

# 2 Chronicles 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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.**

This verse contributes to the narrative of Solomon's reign, specifically focusing on Divine acceptance with conditional covenant warnings. 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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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 God's Glory Fills Temple point forward to Christ as the ultimate fulfillment?

## Interlinear Text

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לְהִיּוֹת	בָּזֶה	הַבָּיִת	עַתָּה	אַתָּה	וְהַקֹּדֶשׁ	שְׁתִּי	בְּתַ�ךְ	רָתַי	וְעַתָּה	הָ
H6258	For now	have I chosen	H977	and sanctified	H6942	H853	this house	H2088	H1961	
שְׁמִי	עַד	עֹלֶם	עִינִי	וְבַיִת	עַיִן					
that my name	may be there for	ever	and mine eyes							
H8034	H8033	H5704	H5769	H1961	H5869					
וְלֹבֶב	כָּל	בְּחִימִים								
and mine heart	H3605	shall be there perpetually	H3117							
H3820										

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Chronicles 7:15** (Parallel theme): Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

**2 Chronicles 7:12** (Parallel theme): 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.

**1 Kings 9:3** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

**2 Chronicles 6:20** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Colossians 2:9** (Parallel theme): For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

**Psalms 132:14** (Parallel theme): This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

**Zechariah 3:2** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

**Matthew 3:17** (Parallel theme): And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

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