



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE
II CHRONICLES 6:12-21
LESSON: A PRAYER OF DEDICATION — March 11, 2018

SYNOPSIS: 2 CHRONICLES 6:1-11

¹Solomon addresses the people who have assembled to see the ark placed in the Temple. Solomon mentioned three points.

1. Where the Temple is built (6:1-6): The Lord had told David that the Temple would be constructed in Jerusalem.
2. Who was selected to build it (6:7-10): David wanted to construct the Temple, but the Lord had chosen Solomon to do it.
3. Why the Temple was built (6:11): The Temple was built to honor the Lord and to house the Ark of God.

It seems that God's appearance in "*thick darkness*" (v.1) reminded Solomon that God had made His presence known to Moses (5:13-14) in a much more modest tabernacle. Now, however, the Lord would dwell in a more permanent and magnificent place (vv.1-2). Solomon addressed the people in a blessing (vv.4-11). First he praised God for having fulfilled His promises to David by choosing him and his dynasty, selecting Jerusalem as the divine "*residence,*" and permitting the erection of a temple (vv.4-6). Solomon recognizes the presence of the Lord in the audience of all Israel. He gives a brief testimony to the faithfulness of God before offering a prayer of dedication. Solomon shares with the men of Israel that God was faithful in keeping His promise "*with His hands*" (v.4).

Facts to Focus on:

King Solomon makes a dedication address and prayer where he looks in five different directions:

1. He looked back (6:1-11) - He recalled how God chose him to build the temple.
2. He looked up (6:12-21) - He asks God to fulfill the covenant promises with David.
3. He looked ahead (6:22-31) - He asks God to help His people in various trials of life.
4. He looked around (6:32-35) - He called on God to help the Gentiles.
5. He looked within (6:36-40) - He plead with God for forgiveness and to bless all present.

LESSON: I. HUMBLING HIMSELF BEFORE GOD 2 CHRONICLES 6:12-13

6:12 And he stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands:— These verses repeats itself from verse one. Solomon begins to stand in front of the altar of the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel spreading out his hands. ²Solomon stood on a platform so that the people could see him more easily.

6:13 For Solomon had made a brasen scaffold of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven. Solomon

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/ii-chronicles-61/>

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/2chronicles-1-9-lbw.htm>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

had made a bronze platform about 7.5 feet long and 7.5 feet wide, and about 4 feet high which was placed in the outer court. At first, he stood with his hands spread out. But now, he went down on his knees in an attitude of Prayer, and he raised his hands towards the sky.

II. RECOUNTING GOD'S GREATNESS 2 CHRONICLES 6:14-18

6:14 And said, O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:— Solomon began to pray to the LORD. (1)He started to praise the LORD God of Israel, by declaring to Him that He is the only real God. There is no God like Him in heaven, nor in the earth. (2)He acknowledges God's faithfulness, for He had done what He had promised. He had kept covenant and showed mercy unto His servants as they walked faithfully before Him in their hearts.

6:15 Thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him; and spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day. (3) Solomon continues to acknowledge God's faithfulness by fulfilling the covenant promise with David. God has kept what He promised David, His servant and (Solomon's) father. The things God spoke with His mouth and the things He did with His hands, He carried out as of that day. Solomon had become the king of Israel. And he had built the temple for the LORD.

6:16 Now therefore, O Lord God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me. Now, Solomon begins to tell the LORD humbly to keep the promise, promised to his father David, (God's servant). And Solomon quotes back the promise, and that is to keep a descendant sitting upon the throne of Israel of their line to rule Israel. Yet, there is a condition that their children take heed to their way to walk according to God's law as David had obeyed the LORD.

6:17 Now then, O Lord God of Israel, let thy word be verified, which thou hast spoken unto thy servant David. All to ask now is that God's Word which was spoken to David His servant be proved and confirmed.

6:18 But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!— Solomon had built the temple for the LORD. But, he wondered if God would dwell with man on the earth, but he knew that the LORD's existence and presence was too much in heaven and the heaven of heavens, and would be too big to live in any building on earth that Solomon had built. Space and time cannot contain God. He is larger than the heavens. But we should not think that He is a long ways away. God is Omni-Present, everywhere at the same time, therefore, He is always near. The temple's function was for people to find God; not to contain Him. So, the temple was the place where the people came to worship God.

III. MAKING PETITION OF GOD 2 CHRONICLES 6:19-21

6:19 Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee:— Solomon is asking God to have respect; that is, to consider and hear his prayer and supplication he has put before Him. God is concerned with whatever we face, even the difficult circumstances we bring upon ourselves. He wants us to turn to Him in prayer.

6:20 That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place. Solomon asks the LORD to guard the temple day and night. It belonged to the LORD and this is where He would place His name.

6:21 Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive. Solomon asks the LORD to hear the prayers of his people, that is, Israel. They would make their prayers towards the temple, the place where they expected the LORD to meet with them. But the LORD was in heaven, even there He was asked to hear their prayers, and when He hears them He was asked to forgive them.

SUMMARY:

Solomon stands before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, spreading forth his hands. He made a bronze platform about 7 1/2 feet long, 7 1/2 feet wide, and 4 feet high. He began to kneel on his knees in an attitude of prayer in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and then raise his hands towards heaven (**6:12-13**).

As Solomon began to pray, he makes it known that there is no God like Him in heaven, nor in the earth. He's done what He had promised. He kept covenant and showed mercy unto His servants as they walked faithfully before Him in their hearts (**6:14**). What God spoke and what He did with His hands, He fulfilled (**6:15**). Solomon also asks God to continue to do what He had promised to his father David, that is, to keep a descendant of their line to sit upon the throne of Israel yet, their children are to take heed to their way and walk according to God's law; the children are to be loyal to Him. If they obeyed the LORD, then a descendant of David would rule Israel (**6:16**). Solomon says let God's Word be verified; let His Word stand, which was spoken to David His servant (**6:17**). Solomon had built the temple for the LORD, but wondered if God would dwell with man on the earth, knowing that the LORD's existence and presence was too much in heaven and the heaven of heavens, and would be too big to live in any building on earth that Solomon had built. The temple's function was for people to find God; not to contain Him. So, the temple was the place where the people came to worship God (**6:18**). (**6:14-18**).

Solomon then asks God to have respect; that is, to consider and hear his prayer and supplication he has put before Him (**6:19**). And watch over the temple where He would put His name (**6:20**). He's still asking the LORD to listen to his prayers and to those of His people Israel when they pray toward the Temple; yes, even hear them from heaven, and when He hears them, forgive them (**6:21**). (**6:19-21**).