

# Apply The Word

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## KINGS & KINGDOMS

### Message Info

**Title:**

Pointing to a Better Temple

**Speaker:**

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**Scriptures:**

1 Kings 5-9

**Theme:** We meet God in a better place, therefore our hope never ends.

**Introduction:** The wailing wall is one of the most popular destinations in modern Jerusalem. It is from the remnant of the temple constructed by Herod the Great, in the time of Jesus. And that temple is the successor to the one built by Solomon in the 10<sup>th</sup> century BC. Solomon's temple would have dominated the skyline of Jerusalem and announced the importance of the place where man met with God. But those temples, as impressive as they were, were not ultimate.

These chapters unfold 2 aspects of Solomon's reign during a critical season:

**1. Solomon's temple was a monumental prophetic fulfillment (5:1-8:11)**

Solomon began construction of the temple at a fairly young age. His kingdom was secure and he chose to focus on the right priority.

His temple was similar to others of that time, but it had a few distinct features, including "The Sea," a bowl for ceremonial washing and to symbolize God's rule.

The temple was also a symbol of God's enduring promise to his people, if they would obey him (6:11-13).

Solomon was also building a home for himself. However, the time and attention he gave to that project (13 years) far exceeded the temple (7 years). He is not explicitly condemned in Scripture, but the contrast is telling (6:38-7:1).

In 1 Kings 8, the temple is dedicated and the glory of the Lord fills it. That is what made the temple truly unique—it belonged to the living God.

**2. Solomon was a monumental monarch in that moment (8:12-9:28)**

Chapter 8 continues with a long prayer from Solomon, as he recognizes that the Lord does not live in a house made by human hands. To believe otherwise would be to foolishly try to command God.

He entreats the Lord to show mercy toward his sinful people, rightly recognizing that Israel would fail to hold up their end of the covenant.

He also prays for the foreigners who would hear of the Lord and would come and pray at the temple. All people are created by the Lord and he desires that all would come to know and praise him.

Solomon recognizes a limitation of the temple—at some point God's people would rebel against him (8:46-51); Solomon asks for mercy when they repent. The temple could not solve the problem of sin, but it did represent God's mercy to save.

**Questions:**

1. What is your definition of a successful life? What are you pursuing? How does it compare to God's definition?
2. How does the Lord's faithfulness in spite of man's sin encourage you?
3. Who are you praying for, to share Christ with them?