1 Kings 8:22-61 • The True Role of the Temple

1. (v.22-26) God’s rewards are awarded according to **each individual’s** obedience. There is no g**roup coverage** or **shelter** provided by a “thing” such as the temple.
2. (v.27-30) The temple is intended to be God’s house of **prayer**.
3. (v.31-32) 1st group/circumstance: The prayers of the **individual**.
4. (v.33-34) 2nd group/circumstance: The prayers of the **nation**.
5. (v.35-36) 3rd group/circumstance: The prayers of the **sinful**.
6. (v.37-40) 4th group/circumstance: The prayers of the **disobedient**.
7. (v.41-43) 5th group/circumstance: The prayers of the **foreigner**.
8. (v.44-45) 6th group/circumstance: The prayers of those **going to battle** for the Lord.
9. (v.46-53) 7th group/circumstance: The prayers of the **repentant**.
10. Solomon never once mentions the temple activities of **sacrifices**, **offerings**, or **celebrations**.
11. (v.54-61) None of these groups/circumstances cover “things” or earthly needs; they are all devoted to **spiritual reconciliation**.
    1. As a personal calling, the temple focuses His people on **obedience**.
    2. As a global calling, the temple focuses the world on **God**.
    3. In both cases, it does not require that anyone actually be IN the **temple building**; it’s an issue of one’s **heart**.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is **growing into a holy temple** in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

―Ephesians 2:19-22