

**Prophets, Priests, and Kings: Hope for the World**  
1 Kings 8:1-66

**A Picture of Hope**

- The structure of the chapter:
  - Vv. 1-21 - The placement of the ark
  - Vv. 22-30 - Solomon's thanksgiving & invocation
  - Vv. 31-53 - Solomon's petitions for the people
  - Vv. 54-61 - Solomon's benediction
  - Vv. 62-66 - Consecration & celebration
- Reminders of grace...
  - The ark of the covenant was a reminder of God's incredible grace toward Israel. (v. 9)
  - The smoke and darkness were reminders of God's indescribable greatness over them. (vv. 11-12)
  - Even Solomon wondered aloud that such a God would come near & be present. (v. 27)
- Reliance upon grace:
  - All of Solomon's specific requests are shaped by the Mosaic covenant. (see Deut. 28)
 

*But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. (Deuteronomy 28:15)*

*The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. <sup>21</sup> The Lord will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>22</sup> The Lord will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. <sup>23</sup> And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. <sup>24</sup> The Lord will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed. <sup>25</sup> "The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. (Deuteronomy 28:20-25) (compare with 1 Kings 8:33, 35, 37, 46)*
  - Solomon's last petition (vv. 46-53) is the high point of the prayer:
    - Solomon envisions a day of exile and captivity.

- But still he pleads for grace grounded in God's prior election and redemption.
- Solomon found hope in God's mysterious but profound mercy.
- This chapter shows us that salvation is not about goodness but God's goodness.

*This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:11-12)*

### The Practice of Hope

- In view of God's grace, we can be honest before God. (“there is no one who does not sin”)

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)*

- Satan wants your sin to drive you from God.

*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8)*

- God wants your sins to drive you to Him.

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

- In view of God's grace, we can be confident before God. (“hear in heaven”)

*If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:14)*

- Can you really ask too much in the great name of Jesus?
- Is anyone too far from God that our great Savior cannot save?

- In view of God's grace, we can come repeatedly before God. (“whenever they call upon you”)

*Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)*

*A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; <sup>21</sup> and in his name the Gentiles will hope. (Matthew 12:20-21)*