

2CHRONICLES 7: 1 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 LORD's glory filled the house.

Solomon having ended his prayer, the fire of the Lord comes down from heaven and consumes the offerings, 2Chr 7:1. The people and the priests see this, and glorify God, and offer sacrifices, 2Chr 7:2-4. Solomon offers twenty-two thousand oxen, and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep; and the priests and Levites attend in their offices, 2Chr 7:5, 2Chr 7:6. He keeps the feast seven days, and the dedication of the altar seven days, and dismisses the people, 2Chr 7:7-11. The Lord appears unto him by night, and assures him that he has heard his prayer, 2Chr 7:12-16; promises him and his posterity a perpetual government, if they be obedient, 2Chr 7:17, 2Chr 7:18; but utter destruction should they disobey, and become idolaters, 2Chr 7:19-22.

Verse 1

The fire came down - The cloud had come down before, now the fire consumes the sacrifice, showing that both the house and the sacrifices were accepted by the Lord.

2CHRONICLES 7: 2 The priests could not enter into the LORD's house, because the LORD's glory filled the LORD's house.

2CHRONICLES 7: 3 All the children of Israel looked on, when the fire came down, and the LORD's glory was on the house; and they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshipped, and gave thanks to the LORD, saying,

"For he is good;

for his loving kindness endures for ever."

2CHRONICLES 7: 4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the LORD.

Verse 4

The king and all the people offered sacrifices - They presented the victims to the priests, and they and the Levites slew them, and sprinkled the blood: or perhaps the people themselves slew them; and, having caught the blood, collected the fat, etc., presented them to the priests to be offered as the law required.

2CHRONICLES 7: 5 King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle, and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated God's house.

Verse 5

Twenty and two thousand oxen, etc. - The amount of all the victims that had been offered during the seven days of the feast of tabernacles, and the seven days of the feast of the dedication.

2CHRONICLES 7: 6 The priests stood, according to their positions; the Levites also with instruments of music of the LORD, which David the king had made to give thanks to the LORD, when David praised by their ministry, saying "For his loving kindness endures for ever." The priests sounded trumpets before them; and all Israel stood.

2CHRONICLES 7: 7 Moreover Solomon made the middle of the court holy that was before the LORD's house; for there he offered the burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offering, and the meal offering, and the fat.

2CHRONICLES 7: 8 So Solomon held the feast at that time seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt.

Verse 8

The entering in of Hamath - "From the entrance of Antioch to the Nile of Egypt." - Targum.

2CHRONICLES 7: 9 On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

2CHRONICLES 7: 10 On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the goodness that the LORD had shown to David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

Verse 10

On the three and twentieth day - This was the ninth day of the dedication of the temple; but in 1Kgs 8:66 it is called the eighth day. "The meaning is this," says Jarchi: "he gave them liberty to return on the eighth day, and many of them did then return: and he dismissed the remainder on the ninth, what is called here the twenty-third, reckoning the fourteen days for the duration of the two feasts; in all, twenty-three."

The Targum paraphrases this verse thus: "The people departed with a glad heart, for all the good which God had done to David his servant, on whose account the doors of the sanctuary were open and for Solomon his son, because God had heard his prayer, and the majesty of the Lord had rested on the house of the sanctuary and for Israel, his people, because God had favourably accepted their oblations, and the heavenly fire had descended, and, burning on the altar, had devoured their sacrifices."

2CHRONICLES 7: 11 Thus Solomon finished the LORD's house, and the king's house: and he successfully completed all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the LORD's house, and in his own house.

2CHRONICLES 7: 12 The LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him, "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself for a house of sacrifice.

Verse 12

The Lord appeared to Solomon - This was a second manifestation; see 1Kgs 9:2-9 (note), and the notes there. The Targum says, "The Word of the Lord appeared to Solomon."

2CHRONICLES 7: 13 "If I shut up the sky so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

Verse 13

Or if I send pestilence - "The angel of death." - Targum.

2CHRONICLES 7: 14 if my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2CHRONICLES 7: 15 Now my eyes shall be open, and my ears attentive, to the prayer that is made in this place.

Verse 15

Now mine eyes shall be open - It shall be pleasing to me in the sight of my Word, that I should incline mine ear," etc. - Targum.

2CHRONICLES 7: 16 For now have I chosen and made this house holy, that my name may be there forever; and my eyes and my heart shall be there perpetually.

2CHRONICLES 7: 17 "As for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep my statutes and my ordinances;

2CHRONICLES 7: 18 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, according as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'There shall not fail you a man to be ruler in Israel.'

Verse 18

There shall not fail thee a man - This promise was not fulfilled, because the condition was not fulfilled; they forsook God, and he cut them off, and the throne also.

2CHRONICLES 7: 19 But if you turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

2CHRONICLES 7: 20 then I will pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have made holy for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

Verse 20

Then will I pluck them up by the roots - How completely has this been fulfilled! not only all the branches of the Jewish political tree have been cut off, but the very roots have been plucked up; so that the day of the Lord's anger has left them neither root nor branch.

2CHRONICLES 7: 21 This house, which is so high, everyone who passes by it shall be astonished, and shall say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land, and to this house?'

Verse 21

Shall be an astonishment - The manner in which these disobedient people have been destroyed is truly astonishing: no nation was ever so highly favored, and none ever so severely and signally punished.

2CHRONICLES 7: 22 They shall answer, 'Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and took other gods, worshipped them, and served them. Therefore he has brought all this evil on them.'"

Verse 22

Because they forsook the Lord - While they cleaved to God, the most powerful enemy could make no impression on them; but when they forsook him, then the weakest and most inconsiderable of their foes harassed, oppressed, and reduced them to bondage and misery. It was by no personal prowess, genuine heroism, or supereminent military tactics, that the Jews were enabled to resist and overcome their enemies; it was by the Divine power alone; for, destitute of this, they were even worse than other men.