

2 Chronicles 6:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.

Analysis

Solomon's dedicatory prayer asks: 'That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.' The request for God's eyes to be 'open... day and night' asks for continual divine attention. God 'putting His name there' signifies covenant presence and ownership. The temple becomes the locus where prayers are directed, though God isn't contained there (6:18). Jesus supersedes this - He is the place where believers pray 'in Jesus' name,' accessing the Father. God's eyes are always open to prayers offered through Christ.

Historical Context

This prayer (c. 960 BCE) established the temple's role in Israelite prayer life. Even when scattered (exile, Diaspora), Jews prayed toward Jerusalem (Daniel 6:10), trusting God heard prayers oriented toward His house, anticipating the universal accessibility through Christ.

Related Passages

[Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth](#)

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does praying 'in Jesus' name' - through His mediation - give confidence that God's eyes and ears are attentive to your prayers?
2. What difference does it make that God's attention isn't limited to a physical location but extends to all who pray through Christ?

Interlinear Text

לְהִיאָת עֵינֶיךָ פָּתָח וְתָאַל בְּבִית הַיּוֹם מִבְּנָה H1961 That thine eyes may be open H413 upon this house H2088 day H5869 H6605 H1004 H3119

אֶמְרָתֶךָ אֲשֶׁר בַּמְקָם וּמְלָאֵךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְלֹא
and night H413 toward this place H4725 whereof thou hast said
H3015 H550

בָּזָה כִּי תְּפִלָּה לְאַשְׁר עָבֹד בְּאַל כִּי תְּמִיקָה וּמִ H2088 H4725 H5650 H6419 H834

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:15 (Parallel theme): The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalms 121:5 (Parallel theme): The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

Daniel 6:10 (Prayer): Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem,

he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

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