

1 Kings 8:50-58 + 66

The prayer and blessing of Solomon after the ark is brought into the Temple.

1 Kings 8:50-51 - "And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them: For they be thy people, and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest forth out of Egypt, from the midst of the furnace of iron."

What kind of furnace? One that refines and purifies his people and prepares them for his purpose:

Rashi: A smelting furnace of iron: An earthenware utensil used to purify gold of its impurities.

Deuteronomy 4:20 - "But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be a people for His own possession, as today."

1 Kings 8:56 - "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."

Rashi: And where did he speak this? [As it is written], "And He shall give you rest from all your enemies [round about]" (Deuteronomy 12:10).

1 Kings 8:57-58 - "The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: 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."

HE is the one who turns or inclines our hearts unto him. Repentance is a gift. We are utterly powerless to renovate our own lives:

Lamentations 5:21 - "Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned"

Again, a powerful commentary on the repentance of Judah (and his brothers) in the Genesis 43 and 44.

God engineered the circumstances that brought their sin up before them, and allowed a change of heart to take place.

The final verse - added to provide a note of hope:

1 Kings 8:66 - "On the eighth day he sent the people away: and they blessed the king, and went unto their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had

done for David his servant, and for Israel his people.”