2 Chronicles 5:1-14

1 Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.

2 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

3 Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which was in the seventh month.

4 And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark.

5 And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, these did the priests and the Levites bring up.

6 Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

7 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims:

8 For the cherubims spread forth their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered...
In the Holy of All and set it under the wings of the cherubim. At this time there is nothing in the Ark but the two tables of stone.

The Service Begins
King Solomon and all the people are offering unto God more sheep and oxen than can be counted — giving freely unto our great God. Now from the stand we imagine we have taken in the court just outside the Temple, we see the priests coming out of the Holy Place. These men are all sanctified and robed in white linen. Looking toward the east end of the altar we see the singers and musicians also dressed in white linen. With one accord the 120 priests blow the trumpets to which are added the harps, cymbals, and psalteries. The great choir of voices sings, "For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." Something happens! The glory of the Lord fills the Temple as a cloud, so that the priests cannot perform their duties.

The unison of a church orchestra thrills us today, as also does a well-blended choir. But only when hearts and minds are of one accord, only when there exists in the church a oneness which comes at sanctification, is it possible for the glory of the Lord to fill the house. Only then is it possible for the house to be filled with a "cloud." How uplifting today is such a worship service!

The King's Prayer
Now we see King Solomon stand upon a small platform about four and a half feet high. He talks to the people. Then he kneels, and with hands stretched toward Heaven he prays. Elaborate as the Temple is and spacious though its courts, Solomon knows that God is not confined to a building. We hear those soul-stirring words come from the lips of the wisest man: "Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!" (II Chronicles 6:18). However, he asks that the eyes of God may be open upon this House day and night.

The Fire from Heaven
What an awe-inspiring scene when, at the end of the prayer, the fire came down from Heaven and burned up the offerings and sacrifices and the glory of the Lord filled the house! Down to the ground with faces on the pavement, all the people bowed and worshiped and praised the Lord. Once again the music sounded on the instruments which David had made for this very purpose; the priests also blew the trumpets as the people rose to their feet.

Another Visit from the Lord
One night after the dedication services had ended and Solomon had sent the people home to their tents, the Lord again appeared to him and said that his prayer had been heard. Solomon's joys must have been complete as he heard God's voice speak: "For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually" (II Chronicles 7:16).

God's Plan
The dedication of the Temple parallels the Day of Pentecost; however, the people who lived in the days of Solomon did not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given. This scene in the Old Testament
sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’S house.

3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

1 Kings 8:54-61

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.

The Early Rain

More than a thousand years after the dedication of the Temple, one wonderful day there were 120 gathered together in Jerusalem. The surroundings were by no means as elaborate as the Temple. The people perhaps were not adorned in white robes as were the priests in the Temple, but they wore the robes of righteousness and holiness, for they were all sanctified and all in one accord. The eleven Apostles and the mother and brothers of Jesus were there. Shortly before this, Jesus had been taken to Heaven in a cloud; but He had told these people, “Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” There, in that upper room, obedient to Jesus' command, these 120 waited for the promise of the Father. Were they disappointed? No, indeed! “Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house ... And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:2-4). This outpouring of the Spirit is known as the "Former Rain."

The Latter Rain

Again, almost 2000 years after the scene in that upper room, in the city of Los Angeles, California, was found another small group of believers. Their hearts, too, were pure and white, for they were sanctified. There was no orchestra, no golden furnishings in that humble place.

On April 6, 1906, according to God's Word, the blessed Holy Ghost was once more poured out as on the Day of Pentecost. This was the "Latter Rain" outpouring of the Spirit, and since that time a great many have received the same Gift.

Unlimited Consecrations

Have you received this experience in your heart? Have you sought but as yet have not received the answer to your prayers? Examine your "temple." Make sure that, you have built upon the firm Foundation, Jesus Christ. Have you made that first trip to Mount Moriah and had the Blood applied to your heart? Then, have you gone to the Mount of the Lord again and offered that which costs you something? Has the fire fallen upon your sacrifice? Have you been given that white raiment, the robe of righteousness and holiness — sanctification? Then, have you brought the gold and silver vessels into the treasury of the Lord? It costs us deep consecrations to receive this experience. Have you made offerings and sacrifices without number, as King Solomon did?

Is there in your heart a willingness to give freely unto God when there is an opportunity to do something for Him? It may be a small chore like dusting the furniture in the church, or the slight inconvenience of sharing your room with a saint of God traveling through your city. Perhaps God is asking you to spend more time in prayer before hurrying off to school in the morning. Or, what about that newcomer to your neighborhood — have you given him an invitation to your Sunday School? Why not say: "I will not offer God that which costs me nothing. I freely give it all. I will do everything God asks me to do." If your consecrations are complete, tarry for the baptism of the Holy Ghost, sing forth His praises, "For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever," until the glory of the Lord fills your house...
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.

1 Kings 9:1-9

1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,

2 That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

4 And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

5 Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

6 But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

7 Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all and the Comforter comes to abide in your temple.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe the three trips to Mount Moriah.
2. What does each trip to Mount Moriah signify?
3. By whom was the Ark carried?
4. Where was the Ark placed in the Temple?
5. What musical instruments were used at the dedication?
6. Did God answer Solomon's prayer?
7. What happened when the music sounded and the people sang?
8. Tell of the Lord's second appearance to Solomon by night.
9. Make a list of some things that children and young people may do for Jesus.
10. What punishment did God say He would send upon Israel if they turned away from Him?
And at this house, which is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?

And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.