

w/b 3rd September 2017 **THEME: AWAKENINGS** (LIFE APPLICATION)

PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:1-16 (NIV)

The Dedication of the Temple

7 When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ² The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. ³ When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying,

“He is good; his love endures forever.”

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. ⁵ And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the people dedicated the temple of God. ⁶ The priests took their positions, as did the Levites with the LORD’s musical instruments, which King David had made for praising the LORD and which were used when he gave thanks, saying, “His love endures forever.” Opposite the Levites, the priests blew their trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.

⁷ Solomon consecrated the middle part of the courtyard in front of the temple of the LORD, and there he offered burnt offerings and the fat of the fellowship offerings, because the bronze altar he had made could not hold the burnt offerings, the grain offerings and the fat portions.

⁸ So Solomon observed the festival at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him—a vast assembly, people from Lebo Hamath to the Wadi of Egypt. ⁹ On the eighth day they held an assembly, for they had celebrated the dedication of the altar for seven days and the festival for seven days more. ¹⁰ On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their homes, joyful and glad in heart for the good things the LORD had done for David and Solomon and for his people Israel.

The LORD Appears to Solomon

¹¹ When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, ¹² the LORD appeared to him at night and said:

“I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.

¹³ “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. ¹⁶ I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

LAUNCH

Can you remember a momentous and joyful day in your life?
Why was it important and what were the highlights?

DISCOVERY

What do you think Solomon took away as the highlights of his big day (or to be more precise God's big day)?

What does the way in which God reveals himself in this scripture tell us about his character and nature?

UNDERSTANDING

Has there ever been a time when God spoke to you in the still of the night?
What did he say and how was it significant?

As God promises Solomon forgiveness & healing for Israel, he reveals the importance of humility, prayer, worship (or seeking his face) and repentance.
Which of these do you need to give more attention to and how might you go about doing this on a personal basis?

Why does God mention humility as the first key ingredient of his plan for blessing?
In what areas of our lives do we need to practise more humility, both personally and collectively?

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, presumably because they found it to be quite a hard discipline.

What are some of the practical ways we can develop this discipline in our lives?

In his sermon Dave tentatively pointed towards a link between worship and repentance. Do you believe such a link exists, and if so, how does it work?

How could you develop a more worshipful daily routine?

APPLICATION

- Pray that our church would grow in humility, prayer, worship and authentic repentance
- Pray that God would bless our land and forgive sin by bringing salvation
- Pray for Paul Baker and his team as they prepare for Alpha
- Resolve to take one of the four revival ingredients (humility, prayer, worship and repentance) and develop it in a practical way in the coming week