

2 Chronicles 6:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

Analysis

Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on Covenant faithfulness and answered prayer. The Chronicler presents Solomon's faithfulness in temple building and worship as paradigmatic for post-exilic Israel. Unlike the Kings account which includes Solomon's failures, Chronicles emphasizes his positive example during his faithful years.

Theologically, the passage demonstrates that wholehearted seeking of God results in His manifest blessing and presence. The temple construction and dedication represent the climax of God's dwelling with Israel, foreshadowing the incarnation when God would dwell among humanity in Christ. The elaborate preparations and careful adherence to divine pattern emphasize that worship must occur on God's terms.

Cross-references to the tabernacle (Exodus 25-40), Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7,

1 Chronicles 17), and Messianic prophecies illuminate how Solomon's temple points toward Christ as the true meeting place between God and humanity. The material glory of Solomon's kingdom anticipates the greater glory of the Messianic age.

Historical Context

The reign of Solomon (970-930 BCE) represents Israel's golden age of peace and prosperity. The temple construction began in Solomon's fourth year (966 BCE), exactly 480 years after the Exodus according to 1 Kings 6:1. The Chronicler writes from a post-exilic perspective (450-400 BCE), emphasizing themes relevant to the restored community: temple worship, Levitical service, and covenant faithfulness.

Archaeological evidence confirms Solomon's extensive building projects and international trade relationships. The temple's design incorporated Phoenician architectural elements, evidenced by parallel structures discovered in Syria and Lebanon. Solomon's alliance with Hiram of Tyre provided both materials (Lebanese cedar) and craftsmen for the construction.

The post-exilic audience, having returned from Babylonian captivity to rebuild the temple, needed encouragement that God's presence and blessing could be restored through faithful worship. The Chronicler presents Solomon's reign as paradigmatic—when leaders and people seek God wholeheartedly, He dwells among them and prospers them.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen understanding of God's presence as the source of true blessing and success?

2. What does this passage teach about the importance of following God's prescribed patterns in worship and service?
3. How does Solomon's example in Solomon's Dedication Prayer point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

שָׁבַת בְּ מִמֶּךָּו הַשְּׁמָעָה עַד אֶת הַ
 H859 Then hear H4480 thou from the heavens H8064 place H4349 even from thy dwelling H3427

פְּנָכֶר וְ אֶל יְהֹוָה נִקְרָא אֲשֶׁר כִּכְלָה וְעַש יְתָ
 and do H3605 H834 calleth H413 according to all that the stranger H5237

אֶת בְּאָרֶץ לְמַעַן לִלְדָעַת כָּל כְּעַמְבָּדָה כְּעַמְבָּדָה אֶת
 H4616 and may know H3605 thee as doth thy people H5971 of the earth H853

וְלִירָא הַשְּׁמָעָה אֶתְהָבָה כְּעַמְבָּדָה כְּעַמְבָּדָה יִשְׁרָאֵל
 by thy name and fear H3372 H853 thee as doth thy people H5971 Israel H3478 and may know H3045

אֲשֶׁר בָּזְהַב בְּבָבִית הַעֲלָה נִקְרָא אֲשֶׁר
 H3588 by thy name H8034 calleth H5921 that this house H2088 H834

בְּנִיתִי:
 which I have built
 H1129

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 7:14 (Parallel theme): If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

