

Solomon's Temple Dedication

Commentary for June 1, 2016 — Inside the Temple and Solomon's Prayer to God

The Temple design is based on a heavenly pattern of God's own abode. The proportions and the furniture and implements within the Temple are similar to those given to Moses for the construction of the Tabernacle after the Israelites left Egypt (Exodus chapters 25–30). The layout is directly analogous to that of the Garden, Eden, and wilderness written about in Genesis chapters 2, 3 and 4.¹

"Israel and Judah: 18. Temple Interior and Dedication" is this month's article and presents descriptions of the artifacts inside various areas of God's Temple built by King Solomon. The article is introduced in the "[June 2016 Newsletter](#)," so please read that first. The newsletter explains why this information is important to us as believers in Christ because in fact they directly relate to activities that occurred after Christ's resurrection. These acts are described and explained in the Book of Hebrews.

The Temple was intended to be the center of Israelite life so long as the kings, nobility, and the people were faithful to YHWH alone as their only God. Other gods were real (and are real), yet they were never to be worshiped by the people of Israel.

As we will read in future "Israel and Judah" articles, once Solomon and the people began worshipping other gods (in addition to worshipping YHWH), bad times began to follow quickly. Israel was intended to be an example to the nations of the world (Exodus 19:5–6) in two ways,

1. Israel was to be a positive example when she was faithful, worshipping only YHWH, and was rewarded with blessings (itemized in Deuteronomy 28:1–14),
2. Israel was to be a negative example when she was faithless, worshipping other gods, and was cursed with punishments (itemized in Deuteronomy 28:15–68).

Israel is still an example to the world in another way. At present, the people of Israel are still scattered around the world, yet many, indeed millions, have returned to the land promised to Abraham. This trend will continue. Israel is still blinded, hardened, or calloused by God.² The apostle Paul wrote:

"What then? Israel has not obtained that which he seeks for; but the election has obtained it, and the rest were blinded [made hardened, calloused] (According as it is written [in Isaiah 29:10],

'God has given them [1] the spirit of slumber, [2] eyes that they should not see, and [3] ears that they should not hear; unto this day.'"

• *Romans 11:7–8*

¹ Dr. Ernest Martin, "[Temple Symbolism in Genesis](#)."

² The King James Version several times uses the term "blinded" or "blindness" to translate the concept of hardness and callousness of the heart that most other translations are correct in using.

The Interior Accessories in the Temple

Everything Solomon did in the construction of the Temple was correct and approved by God according to His specifications. All the interior decorations, altars, tools, and implements were in place and ready for use.

Once the Temple sacrifices began operating, all the tools were used every day of the year. During the spring and fall feasts, the number of sacrifices increased immensely. The unique event of the Temple's dedication saw the sacrifice of tens of thousands of beasts needed to feed the people during the weeklong celebration of the Temple's completion.

This information is described in "[Israel and Judah: 15. David Organizes for Solomon](#)" where all the preparation for the personnel and jobs are detailed, and in 1 Chronicles 22:1–19, David's physical preparations for the Temple are described. Many preparations needed to be done to accommodate the massive crowds. The people had to be housed, entertained (with David's Psalms, the Songs of Moses and Deborah, and other musical events); reading of the Torah, teaching, and speeches were no doubt presented.

The Dedication

YHWH showed His approval in two miraculous ways, as Solomon apparently closely adhered to all the instructions given to him by David.³ Solomon and Israel received great blessings from YHWH, including a visible acknowledgement and sign of God's personal presence coming to the Temple, and His approval of all Israel's actions. God's positive response also meant that Solomon's words in his dedicatory prayer to God were accepted by Him. The blessings would continue in the years following, to the end of Solomon's reign.

In Solomon's dedication, he asked God to bless Israel, but he also asked for His mercy upon His people when they sinned, as they did in the time of Moses, Joshua, the Judges, King Saul, King David, up to Solomon's day. He said all the right words at the appropriate time.

God's spectacular entry of His presence into the Temple meant that the people of Israel could not claim ignorance for straying and worshiping other gods, demanding YHWH executing curses and punishments upon them. This was because Solomon, in dedicating the Temple to God, prayed and reminded Israel of Moses' warning about God's punishments.

While this month's article is difficult at times, it is necessary information about one of the blessed periods in Israel's history. During Solomon's life, storm clouds appear on the horizon, and Solomon himself strayed from God's blessing for doing the very thing Solomon himself warned against in his dedicatory prayer.

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³ God showed Moses the plans for the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:8–9, 40; Numbers 8:4). The plans Solomon used for the Temple construction were received by David in writing from God (1 Chronicles 28:19). See my article "[The Pattern of the Temple](#)."