

1Kings 8:54–66

“Blessed in the LORD's Blessedness”

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What great benediction does Solomon pronounce, and what blessing do the people enjoy? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Kings 8:54–66 prepares us for the opening section of public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these sixteen verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that seeing the Lord's goodness in everything solves not just the problem of worrying but also the sinful tendency to live for earthly things.

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 • Read 1Kings 8:54–66

Questions from the Scripture text: Before what had Solomon just finished doing (v54)? What did he do now? In what posture had he been? What posture did he now take (v55)? To do what? With what kind of voice? Whom does he bless when blessing them (v56)? What had He done? To whom? According to what? What does Solomon request in the blessing (v57a)? What does he ask not to happen (v57b)? What does he want Yahweh to do to their hearts (v58)? So that they would do what? Whom had Yahweh commanded all these things? What did Solomon want Yahweh to do with his words (v59)? When/how much? For what goal (v60)? Whom does v61 command that these things would happen? Who do what before Whom in v62? What type of offering does Solomon offer (v63)? How many of which animals? How does the end of v63 summarize the whole chapter thus far? When does v64 take place? What did the king consecrate? Where? With what three things? Why did this area have to be consecrated—why not just use the bronze altar? When does v65 take place? What did Solomon host? With whom? Where? How long? What does he do to the people after (v66)? What do they do to the king? Where do they go? With what kind of hearts? Why? Whom had Yahweh done good?

At one point in my life, I had a pastor who used to give doxologies (like Jude vv24–25 or in Rev 5:12, 13) as benedictions. It struck me as odd then, but that was because I did not love the glory of God enough or see how completely my blessedness was bound up in that glory. Apparently, Solomon sees both of these things, because when he goes to bless all the assembly of Israel (v55) what he speaks with a loud voice is the blessedness of the LORD (v56). As this passage holds forth the blessedness of belonging to the ever-blessed God, it emphasizes three things to us:

God's Promises

It is a wonderful thing to have promises from the LORD, for not one word of all His good promise has ever failed (v56). Now, if that was true already in 1Kings 8, how much more can we be sure about His promises after the coming of Jesus, in Whom all of those promises find their “yes” and “amen” (cf. 2Cor 1:20)?

And what are some of those promises? There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (cf. Rom 8:1). He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies (cf. Rom 8:11). We are “joint heirs with Christ” and will “be glorified together with Him” (cf. Rom 8:17). All things work together for good for those who love God, who are the called according to His purpose (cf. Rom 8:28). Those whom He justified He also glorified (cf. Rom 8:30). He Who delivered His own Son up for us will surely together with Him freely give us all things (cf. Rom 8:32). In all these things we are more than conquerors (cf. Rom 8:37). Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God (cf. Rom 8:39). And that's from just one chapter! Not one word of any of that will ever fail.

Many of us have as one of our favorite promises, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (v57, cf. Heb 13:5), but let us take to heart what that means in vv57–58. The LORD is not with us unto our ends, but unto His infinitely good ends; His pledging Himself to be with us is “*that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways,*” etc. (v58).

God's Glory

Right hearts and right walking are the purpose for which we most need His nearness. By being near His people to make them walk in His ways, the LORD displays His exclusive glory as God (v60).

May I ask you, dear reader, whether this was the case with Israel during the time of Solomon's temple? Is it not more so with the church, and ought it not be more so? O how we should love for “the peoples of the earth to know that Yahweh is God; there is no other” (v60)! Therefore, let us seek from Him to be near us to make us walk in obedience to all that He has commanded.

Notice that what Solomon prays for in v58, he commands the people in v61. It is perfectly consistent to pray to the Lord that people would do something, and to command the people to do it. Both wills are involved, but except for the mercy of God, there will never be any obedience from sinful man.

Our Joy

Finally, the blessing produces joy. There is no joy greater than seeing the glory and goodness of God. This is the ultimate joy unto which the Lord has created us and redeemed us. The sheer volume of sacrifices in this feast of joy requires that the entire middle court be consecrated into a makeshift altar (v62–64). The feasting from those sacrifices lasts two weeks for the entire nation (v65). And on the eighth day of the second week, when they return home, their hearts are still ringing with joy over the goodness of God.

Marvelously, this great joy is only anticipatory of what our joy will be like with God, not just for two weeks, but continually and forever in the New Heavens and New Earth. The mind cannot comprehend what that joy will be. And if the mind could comprehend it, the heart would not be able to endure the intensity of considering it. Blessed be the Name of our God; we literally cannot imagine what is being pronounced upon us in His benedictions!

When do you hear benedictions? How does this passage help you think through what is being pronounced upon you at that time? How should you think/feel during a benediction?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for choosing to glorify Your everblessed Self by enmeshing our blessedness with the glory of Your Name. Forgive us for when we lose sight of the greatness and certainty of Your promises in Christ. And make us to rejoice over Your glory and goodness, even as we look forward to doing so forever in Christ, in Whom we ask it, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP122 “I Was Filled with Joy and Gladness” or TPH164 “God Himself Is with Us”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

First Kings chapter 8, our portion is versus 54 through 66. These are God's words. And so it was when Solomon had finished praying, all the prayer and supplication to your way that to your rose from before the altar of Yahweh from kneeling on his knees with his hands, spread up to heaven and then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice saying, Blessed, be Yahweh who has given rest to his people.

According to all that, he promised there has not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised through his servant, Moses may y'all, they our God be with us. As he was with our fathers, may he not leave us more forsake us that he may incline. Our hearts to himself to walk and all his ways and to keep his commandments and the statutes and judgments, which you commanded, our fathers, and may these words of mine with, which I have made supplication before.

Yahweh be near you all way our God today and night, that he may maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel. As each day may require that all the peoples of Earth may know that you always is God and there is no other. Let your heart therefore be loyal to y'all.

They are God to walk in his statutes and keep his commandments as it is this day, Then the king and all Israel with him, offered sacrifices before. Yahweh and Solomon offer to sacrifice a peace offerings which he offered to Yahweh. 22,000 bulls and 120 thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of Yahweh on the same day.

The king consecrated, the middle of the court that was in front of the house of Yahweh For there. He offered burnt offerings grain offerings and the fat of the peace offerings because the bronze altar that was before y'all, it was too small to receive the burnt offerings, the great offerings and the fact of the peace offerings at that time, Solomon, held a feast and all Israel with him.

A great assembly from the entrance of Hamat to the Book of Egypt. The four, y'all we are gone, seven days and seven more days, 14 days the eighth day, he sent the people away, and they bless the king and they went to their tense joyful and glad of heart for all the good that y'all.

I had done for his servant David and for Israel. His people So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

So when I was younger and less aware of passages like this one, it used to bother me. Sometimes when we would have for a benediction, what I knew to be a doxology. Now one to him, be glory and honor and so forth down to him. He was able to keep you and so forth from the end of the book of Jude.

For instance, I think that's not blessing us. That's blessing, the name of God, which is good but it wasn't that supposed to be a benediction. Well.

And in our passage verse 55, he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice saying, blessed, be Yahweh who has given blah. And the point is that the Lord himself is the rest that he gives to the people. The Lord has given us himself especially in his words none of his words of promise had fallen to the ground which is the great theme.

There has no failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised through his servant Moses, he has given rest as people. According to all the E Promised, He's not only given us his words of promise which he is faithful. And which keeps, but he's also given us his word in which to walk verse 58, that you may incline.

Our hearts to himself, the reason the great fruit of and goal of having the Lord with us to not leave us or forsake us, which is another one of those marvelous promises verse 57. Is that he would incline our hearts to himself to walk in on his ways to keep His commandments and just statutes and judgments Solomon is going to turn to the people in verse 61 and command them.

Let your heart, therefore be loyal. Be fessendish. Let your heart steadfastly love or loyally or covenantly love. Yahweh are God to walk in his statutes and keep his commandments as at this day but he knows that we can only come to love God in that covenant way. That's steadfast way by God, steadfast love to us.

And so before he ever commands, the people that in verse 61, he prays to God for it, which of course is completely appropriate. Because our gracious God can will for us to will, and we make free culpable responsible choices. But praise God, that by his grace he can make us to love and to walk rightly in a godly manner.

So, the Blessedness of God here is, especially a blessedness that he is communicated to His people, by

his word, by his promises by his commandments. And we still have that today, especially since especially, since when the Lord Jesus came, one of the things that the scripture calls him is the word.

Because the Lord Jesus is God's great communication of himself to us. That's in him that all of the good promises of God find there. Yes or have their yes, he's secured the things promised. We are sure of all of the promises of God in Jesus Christ. And he also is the one who the spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son.

It is his spirit who through whom all the prophets, who by whom, he wrote the scriptures prophesied and he, who speaks as the word is breathed out, or spirited out. And see who speaks from heaven. As we hear preaching in the public worship, He was two and 12, especially Hebrews 12 teaches us.

And so God's Word is, which is great display of his blessedness and his glory to us, and he makes us to rejoice in himself. That was something that you know, when he talked about the presence of God. He said you know, well God indeed dwell on earth heaven and highest heaven.

Cannot continue much less this house. Well, you can see um the inadequacy of the ceremonial law to contain the joy and blessedness of Israel. Even here at the temple dedication. Yeah so some of the rules have to be bent because there's 22,000 bulls and 122,000, sorry 120,000 sheep and so they actually consecrate the entire court to become a giant altar, instead of just the bronze altar because of all of the sacrifices that have to be sacrificed.

And with all the sacrifices that are sacrificed, the entire nation keeps feast but there's too many people. Enjoying too much. Goodness in the, in the feast that they have before the Lord, with the burnt offerings, and the grain offerings, and the peace offerings. And so we keep the Feast seven days and then they have to keep the feast another seven days, and it's the eighth day of feast two that they are, that they are sent home.

So the space could not contain the Blessedness of belonging to this God and that time could not contain the blessedness of belonging to this. God, There is here, of course, and looking forward to Christ himself and how We will need and you haven't and a new earth and unending ages in order to enjoy the blessedness and belonging to the Lord.

Jesus and all are enjoyment of him. And all of the blessing that we have from him, whether the, the bread that we eat, or reason brand with fruit and nuts, and milk that we eat or the living bread that we have in worshiping Him and reading his words together around the table.

And we do it with imperfect minds and and cloudy thoughts and hearts that are unable to embrace the joy of belonging to him. Like we should and is nearness to us to incline our hearts to walk in this ways, you know, very imperfect worship. And yet it's worship that he in which he comes near and he feeds us on the words that proceed from his mouth and not just the bread alone, that was on the table.

All of these blessings are real and true, and good. And yet, they point us to blessing that will break the system blessing that requires a new heavens and a new earth blessing that requires forever. And ever blessing that will be especially in him in whom the fullness of the Godhead.

Dwells bodily that we will enjoy when he physically returns in that glorified glorified body. And so we have the promises of God, we have God by His words. We have God especially by Christ who reveals to us by His word and spirit. The will of God for our salvation who has priest for us and intercedes.

Who intercedes for us? We have Blessedness now but it is just the beginnings. The beginning tastings of the Blessedness that we shall have forever and ever. And this passage communicates that into us. So let's ask the board to convince our hearts of this blessedness and fill us with this joy.

Father difficult. They yesterday got to bed late and got up late and or ill equipped physically and mentally to come to you. But we thank you for the help of your spirit. We thank you for your word. We thank you for the blessedness that and the joy over that blessedness that we read and hear about in this passage.

And we thank you that these are even the reading, and the hearing, and worshiping you in the passages. Even the means that your spirit uses to produce that joy and make us to no one embrace that blessedness be glorified. Oh God, before our minds and our hearts. So that we might know that you have invested your glory in blessing us.

And that the greatest benediction for us is doxology for you. Where we would not only glorify you but enjoy you and enjoy you in unlimited way forever and ever, we ask that your spirit would give us the four tastings of that. Even as we go about the business of our life this day and we ask it all in Christ's name.

Amen.