

Today's Topic: A Place of Celebration 2 Chronicles 7:1-16 Sunday, November 21, 2021

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"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. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. 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.'"

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (NIV, 2011)

2. All _____

- 22,000 cattle; 120,000 sheep and goats
- Priests and Levites lined up across from one another, with trumpets and other instruments filling the atmosphere with sound
- Sacrifices filled the central courtyard
- The celebration lasted for two full weeks

2 Chronicles 7:4-10 (NIV, 2011)

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. 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, 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. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

2 Chronicles 7:12b-16 (NIV, 2011)

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Next Steps: Whom will you invite to explore their faith here in this place?

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is essential for a worship service to be effective?
- 2. Read 2 Chronicles 7:1-3. How would you have reacted if you were present when God's presence entered the temple complex?
- 3. Read 2 Chronicles 7:4-10. What impresses you most about the size and scale of the dedication event? Why do you think that so much effort and cost was invested in this event?
- 4. Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-16. Why does God keep His eyes open and ears attentive to what is happening in this temple?
- 5. What truth from this study will you think about and try to apply throughout the coming week?