

THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

BIBLE TEXT : II Chronicles 5:1-14; 7:1-3; I Kings 8:54-61; 9:1-9

LESSON 258 **Senior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in" (Psalm 24:7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

2 Chronicles 5:1-14

¹ Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished: and Solomon brought in *all* the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of the house of God.

² Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which *is* Zion.

³ Wherefore all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto the king in the feast which *was* in the seventh month.

⁴ And all the elders of Israel came; and the Levites took up the ark.

⁵ And they brought up the ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the tabernacle, these did the priests *and* the Levites bring up.

⁶ Also king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were assembled unto him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen, which could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

⁷ And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, to the oracle of the house, into the most holy *place*, *even* under the wings of the cherubims:

⁸ For the cherubims spread forth *their* wings over the place of the

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Installing the Ark

1. Solomon brought all the things into the Temple that his father David had dedicated, II Chronicles 5:1;

1 Chronicles 29:2-5

² Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for *things to be made* of gold, and the silver for *things* of silver, and the brass for *things* of brass, the iron for *things* of iron, and wood for *things* of wood; onyx stones, and *stones* to be set, glistening stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

³ Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, *which* I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

⁴ *Even* three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses *withal*:

⁵ The gold for *things* of gold, and the silver for *things* of silver, and for all manner of work *to be made* by the hands of artificers. And who *then* is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

2. The elders of Israel and the heads of the tribes were assembled that they might bring up the Ark of the Covenant, II Chronicles 5:2, 3;

2 Samuel 6:1-15

¹ Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand.

² And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims.

³ And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

⁴ And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵ And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

⁶ And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*.

⁷ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God.

⁸ And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day.

⁹ And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

¹⁰ So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obedom the Gittite.

¹¹ And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obedom the Gittite three months: and the LORD

ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

⁹ And they drew out the staves *of the ark*, that the ends of the staves were seen from the ark before the oracle; but they were not seen without. And there it is unto this day.

¹⁰ *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put *therein* at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

¹¹ And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*: (for all the priests *that were* present were sanctified, *and* did not *then* wait by course:

¹² Also the Levites *which were* the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, *being* arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

¹³ It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that *then* the house was filled with a cloud, *even* the house of the LORD;

¹⁴ So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3

¹ Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came

blessed Obededom, and all his household.

¹² And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that *pertaineth* unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness.

¹³ And it was *so*, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod.

¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

1 Kings 8:1-4

¹ Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

² And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

³ And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

⁴ And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Levites bring up.

3. The Ark and the furnishings of the Tabernacle were brought into the Temple by the Levites and priests, II Chronicles 5:4, 5, 7-10;

1 Kings 8:6-9

⁶ And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy *place*, *even* under the wings of the cherubims.

⁷ For the cherubims spread forth *their* two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

⁸ And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy *place* before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.

⁹ *There was* nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made *a covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

4. Multitudes of sacrifices were made by Solomon and the people during this time, II Chronicles 5:6;

1 Kings 8:5

⁵ And king Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel, that were assembled unto him, *were* with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

II The Lord's Attendant Glory

1 When the Ark had been placed and the musicians sounded forth their praises to the Lord, His glory filled the Temple as a cloud, II Chronicles 5:11-14;

Exodus 40:34-35

³⁴ Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

1 Kings 8:10-11

¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

¹¹ So that the priests could not stand to minister because

down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

² And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

³ 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.*

1 Kings 8:54-61

⁵⁴ And it was *so*, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

⁵⁵ And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying,

⁵⁶ Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

⁵⁷ The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:

⁵⁸ That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.

⁵⁹ And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day

of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

- 2 At the end of Solomon's dedicatory prayer, fire came down from Heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, II Chronicles 7:1-3;

Leviticus 9:24

²⁴ And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: *which* when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

1 Kings 18:30-39

³⁰ And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD *that was* broken down.

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

³² And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid *him* on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour *it* on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

³⁴ And he said, Do *it* the second time. And they did *it* the second time. And he said, Do *it* the third time. And they did *it* the third time.

³⁵ And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ 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.

³⁷ 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.

³⁸ 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.

³⁹ And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

III Solomon's Benediction

- 1 The people were dismissed with Solomon's ringing tribute to God's faithfulness, I Kings 8:54-56;

Psalms 36:5

⁵ Thy mercy, O LORD, *is* in the heavens; *and* thy faithfulness *reacheth* unto the clouds.

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² *It is of* the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

²³ *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 1:9

⁹ God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 2 The people were encouraged to keep themselves on the Lord's side, I Kings 8:57-59, 61;

Deuteronomy 29:9-13

⁹ Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.

¹⁰ Ye stand this day all of you before the LORD your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, *with* all the men of Israel,

¹¹ Your little ones, your wives, and thy stranger that *is* in thy camp, from the hewer of thy wood unto the drawer of

and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:

⁶⁰ That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD *is* God, *and that there is none else.*

⁶¹ Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

1 Kings 9:1-9

¹ And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,

² That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

³ And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

⁴ And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, *and* wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:

⁵ Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

⁶ *But* if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments *and* my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:

⁷ Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have

thy water:

¹² That thou shouldest enter into covenant with the LORD thy God, and into his oath, which the LORD thy God maketh with thee this day:

¹³ That he may establish thee to day for a people unto himself, and *that* he may be unto thee a God, as he hath said unto thee, and as he hath sworn unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Joshua 23:6-8

⁶ Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom *to* the right hand or *to* the left;

⁷ That ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear *by them*, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them:

⁸ But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day.

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Galatians 5:1

¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

3 Israel's faithfulness would have proved to the world that the Lord is God, i Kings 8:60

IV God's Covenant

- 1 Solomon's prayer was heard, and God promised to fulfill the prayer if the king would keep God's commandments, I Kings 9:1-5
- 2 The Lord promised Solomon a continuing house in return for faithfulness, I Kings 9:5
- 3 Disobedience would bring sure retribution to Solomon, his family, and the Children of Israel, I Kings 9:6-9

NOTES:

For Fame and Glory

"Thus all the work that Solomon made for the house of the LORD was finished" (II Chronicles 5:1). Seven long years had been spent in the construction of this beautiful edifice, built to the honor and glory of Israel's God. The Temple, high on the slopes of Mount Moriah, was a familiar sight to the inhabitants of Jerusalem long before the interior appointments were completed. It was intended to continue through many centuries, and it was built "exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries" (I Chronicles 22:5). This was a labor of love, and one that throughout the seven years had employed, in one way or another, a great percentage of the men of Israel. No doubt the expectations of the people were very high when the time finally came for the dedicatory service to be held.

The Ark's New Resting Place

One of Solomon's first acts as he prepared for the dedication, was to bring the Ark of the Covenant out of the city of David to its new resting place within the Temple. The Ark was an emblem of God's abiding presence with the Children of Israel, and it was Solomon's first concern that the Spirit of God should dwell in the house built to the honor of His Name. God's presence would be the true dedication and nothing less could suffice. King Solomon knew at this time that it was imperative

hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people:

⁸ And at this house, *which* is high, every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and they shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?

⁹ And they shall answer, Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have taken hold upon other gods, and have worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath the LORD brought upon them all this evil.

that all his activities should be blessed of the Lord. It is just as essential today that we have the Spirit with us in every endeavor if any measure of Christian success is to be achieved.

The elders of Israel, the heads of the tribes, and the chief of the fathers of the Children of Israel were called together to bring up the Ark. The Levites were called upon to carry it and all the holy vessels that were in the Tabernacle. Solomon did not want a recurrence of the judgment that came upon Uzzah when David attempted to bring the Ark to the city of David. **(2 Samuel 6:1-10)** ¹ Again, David gathered together all *the* chosen *men* of Israel, thirty thousand. ² And David arose, and went with all the people that *were* with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth *between* the cherubims. ³ And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that *was* in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. ⁴ And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which *was* at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. ⁵ And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of *instruments made of* fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. ⁶ And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth *his hand* to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook *it*. ⁷ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for *his* error; and there he died by the ark of God. ⁸ And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day. ⁹ And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me? ¹⁰ So David would not remove the ark of the LORD unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obededom the Gittite) Multitudes of sacrifices were offered by the joyful people; the Lord received their petitions; and the Ark was brought into its new resting place in "the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims." Two great and beautiful cherubims had been made especially to cover it. The cherubs stood on their feet with their wings outstretched, each wing being five cubits long. The Holy of Holies was 20 cubits wide, thus one wing of each cherub touched an outside wall and their other wings touched each other at the center of the room. Beneath these wings the Ark was placed.

Under His Wings

"I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony" (Exodus 25:22). The Children of Israel were absolutely excluded from the Holy of Holies, except the high priest who entered that holy precinct only once each year on the Day of Atonement. In interpretation of this provision the Bible tells us, "The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing" (Hebrews 9:8). The same rule became effective under the Temple worship.

However, in the same hour that Jesus died the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place was "rent in twain from the top to the bottom." The way into the very presence of God was manifest, being opened to all men through Jesus' sacrificial death. In order to reach God fully, though, the children of men must still come in the way that He has prescribed — through salvation, typified by the brazen altar in the outer court of the Temple; through sanctification, typified by the golden altar and the perpetually burning incense in the Holy Place; and through the baptism of the Holy Ghost, typified by the

abiding Word of God and the abiding Spirit of God in the Holy of Holies. (For a more detailed study of the Tabernacle, its compartments and furniture and the significance of each, refer to Book 6, Lessons 70, 72, 73, and 74.) The call of God is going out to all the people of the world today to come to the shadow of His wings and know the precious enjoyment of fellowship with Him.

Dedicatory Prayer

As soon as the priests placed the Ark in its place and as the singers and the musicians began to make one sound in praising the Lord, the Temple was filled with the glory of the Lord in a form of a cloud. God's holy presence was so great the priests could not minister. Solomon took his place upon the brazen scaffold that had been made for the purpose. He first stood; then he kneeled before all the congregation of Israel with his hands outstretched to Heaven. Solomon knew that this house could not begin to contain all the mighty presence of God who "inhabiteth eternity"; but Solomon did desire that God would put His Name there and that His eye would be open day and night upon this house and upon all who truly worshiped there. Solomon's dedicatory prayer ended with a strong intercessory note.

Answered Prayer

"Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house" (II Chronicles 7:1); When God's fire falls upon the sacrifice there can be no question as to whether God has answered the prayer or not. The Children of Israel rejoiced to see the manifestation of God, for "they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD" (II Chronicles 7:3).

It must have meant much to the Children of Israel of Solomon's time to see fire from God consume the burnt offerings and the sacrifices, because similar fire had fallen at the dedication of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. God had commanded, "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out" (Leviticus 6:13). The priests had been careful to keep God's command, and they used this heavenly fire in all the religious services. All other fire was considered strange fire.

Every Christian today should be, literally speaking, on fire for God. When a man seeks for and receives the new birth he makes a consecration — a sacrifice — of his life to God. The Spirit of God witnesses to the heart of man that his prayer for salvation has been answered, and the flame of God's holy love fills his heart. That flame of love should not be hid; it should shine out brightly for all to see. Jesus said to His disciples: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14). God's holy fire is kept burning in the heart of a Christian by his keeping God's commandments, by much prayer, by holy living and conversation, by walking in all the light of God's revealed will, and by daily consecration of life and love to God the Father, and to His Son Jesus Christ.

Mount Moriah

This site on the slopes of Mount Moriah where the Temple was built had been the scene of two previous important demonstrations of God's grace and power. The three events show God's continual desire to reveal more of Himself to man. Abraham was first called to Mount Moriah when God told him to

offer his son for a burnt offering. Abraham answered, "Behold, here I am," and started immediately on the journey. Abraham's faith supplied the answer to the questioning of Isaac: "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering" (Genesis 22:8). Isaac was bound and laid upon the wood on the altar, but the angel of God stayed the sacrificial act. A ram caught by his horns in a thicket took the place of Isaac — typical of the Son of God who was the real Lamb that God provided for the world. In the final hour He was not withdrawn from the altar of sacrifice nor from the cross. His Blood was spilled that man's sins might be forgiven.

Second Trip

Many years passed before the second pilgrimage was made to this sacred spot. David decided suddenly, without God's counsel, to number the Children of Israel, but the census was hardly completed when he realized he had gone against the will of God. God gave David the choice of three judgments. David answered the Prophet that brought the word of the Lord: "I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man" (II Samuel 24:14).

The Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel for three days. Seventy thousand men died before the destroying angel was commanded to stay his hand. David entreated the Lord for the sake of his people and the Lord hearkened and sent the Prophet with the message that David should go to the threshingfloor of Araunah on Mount Moriah, rear an altar there and present an offering to the Lord. David quickly obeyed God's direction.

Araunah wanted to give David all the things he would need for a burnt offering, but David refused, saying, "Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (II Samuel 24:24). The heart of David sought the most valuable gift he could find to give to the Lord.

What is the most valuable gift that a Christian can give to his Lord today? Life is man's most valuable possession, for "all that a man hath will he give for his life" (Job 2:4). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). The heart and life that God will receive in consecration for service is the one that has been justified by faith.

This second pilgrimage to Mount Moriah is a type of sanctification. The one who desires the second definite work of grace today must bring his most valuable gift — himself, a living sacrifice — in consecration, and leave it on God's altar to use as He sees fit.

Third Trip

The third trip to Mount Moriah was made on that memorable day when the Temple was dedicated. Here was the preview to the Day of Pentecost, and it is interesting to note the many similarities between the two events.

All the priests who took part in the dedication of the Temple were sanctified. The disciples who tarried in the Upper Room were truly sanctified, too. One hundred twenty priests sounded with trumpets at the dedication, and exactly 120 disciples were in the Upper Room when the Holy Ghost descended upon them. The musicians and singers "were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the

LORD," and the Bible tells us that "when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1). The glory of the Lord filled the Temple of God and fire came down from Heaven to consume the burnt offering and the sacrifices. Of Pentecost we read: "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. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:2-4).

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the greatest of all God's gifts to the children of men. It is for us who live in this Gospel dispensation. The Holy Ghost will come to the sanctified heart who seeks for Him. "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39).

QUESTIONS

1. Name several ways in which the building of the Temple can be compared to the preparation of a Christian for Heaven.
2. What was one of Solomon's first acts as he prepared to dedicate the Temple?
3. Where was the final resting place of the Ark of the Covenant?
4. Who was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies in the Temple? How often?
5. What does the Holy of Holies typify?
6. In what way has the order of worship been changed under the dispensation of grace?
7. Name at least six things that Solomon prayed for in his dedicatory prayer.
8. What great occurrence took place at the end of the prayer?
9. Name the three trips to Mount Moriah and the spiritual significance of each trip.