

CHAPTER 7

INTRODUCTION TO 2 CHRONICLES 7

In this chapter is an account of the Lord's acceptance of the sacrifices offered at the dedication of the temple by fire, to the great surprise and encouragement of the people, (^{<470>}2 Chronicles 7:1-7), and of the feast kept on that account, and the feast of tabernacles, (^{<470>}2 Chronicles 7:8-12), and of the Lord's appearance to Solomon, giving an answer to his prayer, (^{<473>}2 Chronicles 7:13-22).

Ver. 1. *Now when Solomon had made an end of praying*, etc.] The prayer recorded in the preceding chapter:

the fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; which was the token God gave of his acceptance of them, of which there had been several instances before, (^{<102>}Leviticus 9:24), (^{<188>}1 Kings 18:38 ^{<326>}1 Chronicles 21:26),

and the glory of the Lord filled the house; the glory of the Shechinah of the Lord, as the Targum, (see ^{<181>}1 Kings 8:11).

Ver. 2. *And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord*, etc.] They went in to carry the ark thither, but not being able to stand to minister, they came out, and could not reenter:

because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house; both the holy place, and the holy of holies, (see ^{<180>}1 Kings 8:10,11).

Ver. 3. *And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down*, etc.] From heaven upon the sacrifice, and consumed it, which was all visible to the eye; or it may be this was a distinct fire from the former, since it seems to have come down upon the house, and so may denote a bright, shining, glorious light; the same with what follows:

and the glory of the Lord upon the house; for not only the house was filled with the glory, but there was a bright stream of light and glory over it, very dazzling and surprising:

they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement; of the great court, where they were assembled:

and worshipped and praised the Lord: worshipped him by praising him:

saying, for he is good; in his nature, promises, and blessings; is good, and does good:

for his mercy endureth for ever; this was the close of their song of praise.

Ver. 4, 5. *Then the king and all the people,* etc.] Of these two verses, (See Gill on “^{<1182>}1 Kings 8:62”), (See Gill on “^{<1183>}1 Kings 8:63”).

Ver. 6. *And the priests waited on their offices,* etc.] Performed them, some in offering sacrifices, others in blowing trumpets, as it may be explained from the latter part of the verse:

the Levites also with instruments of music of the Lord, which David the king had made to praise the Lord; under a divine direction, on which the Levites played to the songs of praise offered to the Lord, and by which they made music sacred to him:

because his mercy endureth for ever; which, as it was the close of their songs of praise, was the cause of them:

when David praised by their ministry; the songs sung being composed by him, and the instruments they played upon being of his invention, and used by his order:

and the priests sounded trumpets before them; or rather over against them, that is, over against the Levites, as they were singing and playing on the instruments of music:

and all Israel stood; while this sacred and delightful service was performing, they both stood up, and stood by the priests and Levites, and joined with them in praising the Lord.

Ver. 7-10. *Moreover, Solomon hallowed the middle of the court,* etc.] From hence, to the end of (^{<1170>}2 Chronicles 7:10) is the same with (^{<1185>}1 Kings 8:64-66), only mention is made in (^{<1179>}2 Chronicles 7:9) of the dedication of the altar, as if distinct from the dedication of the house, and hallowing the middle of the court, (see ^{<1170>}Numbers 7:10) in imitation of which the Heathens dedicated their altars, in which they used ashes and water, as Pausanias ^{f23} relates, and had also feasts, as here, at the dedication

of their temples ^{f24}, in which they have been imitated by Christians; and many of our country feasts, as they are called, were first kept at the dedication of churches to such and such a saint.

Ver. 11. *Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord*, etc.] With which begins (~~<1110>~~1 Kings 11:1), (See Gill on “~~<1110>~~1 Kings 11:1”).

Ver. 12-22. *And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night*, etc.] From hence, to the end of the chapter, much the same things are related as in (~~<100>~~1 Kings 9:2-9), excepting (~~<4713>~~2 Chronicles 7:13-15) which contain an answer to the particular requests made by Solomon in case of a famine or pestilence, that when the people of Israel should humble themselves in prayer and supplication, the Lord would be attentive to them, and forgive them, (~~<4035>~~2 Chronicles 6:26-30) and which is given as a specimen, and as encouragement to expect the same treatment in all other cases mentioned in Solomon’s prayer, they so behaving.