

BUILDING DEDICATION

1 Kings 8

INTRODUCTION

- A. Story of the Dedication of the Temple, 1 Kings 8.
 - 1. The temple has been completed.
 - 2. The ark of the covenant is brought into the temple, v. 1.
 - 3. Sacrifices of oxen and sheep. So many that they could not be counted, vs. 5.
 - 4. The singers were all in place, 2 Chron. 5:11-13..
 - a. Singing that God is indeed good for His lovingkindness is everlasting.
 - 5. The house of the Lord is filled with a great cloud [the glory of the Lord] – the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, 2 Chron. 5:14..
 - a. Similar to the cloud in the tabernacle, Ex. 40:34-38.
 - 6. Solomon addresses the people, vss. 15-21.
 - a. Since leaving Egypt there had not been a city chosen to build a house, v. 15.
 - b. But now I have chosen Jerusalem and David, vs. 16, 20-21.
- B. We Celebrate Today!
 - 1. Much effort by many people.
 - 2. Not countless sheep and oxen, but many sacrifices along the way.
 - 3. And Solomon's words fit us today!
 - 4. Not about the building – but about God!

I. NO GOD LIKE OUR GOD!

- A. Praise to God, vs. 23.
 - 1. Because He keeps His covenant, vs. 23.
 - a. Not one has failed, v. 56.
 - b. Lev. 26:3-13; Deut. 28:1-14
 - c. 2 Timothy 2:11-13 – when we fail, He doesn't.
 - 2. His lovingkindness is great toward us, vs. 23.
 - 3. The Steadfast Love of the Lord (sing).
- B. Will God Dwell with Man?
 - 1. God made the heavens and the earth.
 - 2. Not even the highest heaven.
 - 3. Not even Solomon's temple, vs. 27.
 - a. Stephen's defense against Synagogue of Freedmen.
 - b. Acts 7:47-50.

II. HEAR OUR PRAYER.

- A. Listen to Our Supplication, 28.
 - 1. Supplication is “*entreaty, need, request*”.
 - 2. Watch over us, guide us, provide for us.
 - 3. Ps. 118:6, 14
 - 4. Ps. 23, “...*Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me...*”
- B. Hear and Forgive.
 - 1. Seven specific examples.
 - 2. [Almost] each one ends with the plea, “*Hear and forgive.*”

3. A reminder that we are a sinful people, needing God's forgiveness.
 - a. 1 Kings 8:46, "*for there is no man who does not sin*".
 - b. Romans 3:23, "...*for all have sinned...*"
4. We, too, are a sinful people – needing God's mercy and grace.

III. LORD BE WITH US.

- A. God's Hand to Guide [*Incline our Hearts*].
 1. To walk in His ways, v. 58.
 2. To keep His commandments, v. 58.
 3. To be wholly devoted to the Lord, v. 61.
 4. It begins with an awareness [knowledge] of God's Word!
- B. To Know the Lord is God!
 1. A reason for this type of living – to proclaim God!
 - a. If there is a failure of Israel's more than others, a failure to proclaim God for who He was and is!
 - b. They kept it to themselves – did not share.
 2. Isaiah 43:21
 3. Jesus, Mt. 5:16
 4. Peter, 1 Pet. 2:9-10

CLOSING

- A. As we begin this new chapter –
 1. *May the Lord bless us, and keep us;
May the Lord make His face to shine on us,
And be gracious to us;
The Lord lift up his countenance on us,
and give us peace.*