**Week of January 26, 2020**

**1 Kings 8:254-612-30, 52-53**

**Key Verse:** “61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.”

(1 Kings 8:61)

**54 And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven. 55 And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, 56 Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. 57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: 58 That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers. 59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times\*, as the matter shall require: 60 That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else. 61 Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

Last week’s lesson featured the second part of Solomon’s dedication prayer for the Temple. Today’s lesson concludes the dedication prayer. The print passage encompasses the third component of Solomon’s prayer. As Solomon ended his prayer, he concentrated on the people of Israel. This prayer rehearsed how God had fulfilled His promises and encouraged the people to respond by obeying God’s commandments. Solomon reminded Israel of God’s promises to give them rest in their own land – meaning that Israel would posses the Promised Land and live peaceably in that place. Solomon gave witness to the fact that God had made good on every promise that He made to Israel. Solomon asked God to be with Israel just as head been with their ancestors – an affirmation of the long relationship between God and the people.

Solomon’s prayer was specific. First, he prayed that God’s presence would always be with Israel. Then he prayed that the people would always desire to do God’s will in everything. Solomon also was careful to ask for the desire and ability to obey God’s decrees and commands, as well as for provisions for daily needs. Lastly, Solomon prayed for the spread of God’s kingdom to the entire world. Solomon indicates an understanding that God is Lord of the whole earth when he mentions how Israel’s obedience may demonstrate to other nations that their God is the one true God. Although Solomon offered this prayer thousands of years ago, everything he mentioned is still relevant for believers today.

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