

Solomon Called on the Name of the LORD
1 Kings 8:12-61

It was a day of worship and celebration like no other, as King Solomon called all the leaders of the people together to bring the ark of the covenant into the newly completed temple. The event culminated with nothing less than the shekinah glory cloud filling the temple, and then Solomon called upon the Lord in a magnificent prayer of dedication, illustrating several aspects of prayer.

- I. Prayer is acknowledging FULFILLED promises, 1 Kings 8:12-21.
- II. Prayer is requesting CONFIRMED promises, 1 Kings 8:22-26.
- III. Prayer is recognizing CONDITIONAL promises, 1 Kings 8:27-53; 2 Chronicles 7:11-22.
- IV. Prayer is affirming PURPOSEFUL promises, 1 Kings 8:54-61.



Family Time:

We often ask God for things, but it has been noted that we sometimes don't stop to acknowledge when God has answered. Take time as a family to list some recent requests and thank God for answers. Then go a step further, and list some promises of God He has fulfilled or will certainly fulfill even when some of our requests seem to go unanswered. What does 1 Kings 8:23 teach you about how God will answer prayer?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Last week it was noted that God answered David's prayer, "no"—wrong time, wrong man, wrong "size". God had a better plan, which Solomon recognized was fulfilled in his time (1 Kings 8:20-21).

--Is it OK with you for God to say "no" to your specific requests?

--Do you believe that if the desire of your heart is not met, God actually has something better in mind?

--How patient are you when something you want isn't happening? Are you willing to wait for the next generation to see a desire fulfilled?

2. One of the main things we are learning about prayer as "calling on the name of the Lord" is that we are asking God to fulfill what he has promised. This is the essence of Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 8:26.

--How does Solomon clarify the specific nature of the promise, as distinct from a general promise applicable to everyone and at all times?

--The promise of David's offspring building a house was fulfilled with the temple, but what promise remains to be fulfilled?

--What is the conditional aspect of this promise (8:25)?

3. How is the conditional nature of God's promises evident in 1 Kings 8:23 and 1 Kings 8:25? What does this lead Solomon to pray for in 1 Kings 8:57-58? And how does he challenge the people, 1 Kings 8:61? Yet when you read 8:30-53, what is he very aware of? So what is the ongoing need of the people (8:30)?

4. The requests for God to fulfill his promises to the people go beyond meeting their needs, 1 Kings 8:59-60. Read Ezekiel 36:22-38. When a repentant people are restored, even as Solomon prayed they would be, what is the reason or reasons?

NEXT WEEK: Elijah Called on the Name of the Lord