**Week of January 12, 2020**

**1 Kings 8:14-21**

**Key Verse:** “15 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying,”

(1 Kings 8:15)

**14 And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)** **15 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which spake with his mouth unto David my father, and hath with his hand fulfilled it, saying, 16 Since the day that I brought forth my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel to build an house, that my name might be therein; but I chose David to be over my people Israel. 17 And it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. 18 And the LORD said unto David my father, Whereas it was in thine heart to build an house unto my name, thou didst well that it was in thine heart. 19 Nevertheless thou shalt not build the house; but thy son that shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house unto my name. 20 And the LORD hath performed his word that he spake, and I am risen up in the room of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. 21 And I have set there a place for the ark, wherein is the covenant of the LORD, which he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

Last week, the lesson focused on the bringing of the ark of the covenant to the Temple. This week, the focus is on Solomon’s celebration God’s faithfulness. Up to this point, Solomon’s attention had been on building the Temple. Now he turns from the business of the day to bless God for his role in allowing the completion of the Temple. When King Solomon blessed the people in verse 1, he was acting as a priest. The Temple would be an important addition to Israel’s history. However, Solomon did not want them to focus on the physical building alone; it was important that the people understand that the completion of the Temple was rooted in God’s plan and promise to David.

From the time God led the Israelites out of Egypt, no physical building had ever been built in His honor. Solomon reminded the people of God’s faithfulness to Israel by appointing David as their King. David’s love for God moved him to want to build a temple for God. Solomon recounted how God allowed one of David’s heirs to build the Temple. Now, standing in the Temple in front of the people, Solomon rejoiced and offered up praise and worship for God’s faithfulness in keeping his promise and allowing this important symbol of God’s presence to rest among His people. In verse 21, Solomon connects the placement of the ark in the Temple with the five-hundred-year history of the Israelite people since the Exodus of Egypt.

Although Solomon did accomplish the goal of building a magnificent temple for God, it is important to emphasize that it could only be done with God’s help. The Temple did symbolize God’s presence, but God cannot be contained or confined in any physical structure. The dedication of the Temple would serve a reminder of God’s presence and faithfulnees that had been with their ancestors from generation to generation.

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