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A Prayer of Dedication

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **March 11, 2018**

2 Chronicles 6:12-21

Introduction: The **GLORY** of the Lord, in the vehicle of a thick **cloud**, having **filled** the house which Solomon built, by which God manifested **his presence** there, he immediately improves the opportunity, and addresses God, as a God now, in a peculiar manner, nigh at hand.

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 ...as the **trumpeters** and **singers** were as **ONE**, to make ONE sound to be heard in PRAISING and THANKING the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and **PRAISED** the LORD, saying, **For he is good ; for his mercy endureth for ever:** that then the house was **filled** with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the **cloud:** for the **GLORY** of the LORD had **filled** the **house (temple)** of God.

I. He makes a solemn declaration of his intention in building this house, to the satisfaction of the people and the honour of God, both of whom he blessed (2 Chronicles 6:1-11).
II. He makes a **solemn prayer** to God that he would please graciously to accept and answer all the prayers that should be made in, or towards, that house (v. 12-42). This whole chapter we had before, with very little variation (1 Kings 8:12-53), to which it may not be amiss here to look back. (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-6.html>)

2 Chronicles 6:1-4, Then said **Solomon**, The Lord hath **said** that he would **dwelt** in the thick darkness. But I have **built** an **house (temple)** of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever. ...And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who hath with his **hands (POWER)** fulfilled that which he **spake** with his mouth to my father David...

Thought 1. Some Christians say, "The Lord did thus and so, BUT, he didn't have to do it." However, when we DO OUR part, he **HAS to do** what he's SAID/PROMISED.

Now, if we have NOT done right, and God does thus and so, then we've experienced his MERCY, which is done to purge our sin. (Proverbs 16:6) And it's shown according to what we understand. BUT, in all cases, he is FAIR.

Numbers 23:19, God is NOT a **man**, that he should **lie**; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he SAID**, and shall he NOT **DO** it? or hath he **SPOKEN**, and shall he NOT make it **good**?

2 Chronicles 6:10-11, The Lord therefore **hath PERFORMED** his WORD that he hath **spoken:** for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of **Israel**, AS the Lord **PROMISED**, and have **built** the **house** for the **NAME (honor, authority, character)** of the Lord God of Israel. And in it have I put the **ark**, wherein is the **COVENANT** of the Lord, that he made with the **children of Israel**.

Thought 1. In **985 B.C.**, **Solomon was 18**, and in his **first** year as king when he received the charge to build the temple. But, the actual work began in **982 B.C.**, 3 years later, when he was **21**. He **finished** it in **975 B.C.**; meaning, it took **7** years to **build**. He then took another **3** years to make the furnishings for the temple. See 1 Kings 7, 2 Chron. 4, and 2 Chronicles 5:1.

The year of this dedication of the temple is 972 B.C.. That means it is now 13 years AFTER David charged Solomon to build it. But, it's been done according to God's timing. (Source: *The Reese Chronological Bible*)

1 Kings 6:38, And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the **house (temple)** finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So he was **seven years** in **building** it.

2 Chronicles 5:1, 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** ...the silver... the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the **house of God**.

2 Chronicles 6:12-13, And he stood before the **altar** of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands: For Solomon had made a **brazen (brass) scaffold (pulpit or platform)** of **five cubits long**, and **five cubits broad**, and **three cubits high**, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and **kneeled down** upon **his knees** before ALL the **congregation** of Israel, and **spread** forth his HANDS toward heaven.

NOTE: Since a **cubit** is approximately **18 inches**, this means the **brass pulpit** on which Solomon stood was about **7.5** feet by **7.5** feet square. It was also about **4.5** feet high.

"He had it placed in the middle of the courtyard. By using this **temporary** stage, he was able to be seen even by the people outside the courtyard walls. It did NOT become a **permanent** article within the **temple** precincts but was made just for this special occasion." (Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series*)

2 Chronicles 6:14-17, And said, O Lord (**Eternal, Yahweh**) **God** of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which **KEEPEST COVENANT**, and shewest **MERCY** unto thy servants, that **walk** before thee with ALL their **hearts**: Thou which hast **KEPT** with thy servant **David** my father that which **thou** hast **PROMISED him**; and **spakest** with thy **mouth**, and hast **FULFILLED** it with thine hand, as it is this day. Now therefore, O Lord God of Israel, **KEEP** with thy servant David my father that which thou hast **PROMISED him**, saying, There shall NOT fail thee a man in my sight to **sit** upon the **throne** of **Israel**; yet so that thy **children** TAKE HEED to their **way** to **walk** in MY LAW, as thou hast walked before me. Now then, O Lord God of Israel, let thy word be **verified (to be permanent, sure, steadfast)**, which thou hast **spoken** unto thy servant **David**.

NOTE: All the creatures have their fellow-creatures, but the **Creator** has NOT his peer. He is infinitely **ABOVE ALL**, and **OVER ALL**, God blessed for ever. 2. That he is, and will be, TRUE to every WORD that he has SPOKEN; and all that serve him in **sincerity** shall certainly find him both faithful and kind. Those that set God always before them, and walk before him with all their hearts, shall find him as good as his word and better; he will both keep covenant with them and show mercy to them...

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-6.html>)

Psalms 89:34, My **COVENANT** I will **NOT break**, **NOR** alter the WORD that has gone out of my lips.

Psalms 111:5, He hath given meat unto them that **FEAR** (reverence) Him; **HE WILL** ever be **mindful (REMEMBER, make mention)** of **his COVENANT**.

Thought 1. Because of the obedience of Jesus, that promise to David WAS kept.

1 Chronicles 17:11-13 ...it shall come to pass, when thy days be **expired** that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will **raise up** thy **SEED** after thee, which shall be **OF** thy **sons**; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall **build ME** an **house**, and I will **stablish his THRONE for ever**. I will be his **father**, and he shall be **MY son**...

Isaiah 9:7, Of the increase of **his government** and peace there shall be **NO END**, upon the **throne of David**, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with **judgment** and with **justice** from henceforth even **FOR EVER**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts WILL PERFORM this.

Luke 1:32-33, He shall be great, and shall be called the **Son of the Highest (the Supreme God)** and the **Lord God** shall give unto him the **throne of his father David**: And HE shall REIGN over the house of **Jacob for ever**; and of his **kingdom** there shall be **NO END**.

Hebrews 1:8, But unto the **Son** he saith, **Thy THRONE, O God**, is **for ever and ever**.

2 Chronicles 6:18-21, *But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! Have respect therefore to the PRAYER (supplication [petition: solemn REQUEST]) of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant PRAYETH before thee: That thine eyes may be open upon this HOUSE day and night, upon the place whereof thou HAST SAID that thou wouldst put thy NAME (honor, authority, character) there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.*

Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: HEAR thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, FORGIVE.

Thought 1. Now, let's see how this section of verses reads from 1 Kings 8.

1 Kings 8:30, And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall **PRAY toward this place**: and **hear thou in heaven** thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, **FORGIVE**.

NOTE: ... **hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people**,... Not only he desires his prayers might be heard, but those of the people of Israel, then, and at all times in succeeding ages, whenever they should look towards the temple, and to **HIM** that was **typified** (SYMBOLIZED) by it; to whose **blood, righteousness, sacrifice** and **mediation**, the acceptance of prayers with God is to be ascribed:

and hear thou in heaven thy dwellingplace; for though he condescended to take up his residence in the temple, yet his more proper and more glorious dwelling was in heaven, and from whence, notwithstanding the distance of it, he could hear the prayers of his people, and does:

and when thou hearest, forgive; manifest and apply **pardonning grace** and **mercy** on account of **SINS CONFESSED**, and **REPENTED OF**; or remove calamities and distresses on account of sin, which sometimes is meant, and frequently in this prayer, by the forgiveness of sin.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/1-kings-8.html>)

NOTE: The prayer itself was very long, and perhaps much longer than is here recorded. At the throne of **grace** we have **liberty of speech**, and should use our liberty. It is NOT making long prayers, but making them for a **PRETENCE**, that Christ condemns.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/1-kings-8.html>)

Thought 2. Now, let's see at how things are set up in the New Covenant concerning prayer.

John 16:23-24, And in THAT DAY ye shall **ask ME** nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall **ASK** the **Father** in my **name (authority)**, **HE** will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: **ASK**, and ye shall receive, that your **JOY** may be **full**.

Hebrews 4:14-16, SEEING then that we have a **great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, **Jesus** the **Son of God**, let us hold fast our profession. For we have NOT an high priest which cannot be touched with the **feeling** of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. **LET US** therefore **come BOLDLY** unto the **throne** of **GRACE**, that WE may obtain **MERCY**, and find **GRACE** to **HELP** in time of **NEED**.

1 John 1:9, If we **CONFESS** our **sins**, HE is faithful and just to **FORGIVE us** our **sins**, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

NOTE: If we confess our sins - If, from a deep sense of our guilt, impurity, and helplessness, we **HUMBLE** ourselves before God, acknowledging our iniquity, his holiness, and our own utter helplessness, and implore mercy for **his sake who has died for us**; he is faithful, because to such he has promised mercy, **Psalm 32:5**; **Proverbs 28:13**; and just, for **Christ has died for us**, and thus made an **ATONEMENT** to the Divine justice; so that God can now be just, and yet the justifier of him who **BELIEVETH** in Jesus.

And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness - Not only to **FORGIVE** the sin, but to **PURIFY** the heart...

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/1-john-1.html>)

Ephesians 4:32 ...be ye **KIND** one to another, tender-hearted, **FORGIVING** one another, even **AS** God for Christ's sake hath **FORGIVEN** you.

NOTE: Forgiving one another - Should you receive any injury from a brother, or from any man, be as ready to **FORGIVE** him, on his repentance and acknowledgment, **as God was**, for **Christ's sake**, to **FORGIVE YOU** when you repented of your sins, and took refuge in his **MERCY**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/ephesians-4.html>)

1 John 5:14-15, And this is the **confidence** that we have in him, that, if we **ASK** any thing according to **his WILL**, **he HEARETH US**: And if we **KNOW** that he hear us, whatsoever we **ask**, we KNOW that we **HAVE** the **petitions** that we **desired** of him.

Thought 3. God's words: written or spoken reveal his will for us. So, ask for and receive the word pertaining to the problem, and **ASK** in agreement with it!

John 15:7, If ye abide in me, and **my WORDS** abide in you, ye shall **ASK** what ye **will**, and it shall be **DONE** unto you.

1 John 3:22-23, And whatsoever **we ASK**, **we receive** of him, because we **KEEP** his commandments, and **DO** those things that are pleasing in his sight. And **THIS** is **his COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as he gave us commandment.

James 1:5-7, If any of you lack wisdom, let him **ASK** of **God**, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him **ask** **IN FAITH**, nothing **wavering**: for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let NOT that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.