

New Revised Standard Version	New American Standard Bible	New Century Version
<p>²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven.</p> <p>²³He said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart,</p> <p>²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand.</p> <p>²⁵Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’</p> <p>²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.</p>	<p>²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven.</p> <p>²³He said, “O LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and <i>showing</i> lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart,</p> <p>²⁴who have kept with Your servant, my father David, that which You have promised [<i>lit, spoken to</i>] him; indeed, You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand as it is this day.</p> <p>²⁵Now therefore, O LORD, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant David my father that which You have promised [<i>lit, spoken to</i>] him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel [<i>lit, There shall not be cut off to you a man from before Me</i>], if only your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me as you have walked.’</p> <p>²⁶Now therefore, O God of Israel, let Your word, I pray, be confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant, my father David.</p>	<p>²²Then Solomon stood facing the LORD’s altar, and all the Israelites were standing behind him. He spread out his hands toward the sky</p> <p>²³and said: “LORD, God of Israel, there is no god like you in heaven above or on earth below. You keep your agreement of love with your servants who truly follow you.</p> <p>²⁴You have kept the promise you made to your servant David, my father. You spoke it with your own mouth and finished it with your hands today.</p> <p>²⁵Now LORD, God of Israel, keep the promise you made to your servant David, my father. You said, ‘If your sons are careful to obey me as you have obeyed me, there will always be someone from your family ruling Israel.’</p> <p>²⁶Now, God of Israel, please continue to keep that promise you made to your servant David, my father.</p>
<p>²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built!</p> <p>²⁸Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today;</p>	<p>²⁷“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven [<i>lit: heaven of heavens</i>] cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!</p> <p>²⁸Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today;</p>	<p>²⁷“But, God, can you really live here on the earth? The sky and the highest place in heaven cannot contain you. Surely this house which I have built cannot contain you.</p> <p>²⁸But please listen to my prayer and my request, because I am your servant. LORD my God, hear this prayer your servant prays to you today.</p>

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<p>²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place.</p> <p>³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.</p>	<p>²⁹that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place.</p> <p>³⁰Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive.</p>	<p>²⁹Night and day please watch over this Temple where you have said, ‘I will be worshiped there.’ Hear the prayer I pray facing this Temple.</p> <p>³⁰Hear my prayers and the prayers of your people Israel when we pray facing this place. Hear from your home in heaven, and when you hear, forgive us.</p>
<p>⁴¹“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name –</p> <p>⁴²for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house,</p> <p>⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.</p>	<p>⁴¹“Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your name’s sake</p> <p>⁴²(for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house,</p> <p>⁴³hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear <i>[or, reverence]</i> You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name <i>[lit, Your name is called upon this house which I have built]</i>.</p>	<p>⁴¹⁻⁴²“People who are not Israelites, foreigners from other lands, will hear about your greatness and power. They will come from far away to pray at this Temple.</p> <p>⁴³Then hear from your home in heaven, and do whatever they ask you. Then people everywhere will know you and respect you, just as your people in Israel do. Then everyone will know I built this Temple as a place to worship you.</p>

1. Verse 22: Who is gathered together? Where are they? Why are they there?
2. Put on your movie director’s cap and imagine the setting. Describe the sights, sounds, smells, etc., of the setting. See the illustration on the next page. Where is Solomon in relation to the people?
3. Verses 23-24: To whom is Solomon speaking? How does he identify God? Do his words imply anything about the existence of other gods?
4. What relationships does he identify between God and Israel? By “Israel,” do you think Solomon means the nation, the people, or both? What condition does Solomon place on this relationship? What relationships does he identify between God and David? Between God and himself?
5. How do his words justify his assertion that “there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath?”

I Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

What is your “temple”? What role does it play in your life?

6. What is the covenant God made with David? (see II Samuel 7:12-13*) Why does Solomon recall this covenant?
7. Verses 25-26: What word/phrase does Solomon use to begin these verses? Why? What is the condition God has placed upon the promise as quoted by Solomon?
8. Verse 27: What is the question Solomon asks? To whom does he ask it? Why? How does Solomon answer his own question?
9. Verse 28: What is the emphasis of this verse? Given the answer to the question in verse 27, why does Solomon introduce his pleas in verse 29 and following in this manner?
10. Verses 29-30: What action words does Solomon use in his prayer? Which of these words are closely related? How do these words hint at what is of great importance to Solomon?
11. Solomon quotes part of God’s covenant with David in verse 29. Why? How is this related to verse 27? Is there any historic or cultural reason why Solomon focuses on this concept? How might this focus apply to you?
12. Verses 41-42: (Note: Verses 31-40 speak of the temple as a place of judgement, repentance, and forgiveness.) Who is Solomon talking about, and how is this person identified? Why has this person come to the temple?
13. Verse 43: What is the person identified in Verse 41 entitled to? Why?
14. How do verses 41-43 apply to the modern church? What can the local church do to ensure the intent of these verses is implemented?
15. Focusing on this passage, what is one of the roles the temple plays in the life of Israel as a nation? The Israelites as individuals? Is there a literal or figurative “temple” (perhaps a place, an activity, a group of people, a work or art or literature, an idea or philosophy, etc.) that plays a similar role in your life?

* II Samuel 7:12-13: When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

