

Theme: The dedication of the temple is the occasion for Solomon to lead and instruct the people in their worship of the only true God. Though God’s glory is revealed through his covenant promise and blessing it is still veiled. God promised a King who would walk in perfect righteousness, unveiling the glory of God, and who would bring us into God’s presence along with him. Solomon points us to that perfect king.

Background: God’s faithfulness is remembered as Solomon comes to dedicate the temple

Introduction: The Shrine of the Silver Shovel and the “regulative principle” of worship.

I. The King Leads in Worship (8:1-13)

A. The procession

- Including the priests, elders, and people
- Offering countless sacrifices

B. The Ark

1. During Feast of Booths/Tabernacles (2)

2. As God prescribed (8)

NOTE: The symbol of God’s presence with his people comes to *rest!*

3. With his revealed will!

C. The cloud

1. Revealing the glory of God (10,11)

- Just like the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34, 35)

2. Concealing His glory, too

a. Dwelling in thick darkness (12)

- But is himself, light (Revelation 21:23; Psalm 139:12)

b. To protect us (Exodus 33:20)

NOTE: God reveals himself in such a way that we are not immediately obliterated.

D. The name – My Name *rests* here

1. God is not *in* the Ark!

- God’s *name* is there (16-20)

- His name bears the authority of the person

2. God’s dwelling place?

- Heaven! (cf. 30,36,39,43,45)

II. The King Leads in Praise (8:14-21)

A. God dwells among us

- The Ark was the symbol of God’s presence with his people

B. God is faithful!

- Recounting and exalting in God’s faithfulness (15ff)
- Fulfilling his promise to David

NOTE: God’s word has been fulfilled today!! (20,21)

III. The King Leads in Prayer (8:22-53)

A. Seeking the Lord's favor (25,26,28)

1. God *will be* faithful (Praying with Confidence)
 - Faithful for the Future
2. He is not like other God's (23,27)
 - No god like our God
 - Exodus 8:10; 1 Chronicles 17:20; 2 Chronicles 6:14
3. Let your word be confirmed! (26)

B. The petitions

1. For justice – right judgment (31-32)
2. When defeated in battle because of sin (33-34)
3. In affliction because of sin (35-36)
4. Besieged by natural disaster or enemies at their gates (37-40)
5. The foreigner who calls upon your name (41-43)
 - NOTE: *So That* the peoples of the earth will know and fear your name
6. In battle against their enemies? (44-45)
7. If they are carried into exile because of sin (46-53)

NOTE: Calling on God to hear and forgive when his people call to him in repentance

IV. The King Leads in Communion (8:54-61)

A. God with us

- He blesses the Lord (56)
- Pronouncing the benediction: The Lord our God be with us (57)

B. For the glory of His Name

- Let his faithfulness be known in all the earth, among every people of the earth
- The LORD is God; there is no other! (60)

C. Sharing in the feast

1. The abundance of praise
2. The King calls for the Fellowship meal (62-65)

APPLICATION: The pattern of our worship

V. The King Must Lead in Obedience (9:1-9)

A. Walk with me and I will walk with you (4-5)

B. Turn from me and I will turn from you (6-9)

1. A very grave warning!
2. Solomon's true treasure (Proverbs 16:16)

Conclusion: There is only one king who ever has, and ever will, walk perfectly before the Father. There is only one king who can sit on the throne before God's people forever. There is only one who can bring us into God's presence, who is our leader in praise and prayer, and only one king who can lead us in lasting fellowship and communion with God. It is not King Solomon, but the one to whom he points. It is King Jesus.