

## **2 Chron. 7:4-10 "A Great Sacrifice"**

**For the Children:** Which is better: a large congregation that does not obey God, or a small one that is faithful to Him? In Judges 7, God even told Gideon to send over 31,000 of his soldiers away, because He wanted only 300 to fight the Midianites and Amalekites. The Lord often prefers smaller numbers, so that He can show His power through the victory of His people. King Solomon built, and did, a lot of "big" things. He was showing the glory of Jesus and His Kingdom. But we do not always need to have big things – as long as we are faithful to the Lord.

**Questions:** How did David and Solomon point to the Lord Jesus in different ways? Why is Jesus' one sacrifice better than the many sacrifices of the OT? Why does it not matter if a church is big or small?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: Bigger Is Sometimes Better**

- 1) A Big House: Solomon built a Temple more glorious than the original Tabernacle. Both represented the favourable Presence of the Lord, who accepted a sacrifice for sin.
- 2) A Big Congregation: The congregation worshipping at the Temple dedication comprised "all Israel" – a "very great assembly." The borders mentioned (Hamath to Egypt) imply the widest extent of Israel.
- 3) A Great Sacrifice: 142,000 animals were sacrificed, along with grain offerings – the greatest number of sacrifices recorded in Israel's history. This dedication occurred in conjunction with the Feast of Tabernacles and the Day of Atonement.
- 4) A Big Band: The priests and Levites responded to the Lord's goodness and lovingkindness by playing music as David had, and by blowing trumpets. The noise must have been very loud!
- 5) A Big Feast: The Feast of Tabernacles speaks of God's deliverance of His people in the Exodus, and of gratitude for His provision of their needs. All Israel partook of this feast for 7 days, enjoying "table fellowship with God and each other.
- 6) A Great Pointer: This large scale of Solomon's dedication is meant to point to Christ. David, a "man of blood," pointed more to Christ as the conquering King, subduing His enemies. Solomon points more to the greatness, glory, abundance, joy and peace which Christ brings. Solomon's "super-sizing" is therefore a good thing in this case.

#### **Second Point: Bigger Is Not Always Better**

- 1) Smaller Parts of Something Immense: Today, congregational size does not matter so much. Since Christ has come, each congregation, no matter how small, is joined to a universal church of enormous size. What matters most is faithfulness to the Lord.
- 2) One Better Sacrifice: Christ's one sacrifice of Himself, once for all, is of infinitely greater value than Solomon's many. See Heb. 10. In fact, the repetition of OT sacrifices shows their inferiority. Because of Christ we no longer offer animals, grain etc. on an altar, but are enabled to offer our whole lives as a thank-offering to Him.
- 3) Simply Singing: The priests and Levites sang and played on behalf of the people – since they were priestly mediators. They pointed to Christ, who offered the perfect response to God, on our behalf. Now, the emphasis is on simple, joyful congregational singing. We do not need choirs, bands or a big PA system for that!
- 4) A modest Supper before a Greater Feast: The Lord's Supper now signifies and seals our "table-fellowship" with God and each other, through Christ. The number sitting around the table is not the main thing. For we are already part of a great assembly that is in communion with Him. When He returns, we will see how great that assembly is, at His "wedding supper."

### **Conclusion:**

