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Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor
Pastor David K. Baker III, 2nd Presiding
Apostle Kenneth Freeman, Sr., 3rd Presiding
802 W. 15th, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-773-6546
www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org

Worshipping in God's Temple

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **March 18, 2018**

2 Chronicles 7:1-9

Introduction: In this chapter we have God's answer to Solomon's prayer. **I.** His public answer by fire from heaven, which consumed the sacrifices (2 Chronicles 7:1), with which the priests and people were much affected (2 Chronicles 7:2, 2 Chronicles 7:3). By that token of God's acceptance they were encouraged to continue the solemnities of the feast for fourteen days, and Solomon was encouraged to pursue all his designs for the honour of God (2 Chronicles 7:4-11). **II.** His **private ANSWER** by word of mouth, in a **DREAM** or **VISION** of the **night** (2 Chronicles 7:12-22). Most of these things we had before, 1 Kings 8 and 9.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

2 Chronicles 7:1-2, Now when **Solomon** had made an **end** of **praying**, the **FIRE** (flame) came down from **heaven (the sky)**, and **consumed** the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the **GLORY** of the LORD **FILLED** the house. And the **priests** could **NOT enter** into the **house (temple)** of the LORD, because the **GLORY** of the LORD had **FILLED** the LORD'S house.

NOTE: The fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, 2 Chronicles 7:1. In this way God testified **his acceptance** of Moses (Leviticus 9:24), of Gideon (Judges 6:21), of David (1 Chronicles 21:26), of Elijah (1 Kings 18:38); and, in general, to accept the burnt-sacrifice is, in the Hebrew phrase, to turn it to ashes, Psalm 20:3. The **fire came** down here, NOT upon the killing of the sacrifices, but the **praying** of the **prayer**.

As a further evidence that God accepted Solomon's prayer, still *the glory of the Lord filled the house*. The heart that is thus filled with a **holy awe** and **REVERENCE** of the **divine glory**, the heart to which God manifests himself in his greatness, and (which is no less his glory) in his goodness, is thereby owned as a living temple.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

1 Kings 18:36-38, And it came to pass at the **time** of the **offering** of the **evening** sacrifice, that **Elijah** the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art **God in Israel**, and that **I am thy servant**, and that I have DONE ALL these things at THY WORD. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the **FIRE** of the LORD fell, and **consumed** the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

Thought 1. Today, under the New Covenant, the "ANOINTING" of God is still being manifested among us during prayer, praise and the word preached, to SHOW his approval.

Acts 2:1-3, And when the **day** of **Pentecost** was fully come, they were ALL with ONE accord in one place. And suddenly there came a **SOUND** from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues** like as of **FIRE**, and it **sat upon EACH** of them.

2 Chronicles 7:3-5, 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.**

Then the **king** and all the **people** offered sacrifices before the LORD. And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of **twenty and two thousand oxen**, and an **hundred and twenty thousand sheep**: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

NOTE: Let us apply this, (1.) To the suffering of Christ. When it pleased the Lord to bruise him, and put him to grief, in that he showed his good-will to men, having laid on him the iniquity of us all. His death was our life, and he was made sin and a curse that we might INHERIT **righteousness** and a **blessing**. **That sacrifice was consumed** that **WE** might **escape**.

When they saw the fire of God come down from heaven thus they did not run away affrighted, but kept their ground in the courts of the Lord, and took occasion from it, **(1.) With REVERENCE to adore** the glory of God: They bowed their faces to the ground and worshipped, thus expressing their **awful dread** of the **divine majesty**, their **cheerful SUBMISSION** to the DIVINE AUTHORITY, and the sense they had of their unworthiness to come into God's presence and their inability to stand before the power of his wrath. **(2.) With thankfulness to acknowledge the GOODNESS of God;** even when the fire of the Lord came down they praised him, saying, HE IS GOOD, FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOR EVER. This is a song never out of season, and for which our hearts and tongues should be never out of tune. However it be, yet God is good. When **he manifests himself** as a **consuming fire to sinners**, his people can rejoice in him as their light. Nay, they had reason to say that in this God was good. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are NOT consumed, but the sacrifice in our stead, for which we are bound to be **very thankful.**" (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

Thought 1. Now, let's see how what is said about sacrifices under the New Covenant.

Hebrews 13:10-15, We have an **ALTAR**, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore **Jesus** also, that he might **sanctify the people** with his **own blood**, **suffered** without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. **By HIM** therefore **let US offer the sacrifice of PRAISE** to **God continually**, that is, the fruit of our lips **GIVING THANKS** to his name.

1 Peter 2:5, Ye also, as **lively** (LIVING) stones, are built up a **spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

2 Chronicles 7:6, And the **priests** waited on their offices the Levites also with instruments of **musick** of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David **praised** by **their ministry**; and the **priests** sounded **trumpets** before them, and all Israel stood.

NOTE: The **priests** did their part; they waited on their offices, and the **singers** and musicians on theirs (2 Chron. 7:6), with the instruments that David made, and the hymn that David had put into their hand, as some think it may be read (meaning that 1 Chron.

16:7), or, as we read it, when David praised by their ministry. He employed, directed, and **encouraged them in this WORK of praising God;** and therefore their performances were accepted as his act, and he is said to PRAISE by their ministry.
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

Psalms 29:1-2, Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory DUE unto his **name (authority, character);** **WORSHIP** the Lord (Yahweh) in the **beauty of HOLINESS.**

1 Samuel 15:22-23, And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great **delight** in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in **OBEYING** the voice of the Lord? Behold, **to OBEY is BETTER** than **sacrifice**, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft, and **stubbornness** is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast **rejected** the WORD of the Lord, he hath also **rejected** thee from being **king.**

2 Chronicles 7:7, *Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD: for there he OFFERED burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the **brasen altar** which Solomon had made was NOT able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat.*

NOTE: They had offered sacrifices before, but now **they INCREASED them.** Note, The tokens of God's favour to us should enlarge our hearts in his service, and make us to **abound** therein more and more. The king's example stirred up the people. **Good work** is then likely to go on when the **LEADERS** of a **people lead in it.**

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

1 Corinthians 11:1, Be ye **followers (IMITATOR)** of **me**, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:58, Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always **abounding (INCREASE) in the work** of the Lord, forasmuch as **ye KNOW** that your labour is NOT in vain in the Lord.

2 Chronicles 7:8-11, *Also at the same time Solomon **kept the feast SEVEN** days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt. And in the **eighth day** they made a **solemn assembly**: for they **kept** the dedication of the **altar SEVEN** days, and the feast **SEVEN** days.*

*And on the three and twentieth day of the **seventh month** he sent the people away into their tents, **GLAD** and **MERRY in heart** for the **goodness** that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people. Thus **Solomon finished** the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and **ALL** that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, **he prosperously effected (push forward).***

NOTE: The whole congregation expressed the greatest **JOY** and satisfaction imaginable. They kept the feast of the dedication of the altar seven days, from the second to the ninth; the tenth day was the **day of atonement**, when they were to afflict their souls for sin, and that was NOT unseasonable in the midst of their rejoicings; on the fifteenth day began the **feast of tabernacles**, which continued to the twenty-second, and they did not separate till the twenty-third. **We must never grudge the time** that **we spend in the worship** of God and communion with him, **NOR** think it long, or grow weary of it.

5. Solomon went on in his work, and **prosperously effected ALL he designed** for the adorning both of God's house and his own, 2 Chronicles 7:11. Those that begin with the service of God are likely to go on successfully in their own affairs. It was Solomon's praise that what he undertook he went through with, and it was by the **grace of God** that he prospered in it.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)