

1 KINGS 8:62-66

A. Introduction

1. In our elders' meetings, we're tracing the story of King Solomon, from his coronation to his burial, as recorded in 1 Kings 1-11.

As well as seeing how he points us to the 'one greater than Solomon', we're going to focus in on what we can learn as elders from his life and particularly his downfall, as we seek to lead those whom God has made us overseers over.

2. With the building and furnishing of the temple complete, 1 Kings 8 records the dedication of the temple.

An extraordinary worship service that had five parts to it.

v1-13: Celebration as the ark is brought into the temple

v14-21: Solomon praises God for keeping His promises

v22-53: Solomon prays for forgiveness

v54-61: Solomon praises God for keeping His people

v62-66: Celebration as the temple is dedicated

3. After Solomon finished leading the people in prayer, he then led them in a time of celebration.

"So Solomon observed the festival at that time, and all Israel with him – a vast assembly." (1 Kings 8:65)

As the people celebrated, they did two things.

B. They remembered God's goodness to them

1. The celebration involved sacrifices being made in staggering numbers, so much so, that the middle of the courtyard in front of the temple had to be consecrated for the purpose.

"Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD. Solomon offered a sacrifice of fellowship offerings to the LORD: twenty-two thousand cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the Israelites dedicated the temple of the LORD. On the same day the king consecrated the middle part of the courtyard in front of the temple of the LORD, and there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings and the fat of the fellowship offerings, because the bronze altar before the LORD was too small to hold the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the fat of the fellowship offerings." (1 Kings 8:62-64)

Three types of sacrifices were made, and in offering each of them, the people were reminded of God's goodness to them.

The burnt offering involved an animal dying in place of the one bringing the sacrifice to satisfy God's anger because of their sin.

The grain offerings were offered to say to thank you to God for accepting them on the basis of the burnt offering.

The fellowship offerings celebrated the fellowship that the people now had with God as a result of the sacrifice.

2. In each of these sacrifices Christ is pictured and we are reminded of God's goodness to us.

Jesus is the burnt offering who was completely consumed by the fire of God's wrath to save us from our sins.

Jesus is the grain offering who has lived a life that is pleasing and pure so that when we offer up our lives and lips to God to say to thank you, they are accepted.

Jesus is the fellowship offering who has done everything for us to be accepted by God and to experience the joy and intimacy and security that comes from being in relationship with Him.

C. They rejoiced in God's goodness to them

1. As well as remembering God's goodness to them, the people rejoiced in God's goodness to them.

"So Solomon observed the festival at that time, and all Israel with him – a vast assembly, people from Lebo Hamath to the Wadi of Egypt. They celebrated it before the LORD our God for seven days and seven days more, fourteen days in all. On the following day he sent the people away. They blessed the king and then went home, joyful and glad in heart for all the good things the Lord had done for his servant David and his people Israel." (1 Kings 8:65-66)

After celebrating both the Feast of Dedication and the Feast of Tabernacles, lasting 7 days each, the people returned to their homes full of joy and gladness.

Why?

Because of all the good things the Lord had done for them.

He has rescued them.

He has accepted them.

He has come to live in the temple.

He had united them under one king.

2. As we remember what God has done for us, it should lead to us rejoicing in His goodness.

He has rescued us from our sin and the punishment we deserve.

He has accepted us and made us part of His family.

He has come to live in us by His Spirit.

He has united us under one king, the One 'greater than Solomon'.

D. Application

1. When we gather together as a local church we should remember together God's goodness to us.

Are our services Christ-centred?

2. When we gather together as a local church we should rejoice together in God's goodness to us.

Are our services joy-filled?