him, were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be numbered or counted. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of YHWH to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. 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. 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 that Moses put there at Horeb, where YHWH made a covenant with the people of Israel after they came out of Egypt. Now when the	Then King Darius made a decree, and they searched the archives where the documents were stored in Babylon. But it was in Ecbatana, the capital in the province of Media, that a scroll was found on which this was written: "A record. In the first year of his reign, King Cyrus issued a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt, the place where sacrifices are offered and burnt offerings are brought; its height shall be sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits, with three courses of hewn stones and one course of timber; let the cost be paid from the royal treasury. Moreover, let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought back to the temple in Jerusalem, each to its place; you shall put them in the house of God." "Now you, Tattenai, governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and you, their associates, the envoys in the province Beyond the River, keep away; let the work on this house of God alone; let the governor of the Judeans and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site. Moreover I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Judeans for the rebuilding of this house of God: the cost is to be paid to these people, in full and without delay, from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province Beyond the River. Whatever is needed--young bulls, rams, or sheep for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, as the priests in Jerusalem require--let that

to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of YHWH filled the house of YHWH. Then Solomon said, "YHWH has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. I have 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, while all the assembly of Israel stood. He said, "Blessed be YHWH, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised 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 from any of the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.' My father David had it in mind to build a house for the name of YHWH, the God of Israel. But YHWH said to my father David, 'You did well to consider 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 upheld the promise that he made; **for I have risen in the place of my father David; I sit on the throne of Israel, as YHWH promised, and have built the house for the name of YHWH, the God of Israel. There I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of YHWH that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.**" Then Solomon stood before the altar of YHWH in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O YHWH, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth **beneath**, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, **the covenant that** you kept for your servant

priests came out of the holy place **(for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to their divisions, and all the levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kindred, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with one hundred twenty priests who were trumpeters). It was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to YHWH, and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to YHWH, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of YHWH, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of YHWH filled the house of God.**

Then Solomon said, "YHWH has said that he would reside in thick darkness. I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to reside in forever." Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. And he said, "Blessed be YHWH, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to my father David, saying, 'Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from any of the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, so that my name might be there, **and I chose no one as ruler over my people Israel; but I have chosen Jerusalem in order that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.**' My father David had it in mind to build a house for the name of YHWH, the God of Israel. But YHWH said to my father

be given to them day by day without fail, **so that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his children.** Furthermore I decree that if anyone alters this edict, a beam shall be pulled out of the house of the perpetrator, who then shall be impaled on it. The house shall be made a dunghill. May the God who has established his name there overthrow any king or people that shall put forth a hand to alter this, or to destroy this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, make a decree; let it be done with all diligence." Then, according to the word sent by King Darius, Tattenai, the governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates did with all diligence what King Darius had ordered. So the elders of the Judeans built and prospered, through the prophesying of the prophet Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo. **They finished their building by command of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus, Darius, and King Artaxerxes of Persia;** and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius. **The people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. They offered at the dedication of this house of God one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.** Then they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their courses for the service of God at Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Moses. On the fourteenth day of the first month the

my father David **as you declared to him;** you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O YHWH, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David. **"But will God indeed dwell** on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O YHWH my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you **today; that** your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place **of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you** may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; **O hear in heaven your dwelling place;** heed and forgive.

"If someone sins against a neighbor and is given an oath to swear, and comes and swears before your altar in this house, **then** hear in heaven, and act, and judge your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing their conduct on their own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding them according to their righteousness.

"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

David, 'You did well to consider 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 fulfilled his promise that he made; **for I have succeeded** my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as YHWH promised, and have built the house for the name of YHWH, the God of Israel. There I have **set the ark,** in which is the covenant of YHWH that he made **with the people of Israel."** Then Solomon stood before the altar of YHWH in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands. **Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court; and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven.** He said, "O YHWH, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant in steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart-- you who have kept for your servant, my father David, **what you promised to him. Indeed,** you promised with your mouth and this day have fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O YHWH, God of Israel, keep for your servant, my father David, that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children keep to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.' Therefore, **O YHWH,** God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant David. **"But will God indeed reside with mortals** on earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot

returned exiles kept the passover. For both the priests and the Levites had purified themselves; all of them were clean. So they killed the passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves. **It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by all who had joined them and separated themselves from the pollutions of the nations of the land to worship the YHWH, the God of Israel.** With joy they celebrated the festival of unleavened bread seven days; for **YHWH had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel.**

house, then hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your people Israel, and bring them again to the land that you gave to their ancestors. "When heaven 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 punish them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of your servants, 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.

"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 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 heaven your dwelling place, forgive, **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 land that you gave to our ancestors.

"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--when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, **then** hear in heaven 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

contain you, how much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O YHWH my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you. **May** your eyes be open day and night toward this house, the place **where you promised to set your name**, and may you heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. **And** hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; may you hear from heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

"If someone sins against another and is required to take an oath and comes and swears before your altar in this house, **may you** hear from heaven, and act, and judge your servants, repaying the guilty by bringing their conduct on their own head, and vindicating those who are in the right by rewarding them in accordance with their righteousness.

"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, may you hear from heaven, and forgive the sin of your people Israel, and bring them again to the land that you gave to them and to their ancestors.

"When heaven 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 punish them, may you hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk; and **send down** rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

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 heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.

"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 come to their senses in the land to which they have been taken captive, and repent, and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned, and have done wrong; we have acted wickedly'; if they repent with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies, who took them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their ancestors, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name; then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you, **and all their transgressions that they have committed against you; and grant them compassion 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). Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant, and to the plea of your people Israel, listening to them whenever they call to you. For you have separated them from**

"If there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar; if their enemies besiege them in any of **the settlements of the lands; whatever suffering**, whatever sickness there is; whatever prayer, whatever plea from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing **their own suffering and their own sorrows** so that they stretch out their hands toward this house; **may you** hear from heaven, your dwelling place, forgive, and render to all whose heart you know, according to all their ways, for only you know the human heart. **Thus may** they fear you **and walk in your ways** all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our ancestors.

"Likewise when **foreigners**, who are not of your people Israel, come from a distant land because of your **great name, and** your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm, when they come and pray toward this house, **may you** hear from heaven your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigners **ask** of you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and 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 **enemies**, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to you toward this city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.

"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 a**

among all the peoples of the earth, to be your heritage, just as you promised through Moses, your servant, when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt, O Lord YHWH."

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 heaven; 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 promised; not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke through his servant Moses. YHWH our God be with us, as he was with our ancestors; 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 ancestors. Let these words of mine, with which I pleaded before YHWH, be near to YHWH our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause 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 devote yourselves completely 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 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

land far or near; then if they come to their senses in the land to which they have been taken captive, and repent, and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, and have done wrong; we have acted wickedly'; if they repent with all their heart and soul in the land of their captivity, to which they were taken captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their ancestors, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name, then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you. Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to prayer from this place. "Now rise up, O YHWH God, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests, O YHWH God, be clothed with salvation, and let your faithful rejoice in your goodness. O YHWH God, do not reject your anointed one. Remember your steadfast love for your servant David."

When Solomon had ended his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of YHWH filled the temple. The priests could not enter the house of YHWH, because the glory of YHWH filled YHWH's house. When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of YHWH on the temple, they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and worshiped and gave thanks to YHWH, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before YHWH. King Solomon offered as a sacrifice twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred twenty

offered the burnt offerings and the grain offerings and the fat pieces of the sacrifices of well-being, because the bronze altar 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 in good spirits because of all the goodness that YHWH had shown to his servant David and to his people Israel.	thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. The priests stood at their posts; the Levites also, with the instruments for music to YHWH that King David had made for giving thanks to YHWH--for his steadfast love endures forever--whenever David offered praises by their ministry. Opposite them the priests sounded trumpets; and all Israel stood. Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of YHWH; for there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the offerings of well-being because the bronze altar Solomon had made could not hold the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat parts. At that time Solomon held the festival for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from Lebo-hamath to the Wadi of Egypt. On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly; for they had observed the dedication of the altar seven days and the festival seven days. On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their homes, joyful and in good spirits because of the goodness that YHWH had shown to David and to Solomon and to his people Israel.	
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