

## **1 Kings 8 New American Standard Bible**

If a person sins against his neighbor and is compelled to take an oath *of innocence*, and he comes *and* takes an oath before Your altar in this house, <sup>32</sup> then hear in heaven and act and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and acquitting the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

<sup>33</sup> “When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, if they turn to You again and confess Your name and pray and implore Your favor in this house, <sup>34</sup> then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave their fathers.

<sup>35</sup> “When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and praise Your name, and turn from their sin when You afflict them, <sup>36</sup> then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel; indeed, teach them the good way in which they are to walk. And provide rain on Your land, which You have given to Your people as an inheritance. <sup>37</sup> “If there is a famine in the land, if there is a plague, if there is blight *or* mildew, locust *or* grasshopper, if their enemy harasses them in the land of their cities, whatever plague, whatever sickness *there is*, <sup>38</sup> whatever prayer or plea is offered by any person *or* by all Your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart, and spreading his hands toward this house; <sup>39</sup> then hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and forgive and act, and give to each in accordance with all his ways, whose heart You know—for You alone know the hearts of all mankind— <sup>40</sup> so that they will fear You all the days that they live on the land which You have given to our fathers.

<sup>41</sup> “Also regarding the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country on account of Your name <sup>42</sup> (for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house, <sup>43</sup> hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and act in accordance with all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear You, as *do* Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name. <sup>44</sup> “When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way You send them, and they pray to the Lord toward the city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name, <sup>45</sup> then hear in heaven their prayer and their pleading, and maintain their cause.

<sup>46</sup> “When they sin against You (for there is no person who does not sin) and You are angry with them and turn them over to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, distant or near; <sup>47</sup> if they take it to heart in the land where they have been taken captive, and repent and implore Your favor in the land of those who have taken them captive, saying, ‘We have sinned and done wrong, we have acted wickedly’;

<sup>48</sup> if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who have taken them captive, and pray to You toward their land which You have given to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and the house which I have built for Your name; <sup>49</sup> then hear their prayer and their pleading in heaven, Your dwelling place, and maintain their cause, <sup>50</sup> and forgive Your people who have sinned against You and all their wrongdoings which they have committed against You, and make them *objects of* compassion before those who have taken them captive, so that

they will have compassion on them <sup>51</sup> (for they are Your people and Your inheritance which You have brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace), <sup>52</sup> so that Your eyes may be open to the pleading of Your servant and to the pleading of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You. <sup>53</sup> For You have singled them out from all the peoples of the earth as Your inheritance, just as You spoke through Moses Your servant, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, Lord God.”

### Solomon’s Benediction

<sup>54</sup> When Solomon had finished praying this entire prayer and plea to the Lord, he stood up from the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread toward heaven. <sup>55</sup> And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying: <sup>56</sup> “Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel in accordance with everything that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant.

<sup>57</sup> May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us nor forsake us, <sup>58</sup> so that He may guide our hearts toward Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His ordinances, which He commanded our fathers. <sup>59</sup> And may these words of mine, with which I have implored the favor of the Lord, be near to the Lord our God day and night, so that He will maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day requires, <sup>60</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else. <sup>61</sup> Your hearts therefore shall be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.”

### Dedicatory Sacrifices

<sup>62</sup> Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifice before the Lord. <sup>63</sup> And Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the Lord, twenty-two thousand oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the Lord. <sup>64</sup> On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the courtyard that *was* in front of the house of the Lord, because there he offered the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat of the peace offerings; for the bronze altar that *was* before the Lord *was* too small to hold the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat of the peace offerings. <sup>65</sup> So Solomon held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt, before the Lord our God, for seven days and seven *more* days, *that is*, fourteen days. <sup>66</sup> On the eighth day he dismissed the people, and they blessed the king. Then they went to their tents joyful and with happy hearts for all the goodness that the Lord had shown to David His servant, and to Israel His people.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

1. Solomon invites God to sign up to some caveats before He takes up residence of His new temple.

2. If a man looks towards this temple having offended his neighbour and makes an oath, that is swears a declaration of truth. Solomon says to God 'you be his judge and evaluate if he is speaking the truth'.
3. Solomon is saying identify his wrong doing and bring him to account for his wicked, presumptuous way of behaving.
4. Or, if this man has acted rightly, identify his right behaviour and bless him.
5. Sometimes God's people are defeated by the enemy because they walk in the wrong way.
6. God's ability to protect diminishes when we move away from His protective arm.
7. Solomon says, 'but if they turn away and repent, having walked away from you, show them mercy and restore them despite all their rebellion.'
8. Solomon invites God to forgive them in their repentance.
9. When they are in the valley of despair and their world has fallen in on them and they call out to you, meet them in their repentance. Why should God do this for them?
10. Would you have the courage to ask God for this kind of mercy for someone else?
11. What is it to pray and confess God's name that God would respond to this?
12. Notice God is the one who has afflicted His people, Psalm 23, thy rod and thy staff.
13. Why is repentance so important to humanity?
14. Solomon's request to teach God's people the good way in which they should walk, is exactly what the Holy Spirit does for the born again Christian.
15. The Holy Spirit brings Jesus teachings to mind so that the Christian is renewed and sanctified.
16. If nature is cursed and they are taken into dark times of suffering, or an enemy takes them into captivity because of their sin, have mercy if they repent.
17. If the circumstances of their lives work out for the bad due to their wrong behaviour, act for them if they repent.
18. 'If they prayed towards the temple'. Why is this important?
19. Why should we examine our hearts of unrighteousness?
20. God knows the hearts of us all, He will not be deceived by anyone.
21. What is it to have a heart that is afflicted?
22. Why do we lift up hands to God?
23. God always wants His people to have reverence towards Him. Why?
24. Solomon says 'as God's mercy applies to Israel, so God's mercy applies to the foreigner'. God wants to show all mercy.
25. What is God's mighty hand and outstretched arm?
26. God wants all of us to know His name.
27. The temple is called by God's name because His Spirit lives there.
28. As Christians we are now His temple, called by His name, for His spirit to dwell within.
29. It is a good thing to ask God to bless us against our enemies if we are walking in God's ways.
30. Notice Solomon says 'when they sin' not if they sin.
31. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.
32. Our sinful ways can make God angry, so He allows our enemy to rule and to reign over us.
33. He will let our enemy take us captive when we walk in the ways of unrighteousness.

34. Solomon says, 'if they take thought', it means come to their senses, just like the prodigal.
35. Solomon says, 'if their thoughts draw them to repent and seek forgiveness, have mercy on them'.
36. To return to God with all of your heart is to give up on your rebellion regarding His instructions.
37. You can't half-heartedly render your heart to God.
38. For you to render your soul is to stop living in rebellion to God's ways.
39. God's dwelling place is in heaven, the temple on earth is like an embassy representing all that God is and all that God represents.
40. Solomon asks God to have compassion and forgive.
41. Solomon reminds God, they are your people that you chose out from the earth, to represent you to the world, so the world would see you in all your glory.
42. To supplicate is to present yourself before God in humility and surrender, to desire to let go of all your old ways and chose to live for God.
43. Solomon's prayer for the temple is one of the great prayers in the bible, but even great prayers come to an end.
44. So Solomon arose, which means he had been on his knees. Leaders who bless God's people are blessed.
45. God wants us to live in His rest.
46. He does that as we believe and trust in His promises.
47. God has never broken His promises, not one time.
48. For God to be with us is like having an endless supply of provision for all our earthly needs.
49. For Him not to leave us is like living in the security of the outer shield on the Starship Enterprise.
50. To walk in all His ways and keep His commandments is to do right and live right, to refuse to do wrong.
51. For God to uphold Solomon's cause is to fulfil Solomon's request.
52. Solomon wants all to know that there is no one else but God who is in control.
53. Generosity is the hallmark of the presence of God.
54. God's goodness makes our hearts glad.