

Prayer: Communicating with The Father Series: 5

The Consecration Prayer of Solomon

1 Kings 8.22-53

2 Chronicles 6.14-42

Before Solomon prayed this prayer he had brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and placed it in the inner sanctuary of the Temple. As the priests came out of the Most Holy Place the cloud, the glory of God, filled the house (10-11) so that the priests could not continue ministering.

- He stands before the altar in the presence of all the congregation – this is a public prayer. All the congregation hears what he prays, they are all a part of this prayer, they had all witnessed the placing of the ark of God, they set themselves in agreement.
- He spreads out his hands toward heaven – we read in 2 Chronicles that he kneels down on a bronze platform (2 Chronicles 6.13) and spreads out his hands. **“(for Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven)”**
 - Solomon adopts a kneeling posture
 - this is a mark of surrender. In the prayer of consecration we surrender our will to the will of God.
 - this is also a mark of reverence and honour – we kneel in worship. Kneeling before the Lord is instructed in Psalm 95.6.
 - Jesus knelt down and surrendered His will to the Father's in His prayer of consecration in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22.41-42) **“And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”**
 - This doesn't mean that we must always kneel to pray – the Bible gives many references to prayer where the people adopted various postures – some standing, some sitting, weeping, raised hands, kneeling, walking, bowed down, head in knees, others prostrate. The importance is placed on prayer not posture.
- Toward heaven – Solomon prays his prayer to the God of heaven. He doesn't pray through a priest, he directs his prayer to God himself.

He lifts up his voice in praise and worship and prays and consecrates the Temple for the service of God - He dedicates it for God's use.

Solomon's Prayer of Consecration and Dedication of the Temple -

In this prayer of consecration Solomon:

1. Praises God and acknowledges His greatness, faithfulness, covenant and mercy (23)
2. Gives Thanks to God for keeping His word (24)
3. Reminds God of His Word (25).
4. Requests God's grace & favour
 - He asks God to perform what He had promised (25)
 - To have respect for the temple
 - That He Himself would dwell in it (27)
 - That God would hear and answer prayer prayed in the temple (29-30)
5. Suggests cases of why God's people may approach Him
 - In cases of public judgement (31-32)
 - In cases of national calamity (33-37)
 - In cases of personal affliction (38-40)
 - In cases of a stranger's prayer (41-43)
 - In cases of war (44-45)
 - In cases of repentance (46-53)

After Solomon had finished praying the glory of the Lord filled the temple again and this time it was so powerful that the priests could not even enter the temple (2 Chronicles 7.1-2)

Lessons from Solomon

He prayed the prayer himself – not one of the priests

Reverent & humble – the great king bowed his knee to the greater God (v54)

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," Ephesians 3.14

His approach

- Praises God and acknowledges His greatness, faithfulness
- Gives Thanks to God for keeping His word - His provision, faithfulness
- Reminds God of His Word
- Asks his requests