

## 1 Kings 8:54-63

This week's Torah reading was about the Priestly Blessing (**Numbers 6:22-27**) that capped the completion of the Tabernacle. This passage is a parallel, with Solomon bringing in the ark of the covenant as the completion of the building of the Temple. After the prayers and ceremony are complete, Solomon blesses the congregation.

**1 Kings 8:54** - "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."

**1 Kings 8:55-56** - "And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying, 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**).

"Rest " - David and Solomon had achieved peace with their surrounding neighbors in the Promised Land. This is another foreshadowing of the complete spiritual rest found in Christ.

- **Deuteronomy 12:8-10** - "Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes. For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you. But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;"

**Hebrews 3 and 4** discuss the completion of this promise in Christ.

- **Hebrews 4:8-11** - "For if Jesus / Joshua had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

Neither Joshua nor Solomon gave Israel rest. The land was a picture of the spiritual Kingdom of God which is within us.

- **Luke 17:20-21** - "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

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

God told Jacob: "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." (**Genesis 28:15**)

Moses told Israel: **Deuteronomy 31:6** NIV - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

God told Joshua: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you or forsake you." (**Joshua 1:5**)

- **Hebrews 13:5** - "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he has said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

- **Matthew 28:20** - "lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

**1 Kings 8:58** - "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."

In the Priestly Blessing, God is implored to "make his face to shine upon us." Here, we return that attitude, "stretching out" our hearts to him - it's what Paul calls being "spiritually minded" by thinking on things above and not of the earth. Loving Him with all our heart soul strength and might.

The twist is that Solomon prays that God would incline our hearts unto Him. That's the only way it can happen. Our nature is to do the opposite.

- **Psalms 80:3** - "Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved."

- **Lamentations 5:21** - "Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old."

- **Philippians 2:13** - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

By faith, we see His commandments, statutes and judgments fulfilled in Christ, and we clothe ourselves with His garment of righteousness, not our own.

**1 Kings 8:59** - "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:"

**1 Kings 8:60** - "That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else."

This was always the greater mission and "cause" of Israel, to be a light to the Gentiles. The Gospel is not the beliefs of a parochial and exclusionary sect, but a Kingdom that includes everyone.

- **Acts 13:47** - "For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth' (See Isaiah 49:6)

- **Psalm 22:27** - "All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee."

"and none else" - Humans are tempted to create idols on which they place great value and trust in, "tithes" to and ascribe power and sometimes fear. But there is only one God.

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** - "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one..."

**1 Kings 8:61** - "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."

- **Matthew 5:48** - "Be ye perfect, as your Father in heaven is perfect"

"Perfect" here is "*shalem*" in Hebrew, closely related to "*shalom*" - "peace." It means "complete" and whole, not divided, or lacking, or unfinished. It means the same in the New Testament. The Greek "*teleios*" means having reached your goal or destiny

To walk in His ways, statutes and commandments, for us, is to walk in the Way of Jesus.

Paul asked for permission from his superiors that "if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem." (**Acts 9:2**)

Jesus walked the Way for us, and we follow Him. Because He completed the Way, we can walk in it.

**1 Kings 8:62-63** - "And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD."