

Sermon Outline

SOLOMON'S PRAYER (AT THE OPENING OF THE TEMPLE) | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: 2 Chronicles 6:12-42 (p.620)

Recommended reading (and listening)

1. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/most-stunning-prayer-old-testament/>
2. <https://www.trinitycity.church/sermons/6-thinking-theologically-about-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict/>

Great Prayers in the Bible ...

23/11	David's prayer (after a cancelled building project)	2 Sam 7:1-29
30/11	Solomon's prayer (at the opening of the Temple)	2 Chr 6:12-42
7/12	Daniel's prayer (after the Temple has been destroyed)	Dan 9:1-19
14/12	Ezra's prayer (after the Temple has been rebuilt)	Ezra 9:1-15
21/12	Our Lord's kingdom-building prayer	Mt 6:9-13

The big idea: prayer begins with our circumstances but is based on God's character

1. God's extravagant promise to King David (2 Chr 6:7-11)

From: "David wants to build God a house" (aka the Temple)

To: "God is going to build David a "House" (aka a dynasty = the House of David)"

2. Solomon's unexpected prayer (2 Chr 6:12-42)

i. Solomon praises God for His character (what He is like) (vv14-15)

ii. Solomon calls on God to always be true to His character (vv16-17)

iii. Solomon prays about the Temple itself (vv18-21)

- "hear from heaven, your dwelling place ..."

- "... and when you hear, forgive"

iv. Solomon prays for the future (vv22-39)

- when neighbours wrong each other (vv22-23)

- when they are defeated by their enemies (vv24-25)

- when drought comes (vv26-27)

- in the case of famine/plague; blight/mildew; locusts/grasshoppers; enemies laying siege; whatever disease or disaster ensues (vv28-31)

- when a foreigner comes to pray to Israel's God (vv32-33)

Gen 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; **and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**"

- when going out to war (vv34-35)

- when Israel sins against God and is sent into exile (vv36-39)

v. Solomon reminds God of His character (vv40-42)

3. God's dramatic response (2 Chr 7:1-3)

So what, for us?

i. God is NOT confined to a building ("hear, from heaven")

Mt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

ii. Why do we do what we do when we gather together on Sundays?

God Almighty

May your eyes be open and your ears attentive to our prayers

Hear from heaven from wherever we call on you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Forgive us when we your people sin against you, and against each other

Be with us as we make disciples wherever you will lead us, to the ends of the earth. Amen