

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**THE PREPARATION OF THE TEMPLE**  
**1 KINGS 8:1-11**

**Introduction**

We saw a description of the Temple's construction in chapter 7. It was an immaculate, gorgeous building overlaid with gold on the inside floors and walls. It was highlighted by beautiful stones. A description was also given of a huge laver of water. This was constructed for the priests so they could cleanse themselves before they offered up a sacrifice to the Lord. The construction of the Temple was completed after 7 years and was ready to be prepared to open.

**I. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT IS BROUGHT TO THE TEMPLE.**

**A. All Of Israel Assembles At Jerusalem. (Vs 1-2)**

No doubt Solomon intended this to be a spectacular opening ceremony for the **Temple**.

First he assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief or the fathers of the children of Israel to bring up **The Ark Of The Covenant Of The LORD**.

The **Temple** wasn't ready to operate until **The Ark Of The Covenant** was set in the **Most Holy Place**. In fact, the **Ark** was the most important item in the **Temple**.

The **Temple** was finished in the eighth month (*1 Kings 6:38*), but Solomon chose the seventh month for the dedication, eleven months later.

This was a convenient time because it would have been just after the end of the harvest. Having gathered all their fruits it was now time for them to celebrate **The Feast Of Tabernacles**.

**B. The Ark Of The Covenant Is Set In The Most Holy Place. (Vs 3-9)**

**1. The Priests Took Up The Ark. (Vs 3, 6-8)**

Solomon was careful to obey what God commanded about transporting **The Ark Of The Covenant**, that it was only to be carried by priests. He would not repeat the error of his father David in *2 Samuel 6:1-8*.

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**2. The Ark And All The Holy Furnishings That Were In The Tabernacle Were Brought Into The Temple. (Vs 4)**

Yes, the **Ark Of The Covenant** was the most important item in the Temple, but not the only item!

They also brought the **Lampstand**, the **Table Of Showbread**, and the **Altar Of Incense** from the **Tabernacle** into the **Temple**.

**3. They Sacrificed Sheep And Oxen That Could Not Be Counted Or Numbered For Multitude! (Vs 5)**

Solomon went far beyond custom and expectation in his effort to honor and praise God on this great day.

**4. Nothing Was In The Ark Except The Two Tablets Of Stone Which Moses Put There At Mt. Horeb. (Vs 9)**

At an earlier point in Israel's history, there were three items in the ark of the covenant—A **pot of Manna** (*Exodus 16:33*), **Aaron's rod that budded** (*Numbers 17:6-11*), and the **Tablets of the Covenant** (*Exodus 25:16*).

We don't know what happened to the pot of manna and Aaron's rod, but they were not in the ark when Solomon set it in the Most Holy Place.

**5. The Reminder In Verse 9 Of The Deliverance From Egypt Is Significant: Because there was a sense in which this – some 500 years after the Exodus – was the culmination of the deliverance from Egypt.**

When Israel left Egypt and entered into the wilderness, out of necessity they lived in tents!

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The dwelling of God was also a tent (The Tabernacle). This Temple Solomon built represented the dwelling of God among Israel in the land that He had promised them and given them!

**III. THE GLORY OF GOD FILLED THE TEMPLE! (Vs 10-13)**

**A. The Cloud Filled The House Of The LORD. (Vs 10)**

This was the cloud of glory, seen often in the Old and New Testaments, sometimes called the cloud of Shekinah glory.

It is hard to define the glory of God; we could call it the radiant outshining of His character and presence. Here it was manifested in a cloud.

1. **This is the cloud that stood by Israel in the wilderness! (*Exodus 13:21-22*)**
2. **This is the cloud of glory that God spoke to Israel from! (*Exodus 16:10*)**
3. **This is the cloud from which God met with Moses and others! (*Exodus 19:9, 24:15-18, Numbers 11:25, 12:5, 16:42*)**
4. **This is the cloud that stood by the door of the Tabernacle! (*Exodus 33:9-10*)**
5. **This is the cloud from which God appeared to the High Priest in the Holy Place inside the veil! (*Leviticus 16:2*)**
6. **This is the cloud of Ezekiel's vision, filling the temple of God with the brightness of His glory! (*Ezekiel 10:4*)**

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7. **This is quite possibly what “overshadowed” Mary when she conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit! (*Luke 1:35*)**
8. **This is the cloud present at the transfiguration of Jesus! (*Luke 9:34-35*)**
9. **This is the cloud of glory that received Jesus into heaven at His ascension! (*Acts 1:9*)**
10. **This is the cloud that will display the glory of Jesus Christ when He returns in triumph to this earth! (*Luke 21:27; Revelation 1:7*)**

**B. The Priests Could Not Continue Ministering Because Of The Cloud! (Vs 11)**

The extreme presence of the glory of God made their normal service impossible.

**Conclusion**

Was it the cloud or the intense sense of the presence of a holy God that prevented them from standing to minister?

Men like Peter (*Luke 5:8*), Isaiah (*Isaiah 6:5*), and John (*Revelation 1:17*) were stricken in the presence of God. This was not because God forced an uncomfortable feeling upon them, but because they simply could not be comfortable sensing the difference between their sinfulness and the holiness of God!

These priests ministered unto God under the Old Covenant. But the New Covenant – the covenant of grace and truth (*John 1:17*) – offers us a better access to God!

This glory remained at the temple until Israel utterly rejected God in the days of the divided kingdom! The prophet Ezekiel saw the glory depart the temple (*Ezekiel 10:18*).