

## **Week 21 – A King Builds a Temple for God’s Name**

**May 25-26**

**1 Kings 6 and 8**

### **A Godly Leader Prioritizes Worship**

#### **Summary and Goal:**

As we continue to look at the *Hidden Qualities of a Godly Leader*, we see that a Godly leader must make a priority of worshiping the God who created and sustains him. The Worship of God is one of the core purposes and joys of human life. A Godly leader knows this and prioritizes worshiping the Lord with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. Solomon sets an example of these priorities with the building and dedicating of the temple in Jerusalem.

#### **Main Passages:**

1 Kings 6:1; 12-13

1 Kings 8

#### **Session Outline:**

1. Godly Leaders Seek God’s Presence (6:1; 12-13; 8:10-13)
2. Godly Leaders Praise God Using their Gifts (8:15-20; 27-29)
3. Godly Leaders Set an Example of Confession and Repentance (8:30; 46-50)

#### **Session in a Sentence:**

Humans were created to know and worship God, so a Godly Leader must prioritize leading others to know and worship Him.

#### **Kingdom Connection:**

The Kingdom of God is the place where God’s will is done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Humans were created in God’s image to know Him and to worship Him. That means that Godly Leaders must make a priority of lifting the Lord up in worship and leading others to worship Him as well.

## Introduction:

What is Worship? Is it the act of singing corporately with other people? Is it bringing gifts or offerings to God? Is it praying for multiple hours a day?

While all of these are individual acts of worship, none encapsulate a full definition of worship. According to Webster's Dictionary from 1828, "*Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission*".<sup>1</sup> Webster places the emphasis of worship on honoring the object of worship with love and submission. To worship God means honoring Him with all of our love and our submission to His will.

If I could give my own definition of worship, I would say that worship is the act of giving ultimate value to something. When your words, actions, and heart say that a person or thing is the most valuable thing to you, then you are worshiping that object. If your thoughts, actions, passion, and devotion are directed toward your career, then you are worshiping your career. The same thing can be said for money, sex, power, pleasure, or any other thing you choose to make the most important in your life. Worshiping God means lifting Him up as the most valuable, most important, and most precious thing in your life.

In this week's passage, we read about the manner in which Solomon prioritized the Worship of God while he was the king of Israel. He was given the commission by his father David to build a temple for the Lord in Jerusalem, and he completes this task as an act of worship to the Lord. Building the temple gave the people of Israel a permanent place to worship their God. As a Godly Leader, Solomon prioritized worship for himself and those in his kingdom.

### 1. Godly Leaders Seek God's Presence

*And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD. 1 Kings 6:1; Chronological Bible May 21, p.579*

*<sup>11</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying: <sup>12</sup> "Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David. <sup>13</sup> And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel." 1 Kings 6:11-13; Chronological Bible May 21, p.581*

*<sup>10</sup> And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. <sup>12</sup> Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/bible-answers/spirituallife/what-is-true-worship.html>

would dwell in the dark cloud. <sup>13</sup>I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever." 1 Kings 8:10-13; Chronological Bible May 23, p.585-586

### **What does it say?**

Solomon executed on the plans given to him by his father David to build the temple in Jerusalem. He began construction on the temple during the fourth year of his rule as king (6:1). God promised Solomon that if he would walk in God's statutes and principles, then He would dwell among the people of Israel (6:11-13). God wanted to dwell among His people, and the purpose of building the temple was to make room for worship in His presence. At the completion of building the temple, the priests and the people did indeed see and feel God's presence in the form of the cloud of His glory (8:10-13).

### **What does it mean?**

One of the key components of worshiping the Lord is the desire to be in His presence. For the people of Israel, the presence of God was concentrated in the holy of holies, seated upon the mercy seat on the ark of the covenant. They understood this place to be the meeting point of Heaven and Earth. God's presence in the tabernacle was the sign that Israel was set apart as His people, and that He loved them. David and Solomon wanted to build a permanent house for the Lord as a sign that the Israelites wanted His presence among them forever. If worshiping God means valuing Him above all else, then, of course, we should seek to be in His presence to enjoy Him, to know Him, and to lift Him up. God rewarded Solomon's faithfulness in building the temple by making His presence felt through the cloud of His glory throughout the temple.

### **Application:**

One of the most rewarding aspects of worshiping the Lord are the moments when the curtain is pulled back, and we truly feel the presence of God. This feeling of God's presence does not always come when we worship Him (although God is omnipresent), but for those who seek His presence in worship, God does sometimes provide these wonderful experiences of His glory. For the Israelites, they needed to experience this in the temple of the Lord, where His presence would dwell. Matthew 27:51 tells us that when Jesus was crucified, the thick veil that separated the holiest room in the temple from the rest of the world was torn from top to bottom. The veil was torn because Jesus' sacrifice on the cross makes God's presence available in the lives of all that belongs to Him regardless of their physical location. We don't have to go to a special place to seek and experience God's presence, but His Spirit dwells within us. We can experience God's presence and fellowship in any place when we approach Him in reverent worship.

One thing that you might find helpful is the truth that not all of us connect with God in worship in the same way. As a teenager, I was troubled because I did not seem to have the same transcendent worship experiences during music as some of my friends. I wondered if there was something wrong with me, until I learned that I connect with God more strongly in worship in other ways. One book that has been very helpful to me is *Sacred Pathways* by one of our

pastors on staff, Gary Thomas. The book explains 9 different ‘pathways’ that Christians have used over the history of the church to connect with God in worship. Finding which pathways connect with us most strongly can be helpful in determining how we can seek to come into God’s presence. Here is a quick explanation of the 9 pathways in his book:

- 1. Naturalists** — love God best outdoors. These people worship in the midst of God’s creation. They celebrate His majesty and discover spiritual truths through nature.
- 2. Sensates** — love God through their senses. These people worship through sensual experiences — sights (like art), sounds (music), smells, and more.
- 3. Traditionalists** — love God through religious ritual and symbols. These people worship through traditions and sacraments of the Church. They believe structure, repetition, and rigidity, like weekly liturgy, leads to deeper understanding of God and faith.
- 4. Ascetics** — love God in solitude and simplicity. These people worship through prayer and quiet time, and the absence of all outside noise and distraction.
- 5. Activists** — love God through confrontation, fighting for godly principles and values. They worship through their dedication to and participation in God’s truth about social and evangelistic causes.
- 6. Caregivers** — love God by serving others, and worship by giving of themselves. They may nurse the sick and disabled, “adopt” a prisoner, donate time at a shelter, etc.
- 7. Enthusiasts** — love God through mystery and celebration. These people worship with outward displays of passion and enthusiasm. They love God with gusto!
- 8. Contemplatives** — love God through adoration. These people worship by their attentiveness, deep love, and intimacy. They have an active prayer life.
- 9. Intellectuals** — love God with their mind and their hearts are opened up to a new attentiveness when they understand something new about God. These people worship through intense study, apologetics, and intellectual pursuits of their faith.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Godly Leaders Praise God Using Their Gifts

*<sup>14</sup> Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. <sup>15</sup> And he said: “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying, <sup>16</sup> ‘Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.’ <sup>17</sup> Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. <sup>18</sup> But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.’ <sup>20</sup> So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. 1 Kings 8:14-20 Chronological Bible May 23, pg. 586*

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<sup>2</sup> [http://media.focusonthefamily.com/fotf/pdf/fof\\_daily\\_broadcast/2014/ffde-20140416-9-sacred-pathways-final.pdf](http://media.focusonthefamily.com/fotf/pdf/fof_daily_broadcast/2014/ffde-20140416-9-sacred-pathways-final.pdf)

*27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! 28 Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: 29 that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. 1 Kings 8:27-29 Chronological Bible May 23, pg. 587*

### **What does it say?**

After completing the construction of the temple, Solomon addressed the people of Israel gathered at its opening. He said a prayer of blessing and thankfulness to God for all the things that He had done. Solomon also pointed out to all gathered that he was only able to complete this task because God had provided David and Solomon, a father and son, with the dreams, the energy, and the resources to complete the task. Solomon praised God, saying that the whole Earth is His dwelling place, yet God chooses to be among His people. Even though the whole universe is His, He still listens to the prayers of His people.

### **What does it mean?**

God put Solomon in his time and place in history for a particular purpose: He wanted Solomon to build His temple and share supernatural wisdom with the world. God provided Solomon with the position, the skills, the gifts, and the intellect to complete his calling. Solomon worshiped the Lord by utilizing his gifts, his talents, his time, and his energy to constructing a temple where God's people can worship Him. The whole universe belongs to the Lord, but He wants to spend time with His people as they worship Him. This means that you and I need to identify what gifts, talents, and abilities that God has given us so we can use them to worship Him!

### **Application:**

God has given each one of us unique gifts and talents. Whether you are talented in music, dance, service, craftsmanship, leadership, teaching, business, or any other area of life, God expects you to identify your gifts and use them in worship. As Christians, we must find a way to utilize our skills, gifts, and talents in worshiping the Lord. We were made to worship God and enjoy Him forever, so of course, we should make it a top priority to utilize these gifts in worship of our Lord.

## **3. Godly Leaders Set An Example of Confession and Repentance**

*30 "And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive. 31 "When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple, 32 then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your*

*servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.*

*<sup>46</sup> “When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near; <sup>47</sup> yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those who took them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness’; <sup>48</sup> and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name: <sup>49</sup> then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, <sup>50</sup> and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them.” 1 Kings 8:30; 46-50 Chronological Bible May 23, pg. 587-588*

### **What does it say?**

While dedicating the temple, Solomon asks the Lord to use it as a place where His people can come to confess their sins, turn away from them in repentance, and receive the forgiveness of the Lord. He lists all the different ways that the Israelites might sin in the future, and he asks that God would use the temple as the place to remind them that they must confess their sins, repent and turn back toward the Worship of God.

### **What does it mean?**

Solomon was wise (of course he was) to assume that the Israelites would sin and turn away from God in the future. Solomon understood the human condition, and he knew that God’s people were prone to wander away from Him. He asked the Lord to use this temple, this place of worship, as the place where God’s people could come back to Him in repentance and be restored. Solomon intentionally uttered these words because he wanted the Israelites to understand that God is a God of forgiveness, and we never wander too far away from Him to receive His mercy and grace.

One of the key elements of worship is that it exposes the sin in our own lives, and it gives us an opportunity to confess and repent. Making worship a priority is important because it gives us an opportunity to get right before God and turn away from our sin. Solomon set this example for the people of Israel and their descendants.

### **Application:**

As we discussed in the first point of the lesson, we no longer have to go to the temple to worship in the presence of the Lord. In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul says *“<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”* If our bodies are the temple of the Lord, then we can worship Him and come into his presence at any place or time. Whenever we recognize sin and rebellion in our own life, we have

the opportunity to confess it to the Lord (who already knows about it anyway) and turn back to Him. If we seek to be Godly Leaders, we must make a habit of coming to God in worship, confessing our sins and making our hearts right before Him. If we have a humble attitude of confession and contrition regarding areas of sin in our life, this will rub off on those under our influence or authority. Do you want to see the people in your life confess their sins to God and change their behavior? It starts with you. Set an example as a leader of owning up to your mistakes, confessing them to God, and changing your direction back toward God.

- **God Speaks** through David the plans for the temple and then communicates the specifics regarding the temple to Solomon.
- **God Acts** by filling the temple with His presence.
- **God Reveals** His desire to dwell among His people in a visible manner.

**Resources:**

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/bible-answers/spirituallife/what-is-true-worship.html>

[http://media.focusonthefamily.com/fotf/pdf/fof\\_daily\\_broadcast/2014/ffde-20140416-9-sacred-pathways-final.pdf](http://media.focusonthefamily.com/fotf/pdf/fof_daily_broadcast/2014/ffde-20140416-9-sacred-pathways-final.pdf)