

Reading Sunday 1 August 2021

2 Chronicles ch6 4 - 10; 12 - 15 & 40; Ch7 11 - 16

⁴ Then he said,

"I praise the LORD. He is the God of Israel. With his mouth he made a promise to my father David. With his powerful hands he made it come true. He said, ⁵ 'I brought my people out of Egypt. Since then, a temple for my Name has not been built. I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel for that purpose. And I have not chosen anyone to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁶ But now I have chosen Jerusalem. I will put my Name there. And I have chosen David to rule over my people Israel.'

⁷ "With all his heart my father David wanted to build a temple. He wanted to do it so the Name of the LORD could be there. The LORD is the God of Israel. ⁸ But the LORD spoke to my father David. He said, 'With all your heart you wanted to build a temple for my Name. It is good that you wanted to do that. ⁹ But you will not build the temple. Instead, your son will build the temple for my Name. He is your own flesh and blood.'

¹⁰ "The LORD has kept the promise he made. I've become the next king after my father David. Now I'm sitting on the throne of Israel. That's exactly what the LORD promised would happen. I've built the temple for the Name of the LORD. He is the God of Israel.

Solomon Prays to Set the Temple Apart to the LORD

¹² Then Solomon stood in front of the LORD's altar. He stood in front of the whole community of Israel. He spread out his hands to pray. ¹³ He had made a bronze stage. It was seven and a half feet long and seven and a half feet wide. It was four and a half feet high. He had placed it in the center of the outer courtyard. He stood on the stage. Then he got down on his knees in front of the whole community of Israel. He spread out his hands toward heaven. ¹⁴ He said,

"LORD, you are the God of Israel. There is no God like you in heaven or on earth. You keep the covenant you made with us. You show us your love. You do that when we follow you with all our hearts. ¹⁵ You have kept your promise to my father David. He was your servant. With your mouth you made a promise. With your powerful hand you have made it come true. And today we can see it.

⁴⁰ "My God, let your eyes see us. Let your ears pay attention to the prayers offered in this place.

The LORD Appears to Solomon

¹¹ Solomon finished the LORD's temple and the royal palace. He had done everything he had planned to do in the LORD's temple and his own palace. ¹² The LORD appeared to him at night. The LORD said,

"I have heard your prayer. I have chosen this place for myself. It is a temple where sacrifices will be offered.

¹³ "Suppose I close up the sky and there isn't any rain. Suppose I command locusts to eat up the crops. And I send a plague among my people. ¹⁴ But they make themselves humble in my sight. They pray and look to me. And they turn from their evil ways. Then I will listen to them from heaven. I will forgive their sin. And I will heal their land. After all, they are my people. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will see them. My ears will pay attention to the prayers they offer in this place. ¹⁶ I have chosen this temple. I have set it apart for myself. My Name will be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.