

18.04 Temple Dedication (1 Kings 8:1–62; 2 Chronicles 5:2–18; 6:1–42; 7:1–3)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Temple*: a place where God dwells among His people
- *to dedicate*: to give totally to God

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 8:1 Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers’ houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. 2 And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. 3 And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. 4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. 5 And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. 6 Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. 7 For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. 8 And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. 9 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. 10 And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

12 Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. 13 I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.” 14 Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. 15 And he said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying, 16 ‘Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there. But I chose David to be over my people Israel.’ 17 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. 18 But the LORD said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart. 19 Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’ 20 Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. 21 And there I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with our fathers, when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven, 23 and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart; 24 you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day. 25 Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the

throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ 26 Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.

27 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! 28 Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, 29 that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. 30 And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

31 “If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house, 32 then hear in heaven and act and judge your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

33 “When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and if they turn again to you and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house, 34 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to their fathers.

35 “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them, 36 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

37 “If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemy besieges them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is, 38 whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house, 39 then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways (for you, you only, know the hearts of all the children of mankind), 40 that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.

41 “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for your name’s sake 42 (for they shall hear of your great name and your mighty hand, and of your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, 43 hear in heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

44 “If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name, 45 then hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.

46 “If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, 47 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’ 48 if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name, 49 then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause 50 and forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them 51 (for they are your people, and your heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace). 52 Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant and to the plea of your people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to you. 53 For you separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be

your heritage, as you declared through Moses your servant, when you brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD.”

54 Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven. 55 And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying, 56 “Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant. 57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us, 58 that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers. 59 Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires, 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other. 61 Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.”

62 Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.

2 Chronicles 7:1 As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. 2 And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD’s house. 3 When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

Introduction/Review:

(None for this lesson)

Story:

Bringing the ark of the covenant

King Solomon had built God’s Temple. It had taken seven years. All was complete. Only one thing more needed to be done—to bring up the ark of the covenant from the tent David had made for it in Zion. For this event and the dedication of the Temple, a huge celebration was necessary.

Solomon called together the old men of Israel, heads of the twelve tribes, and leaders of families. Together they went to David’s ark tent in Zion. The priests placed the poles through the rings on the sides of the ark and carried it as they should. The people even brought the old tent and tent items. They offered so many sacrifices of sheep and oxen that they couldn’t be counted. All of this took place outside the Temple.

Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord onto the Temple porch and into the holy place past the lamp stands and tables of showbread and altar of incense. They entered the Most Holy Place, where the two 15-foot tall cherubim (angels) with touching wings were. They placed the ark of the covenant of God, which now contained only the two tables of the law, underneath the wings of the cherubim and then came out.

Praising the Lord

Meanwhile outside on the east side of the bronze altar, a great number of singers with harps and cymbals and lyres and 120 priestly trumpeters sang and played majestic, loud anthems of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; For his steadfast love [mercy] endures forever!”

Filling the Temple

When the priests came out of the holy place, the whole Temple was filled with a cloud so that the priests could not stay inside because of it. [Pause.] The glory of the Lord was filling God’s house.

Solomon, who was standing on a platform (7.5 x 7.5 x 4.5 feet) by the altars, said, “The Lord has said He

will live in a thick darkness.” Then, to God he said, “I have built for you a magnificent house, a place for you to live in forever.”

Blessing the people

Solomon turned around and blessed the people—thousands of people standing, gathered to dedicate the new Temple. He said, “Today God has fulfilled the promise He spoke to my father David when He said, ‘Since Israel came out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city and all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house so that my name might be there. But now I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’ David, my father,” Solomon continued, “wanted to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel, but God said, ‘It is good that you want to build me a house but your son shall build the house for my name.’ I, the son, have built a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. I have made a place for the ark, which has in it the covenant of the Lord which he made with our fathers when he brought them out of Egypt [almost 500 years ago]” (1462 B.C., when the law was given, minus 972 B.C., the time of the Temple dedication = 490 years).

Praying to God

Then Solomon knelt down, raised his hands to heaven, and prayed a long but wonderful prayer to the Lord God. I won’t tell you all that Solomon prayed, but I will give the high points. Solomon prayed, (1) “Will God live with man on the earth? Heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you. How much less can this house that I have built contain You.” (2) “Listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place.” (3) “If a man sins against his neighbor, hear and act, condemning the guilty and vindicating the righteous.” (4) “When a foreigner comes from a far country for your name’s sake and prays toward this house, hear and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you.” (5) “If we sin and you let us be defeated by our enemies, then hear and forgive when we pray and make us to walk in your ways.” (6) “If we sin and you give us no rain, then hear and forgive when we pray and make us to walk in your ways.” (7) “If we sin and you give us famine or plague, then hear and forgive when we pray and make us to walk in your ways.” (8) “If your people go out to battle against their enemy and they pray to the LORD toward this house that I have built for your name, then hear their prayer and maintain their cause.” (9) “If your people sin against you and they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, if they turn and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted wickedly,’ if they repent with all their heart and with all their soul, then hear their prayer and forgive your people who have sinned against you.”

When Solomon ended his prayers, he rose to his feet and blessed the whole assembly of Israel with a loud voice: “Praise the Lord. Not one word he promised to Moses has failed. May your heart be wholly true—may you be dedicated to the Lord our God—keeping all His commandments.”

Burning the sacrifice

Right about that time, an amazing thing happened: fire came down out of heaven and burned up the sacrifice that was on the altar, and the glory of the Lord filled the Temple. What would you do if fire came down from heaven? Probably what these people did—they bowed down with their faces to the earth on the pavement and worshiped, crying, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love lasts forever.”

Then the king and people over a period of fourteen days offered 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep as sacrifices. The Levites played trumpets and instruments that David had made for giving thanks to the Lord— “for his sure love lasts forever.” For two weeks they celebrated as they dedicated God’s house to him. When those days had passed, Solomon sent the people home.

The ceremony was over; the Temple building had been dedicated.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Jesus, although he was God, dedicated his life to the will of the father.

- Believers, whose bodies are the temple—the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit—are to dedicate their temples to God (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

Activities:

- Play dough: Temple furnishings—eleven lavers, ten tables of showbread, lamp stands, one altar of incense, one bronze altar
- Snack: Unleavened bread. See videos at this site, [Unleavened Bread Recipe – How to Make an Israeli Classic - The Biblical Nutritionist](#), and find the recipe about halfway down the page.
- Have students bow with face to the floor, pray on knees with hands raised, and play harps, cymbals, *etc.*
- Play a recording of trumpeters playing a Christian song or a fanfare.
- Review questions: (Game: Print two copies of the Temple found at the site listed in “Handwork” below. For each correct answer, a student may attach the king, the large laver, or the small laver to Temple pictures.)
 1. Before the ceremony to dedicate of the Temple could begin, what needed to be brought to the Temple? [The ark of the covenant.]
 2. What was in the ark? [The two tablets of stone Moses had gotten on Mount Sinai.]
 3. What happened as the priests left the Temple? [A cloud filled it so that no one could remain in it.]
 4. Fill in the blank. The cloud that filled the Temple was the _____ of the Lord. [Glory.]
 5. Fill in the blank. “Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, _____ cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!” [Heaven.]
 6. In his prayer, Solomon mentioned several occasions when the people would want to pray for forgiveness or for help. Name three of these occasions. [A man sins against his neighbor; a man would pray toward the Temple; a foreigner comes into the land to worship; when defeated by an enemy; when famine comes; when there is no rain; when plague or pestilence come; when Israel goes against an enemy; when Israel is taken captive.]

Memory Verse[s]: A song sheet for this verse is found below. The verse can be sung antiphonally or as a round.

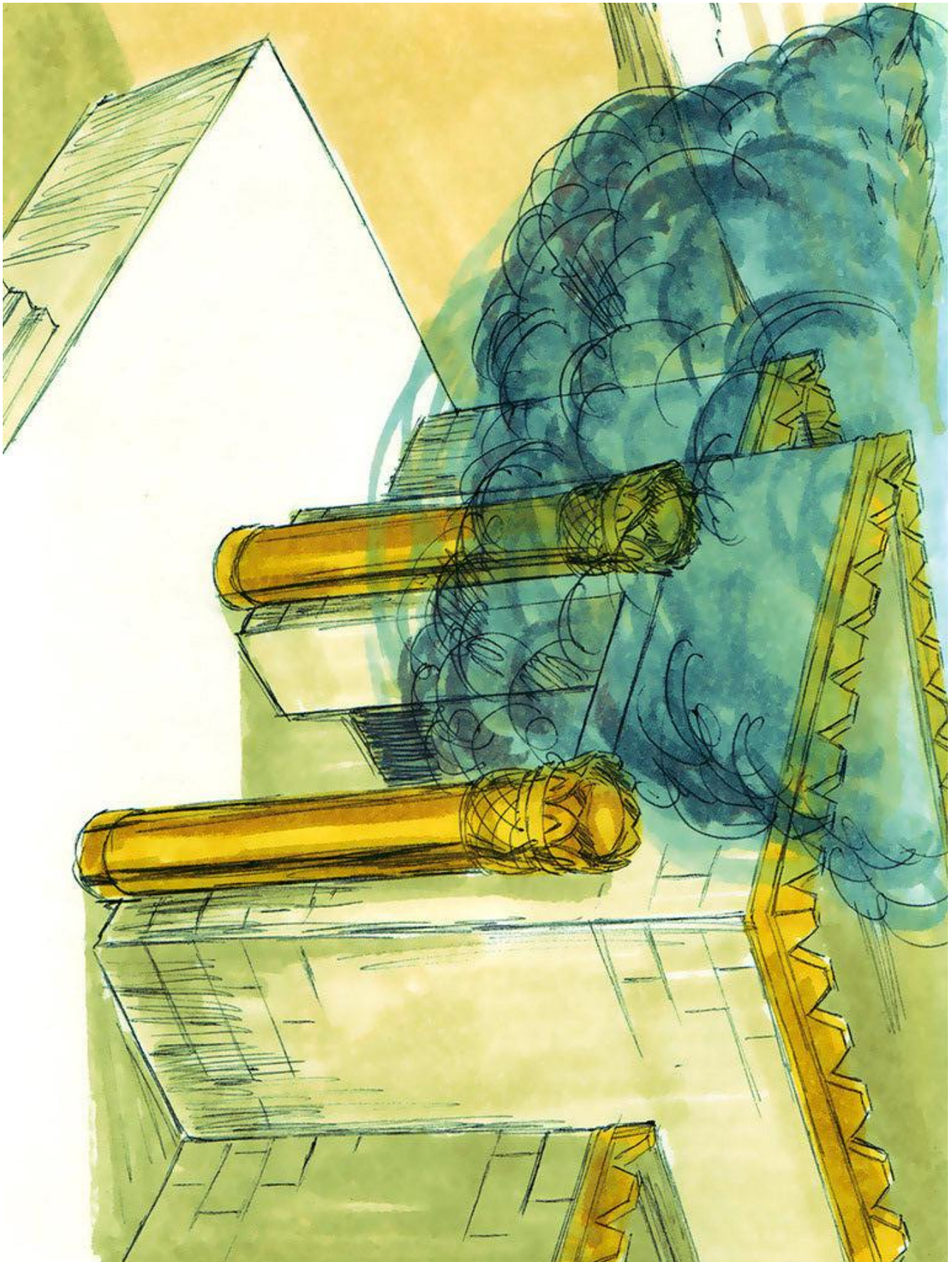
- 2 Chronicles 5:13—Give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon His name for He is good. [Not an exact quotation.]

Handwork:

- Print the colored pictures found at [solomons-temple-craft.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#) [solomons-temple-craft.pdf \(wordpress.com\)](#). Students will cut out the three different figures and glue on the Temple picture. (See [2378975_orig.jpg \(500×368\) \(wp.com\)](#) for the finished product.)

**Temple
to dedicate**









King Solomon's Dedication Prayer

(1) "Will God live with man on the earth? The highest heaven cannot contain you. How much less can this house contain You?"

(2) "Listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place."

(3) "If a man sins against his neighbor, condemn the guilty and vindicate the righteous."

(4) "When a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, hear and do according to all for which he prays."

(5) "If we sin and you let us be defeated by our enemies, then hear and forgive when we pray and make us to walk in your ways."

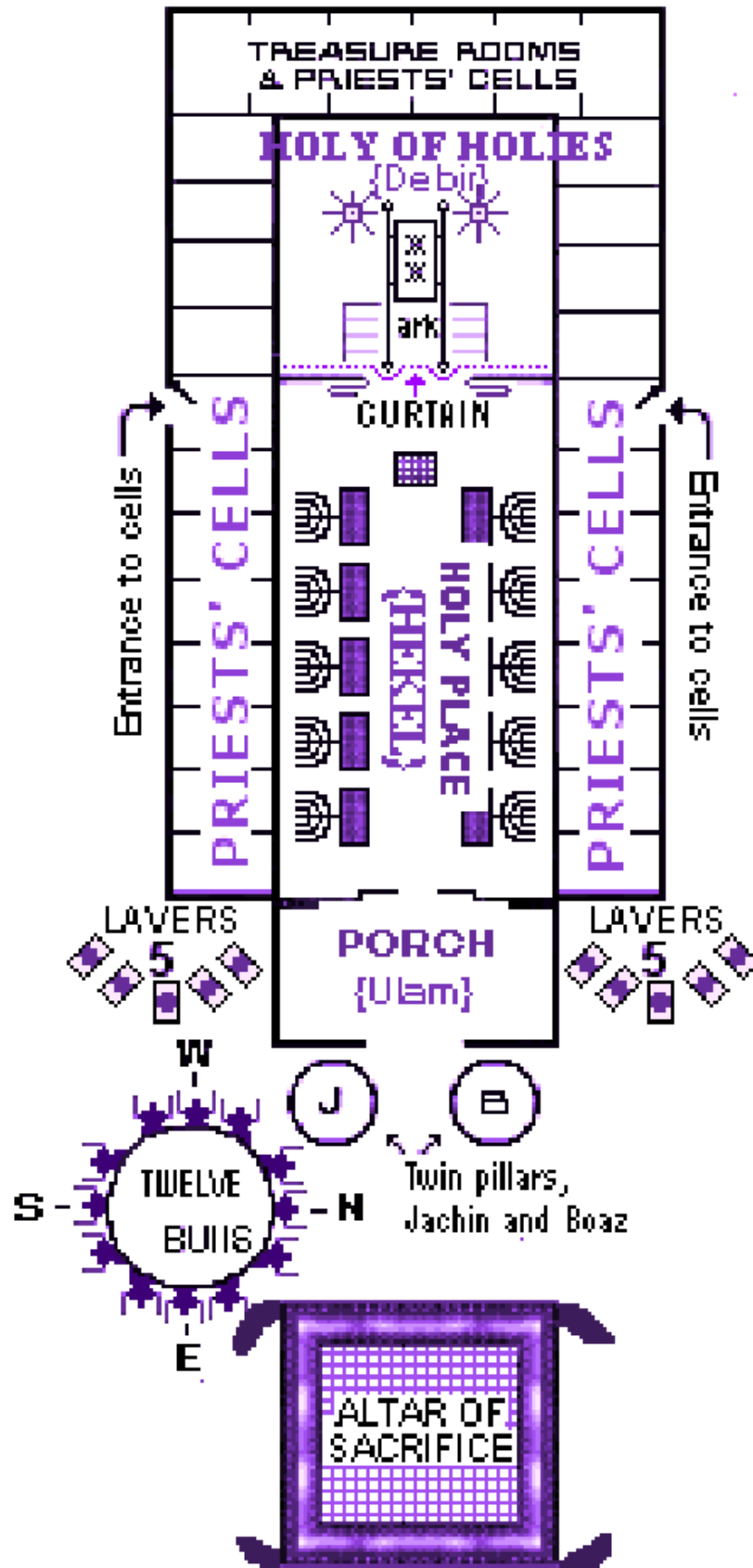
(6) "If we sin and you give us no rain, then hear and forgive when we pray and make us to walk in your ways."

(7) "If we sin and you give us famine or plague, then hear and forgive when we pray and make us to walk in your ways all the days of our lives."

(8) "If your people go out to battle against their enemy and they pray to the LORD toward this house, then hear their prayer and maintain their cause."

(9) "If your people sin against you and they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, if they repent with all their heart and plead with you, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted wickedly,' then hear their prayer and forgive your people who have sinned against you."

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE



Give Thanks unto the Lord

Traditional

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Give thanks un - to the Lord. Give thanks un - to the Lord. And call up - on His name. And call up - on His name. For He is good; for He is good." The score includes three specific starting points marked with letters: 'A' is at the beginning of the first phrase, 'B' is at the end of the second phrase, and 'C' is at the beginning of the third phrase. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' at the start of the second staff.

This song can be sung antiphonally—one group sings the first phrase and a second group sings the second phrase, continuing to alternate to the end of the song.

This song can also be sung as a 3-part round (canon) with the second group beginning at A when the first group is singing at B, and the third group beginning at A when the first group is singing at C and the second group is at B.