

2 Chronicles 7:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

Analysis

God's nighttime appearance to Solomon: 'And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.' God's response 'I have heard' assures that lengthy prayers (chapter 6) reached divine ears. The phrase 'chosen this place to myself' (bachar... li) emphasizes divine election and ownership - God chose the place, making it His. Its purpose - 'house of sacrifice' - designates function: atonement through substitutionary sacrifice. This pointed to Christ's sacrifice, the ultimate fulfillment making all temple sacrifices obsolete. Believers are now God's chosen dwelling place where spiritual sacrifices are offered.

Historical Context

This nighttime revelation (c. 960 BCE) followed the temple dedication's public events, showing God's private confirmation of public worship. The designation 'house of sacrifice' shaped Israel's understanding that forgiveness requires blood atonement (Leviticus 17:11).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God hears your prayers give confidence to persist in prayer despite delayed answers?
2. What 'spiritual sacrifices' - worship, service, surrender - is God calling you to offer as His chosen dwelling place?

Interlinear Text

לְוָיָה אָמַר בְּלִילָה שֶׁלָמָה הָאֵל יְהוָה אֲלֹהֵינוּ
appeared And the LORD to Solomon by night and said
H7200 H3068 H413 H8010 H3915 H559 H0

שְׁמָעֵת בְּתִפְלַת בָּתְחַנְּנָה וְבָרְתָה וְבָרְכָה
unto him I have heard thy prayer and have chosen this place
H8085 H853 H8605 H977 H4725 H2088

לְבִתְחַנְּנָה בְּמִקְדָּשׁ
to myself for an house of sacrifice
H1004 H2077

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 17:1 (References Lord): And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

1 Kings 9:2 (References Lord): That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

2 Chronicles 1:7 (Parallel theme): In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee.

Deuteronomy 12:11 (Sacrifice): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

2 Chronicles 7:16 (Parallel theme): For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

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