

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

Psalms 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

לְהִיּוֹת H1961	עֵינֶי יְיָ H5869	פָּתַח וְתֵ H6605	אֶל H413	הַבַּיִת H1004	הַזֶּה H2088	יוֹם H3119
	That thine eyes	may be open		upon this house		day
וְלַיְלָה H3915	אֶל H413	הַמָּקוֹם H4725	אֲשֶׁר H834	אָמַרְתָּ H559		
and night		toward this place		whereof thou hast said		
לֵשׁ וְ H7760	שְׁמֶךָ H8034	שָׁמָּה H8033	לְשָׁמָּה H8085	אֶל H413	הַתְּפִלָּה H8605	
that thou wouldst put	thy name	there to hear	there to hear	unto the prayer		
אֲשֶׁר H834	יִתְפַּלֵּל H6419	עַבְדְּךָ H5650	אֶל H413	הַמָּקוֹם H4725	הַזֶּה H2088	
	prayeth	which thy servant		toward this place		

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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