

Lesson # 2 -- The Prayer of Solomon -- The Prayer of Dedication.

Introduction

- A. In every age, the True and Living God has chosen to reveal Himself and teach His people through various methods of illustration. The Passover, the Levitical Order, Baptism and the Lord's Supper would exemplify this principle.
- B. One of the clearest illustrations in the Old Testament is that of the temple.
 - 1. The New Testament reminds us that, "The law (of which the temple was a major part) was a shadow of good things to come." Hebrews 10:1
 - 2. As the blueprint for the Tabernacle was revealed to Moses (Exodus 25:40; 26:30), so the Temple was to David (I Chronicles 28:11,12,19).
 - 3. The prayer of Solomon is inseparably related to the Temple.
- C. Solomon represented the chosen people before God and his prayer was a great witness. II Chronicles 6:12,13
 - 1. It was a witness to his faith and belief in God.
 - 2. It was a witness to his concern and love for his people.
 - 3. It was a witness to his hope and the expectation that God would answer prayer.

I. The Basis and Goal of the Prayer: The Significance of the Temple.

- A. The temple signified the truth of God dwelling with man.
 - 1. The Old Testament explanation, Exodus 25:8.

And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

- 2. The New Testament fulfillment.

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:23

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John 1:14

- 3. The New Testament application, I John 1:3.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

P. The temple signified the truth that sinful man is redeemed by God only through sacrifice.

1. The Old Testament explanation, Exodus 25:10,16,21,22.

And they shall make an ark of shittim wood, two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.

And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark, and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

2. The New Testament fulfillment, Romans 10:4.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

3. The New Testament application.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:1

Summary:

1. Solomon's prayer of dedication was based on God's merciful provision of sacrificial redemption and its goal had to do with the fellowship of God and man.
2. It is important that we realize that God has provided a basis for our prayer life. We are to pray in the Name of Jesus Christ! One of the most important goals for our prayers has to do with fellowshipping with God.

II. The Content of the Prayer: God Would be Glorified through His People.

A. The invocation, II Chronicles 6:14,15.

The greatness of God, His mercy and faithfulness.

B. The supplication, II Chronicles 6:16-21.

Fulfill the promises made to David and answer prayer.

C. The requests, II Chronicles 6:22-39.

1. Maintain justice among men, Vs 22,23.
2. Forgive and restore Thy people when they are defeated in battle. Vs 24,25.
3. Forgive and remove the plagues regarding the land, Vs 26-31.
4. Hear the strangers who believe and pray, Vs 32,33.
5. Deliver Thy people in war, Vs 34,35.
6. Forgive and restore Thy people when they are taken into captivity, Vs 36-39.

D. The conclusion, II Chronicles 6:40-42.

Respond to my prayer, fill the temple, fulfill Thy promises to David.

Summary:

1. God is concerned about His people.
2. God is concerned about specific needs among his people.
3. God has a plan which includes His people.
4. God is pleased when all this is reflected in believing prayer.

III. The Divine Response to the Prayer: The Revelation of God.

A. Fire from Heaven consumed the sacrifice, II Chronicles 7:1a.

Divine acceptance of their sacrifices and the prayer.

B. The glory of God filled the Temple, II Chronicles 7:1b.

Divine approval of the Temple - God would dwell there.

C. The message of comfort and instruction, II Chronicles 7:12-22.

Divine willingness to be involved in the affairs of His people.

Summary:

1. God wanted Solomon and Israel to know that their obedience in building and dedicating the Temple was pleasing to Him.
2. God's presence in the Temple was a constant reminder that redemption had been provided, that prayer would be answered, and that man could fellowship with God.

Conclusion: The application of this lesson to New Testament saints.

A. The saint in his person is the temple of God, II Corinthians 6:16-18.

1. Accept what you are.
2. Recognize your privileges and self-worth.
3. Cooperate with God in the development of your potentiality.

B. The saint in his office is the priest of God, I Peter 2:5.

1. Accept who you are.
2. Recognize your right and ability to serve God.
3. Cooperate with God in the development of your potentiality.

C. The saint in his calling is to offer spiritual sacrifices, I Peter 2:5.

1. Accept what you can do.
2. Recognize your abilities.
3. Cooperate with God in the development of your potentiality.

D. The prayer of Solomon is an example to us.

1. Prayer is an activity of worship before God, an intimate fellowship with Him, and a rejoicing in His presence and mercy
2. Prayer is a response to and an explicit trust in God's provision.
3. Prayer is the claiming of God's promises, the mixing of God's word with faith.