

Week # 36

This Week: 2nd Chronicles 4-20, 2nd Corinthians 1-7

Next Week: 2nd Chronicles 21-26, Obadiah, Joel 1-3, Isaiah 1-6, 2nd Corinthians 8-13

1. Read 2nd Chronicles 5:1-13, Explain the Ark being brought into the Temple

Solomon assembled Israel's tribal leaders in Jerusalem to transport the ark of the covenant from the City of David (Zion) to the newly completed temple. ([2 Chron 5](#)) This ceremonial transfer occurred during the Feast of Tabernacles in the seventh month, around 959 B.C.[\[1\]](#) The event represented the culmination of a long journey—the final chapter in the ark's movement that had begun generations earlier under David.[\[2\]](#)

Solomon and the assembled congregation offered an enormous sacrifice—so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted. ([2 Chron 5](#)) The Chronicler emphasizes that Levites and priests served as the liturgical leaders and bearers, handling the ark itself.[\[2\]](#) The priests placed the ark in the inner sanctuary beneath the wings of the cherubim. ([2 Chron 5](#)) The carrying poles remained in position—those same poles mentioned in Exodus by which the ark was transported so that human hands would not touch it directly.[\[2\]](#)

The ark contained only the two stone tablets that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where God established the covenant with Israel. ([2 Chron 5](#)) This detail deliberately excludes magical amulets found in other ancient Near Eastern temples, affirming that the ark symbolized God's law and grace rather than possessing conjurative power.[\[2\]](#) Historically, it evoked Israel's memory of God's wilderness presence; theologically, it represented God's covenant and the obedience it demands.[\[2\]](#)

The installation's spiritual climax arrived when a cloud filled the temple, manifesting God's presence and glory.[\[3\]](#) God accepted the temple as his earthly dwelling place, just as he had accepted the tabernacle in Moses' era.[\[3\]](#) Through the assembled tribal leaders, all Israel symbolically participated, with Solomon integrating tribal Israel's history into the new temple-centered faith of the monarchy.[\[2\]](#)

[1] Eugene H. Merrill, "[2 Chronicles](#)," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), [1:624](#).

[2] Paul K. Hooker, *First and Second Chronicles*, ed. Patrick D. Miller and David L. Bartlett, Westminster Bible Companion (Louisville, KY; Leiden; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001), [133–135](#).

[3] Thomas Hale, *The Applied Old Testament Commentary* (Colorado Springs, CO; Ontario, Canada; East Sussex, England: David C. Cook, 2007), 622.

In **2 Chronicles 5:1-13**, Solomon has completed the Temple, and the most important event is about to take place: **the Ark of the Covenant is brought into the Temple and placed in the Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies)**. [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com)

What was the Ark?

The Ark of the Covenant was a sacred chest that represented God's covenant with Israel and symbolized His presence among His people. At this time, it contained the two stone tablets of the Law given to Moses at Mount Horeb (Sinai). [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com)

Why was it brought into the Temple?

Before the Temple was built, the Ark had been kept in a tent in Jerusalem, known as the City of David (Zion). Solomon gathered the leaders and people of Israel to move the Ark into the newly completed Temple, establishing it as the permanent center of Israel's worship.

[\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com)

Important details in the passage

1. The Ark was carried according to God's instructions The Levites and priests carried the Ark and the sacred furnishings to the Temple. This showed reverence and obedience to God's commands regarding holy things. [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com)

2. Great sacrifices accompanied the procession Solomon and the people offered so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted. These sacrifices expressed worship, thanksgiving, and dedication to God. [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com)

3. The Ark was placed in the Holy of Holies The priests placed the Ark beneath the wings of the giant cherubim in the inner sanctuary, the holiest part of the Temple. This emphasized that God's presence was at the heart of Israel's worship. [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com)

4. The people worshiped in unity Singers and musicians praised God together with one voice, declaring, *"For He is good; His mercy (lovingkindness) endures forever."* Their united worship honored God and celebrated His faithfulness. [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com)

5. God's glory filled the Temple As the worshipers praised the Lord, a cloud filled the Temple. This cloud represented God's glorious presence, much like the cloud that accompanied Israel in the wilderness. God's presence was so overwhelming that the priests could not continue their ministry. [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com), [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com)

Spiritual significance

The bringing of the Ark into the Temple marked the fulfillment of God's promise to dwell among His people. It showed:

- God's faithfulness to the covenant.
- The importance of reverent worship.
- The unity of God's people in praise.
- That God's presence is the true glory of any place of worship.

The climax of the passage is not the Temple itself, but **God filling it with His glory**. The magnificent building only became truly significant when God's presence entered it.

[\[biblehub.com\]](https://www.biblehub.com), [\[biblehub.com\]](https://www.biblehub.com)

2. Read 2nd Chronicles 7:4-10, Explain the Dedication of the Temple

Solomon and the assembled people offered massive sacrifices—22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep—before the LORD ([2 Chron 7:4–10](#)), an extraordinary display of devotion that dwarfed typical temple offerings. Through these sacrifices, the king and people dedicated the house of God ([2 Chron 7:4–10](#)), formally consecrating the structure for its sacred purpose.

The liturgical arrangement reflected careful coordination between priestly and Levitical roles. The priests stood at their posts while Levites with musical instruments—instruments King David had created for giving thanks to the LORD—sang of his steadfast love, with priests sounding trumpets opposite them as all Israel stood ([2 Chron 7:4–10](#)). This orchestrated worship demonstrated how the temple functioned as Israel's unified center of devotion, integrating David's musical legacy into Solomon's new sanctuary.

The bronze altar proved inadequate for the volume of sacrifices, so Solomon consecrated the middle of the court before the temple to offer burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of peace offerings ([2 Chron 7:4–10](#)). The dedication required expanding beyond the normal sacrificial space, underscoring the exceptional magnitude of the event.

Solomon held the feast for seven days with a vast assembly stretching from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt, and on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, having completed both the dedication of the altar and the feast ([2 Chron 7:4–10](#)). On the twenty-third day of the seventh month, Solomon sent the people home joyful and glad of heart for the prosperity the LORD had granted to David, Solomon, and Israel ([2 Chron 7:4–10](#)). The extended celebration—fourteen days total—transformed the dedication into a national festival, with all Israel participating in acknowledging God's blessing upon the monarchy and the temple as Israel's permanent dwelling place for divine worship.

The Dedication of the Temple

2 Chronicles 7:4-10

This passage describes the joyful and public dedication of Solomon's Temple after God had visibly shown His approval through fire from heaven and His glory filling the Temple. The dedication was a time of worship, sacrifice, thanksgiving, and national celebration.

[\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com), [\[bibleproject.com\]](http://bibleproject.com)

1. The People Offered Sacrifices to God

King Solomon and all Israel presented sacrifices before the Lord as an expression of gratitude, worship, and dedication. Solomon offered **22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats**, demonstrating the significance of the occasion and the people's devotion to God.

[\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com), [\[bibleproject.com\]](http://bibleproject.com)

2. Everyone Participated in Worship

The priests carried out their duties, while the Levites played musical instruments that David had prepared for praising God. Trumpets were sounded, and the people stood together in worship, celebrating God's faithfulness and love. [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com), [\[bibleproject.com\]](http://bibleproject.com)

3. The Temple and Courtyard Were Consecrated

Because of the enormous number of offerings, Solomon consecrated part of the Temple courtyard to be used for sacrifices. The bronze altar alone could not accommodate all the offerings being presented. This showed both the scale of the celebration and the people's commitment to honoring God. [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com), [\[bibleproject.com\]](http://bibleproject.com)

4. A National Celebration Was Held

Solomon and the people celebrated for seven days during the Feast of Tabernacles. Israelites came from throughout the land, creating a great national gathering centered on worship and unity before God. [\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com), [\[bibleproject.com\]](http://bibleproject.com)

5. The People Returned Home with Joy

After the dedication and feast were completed, Solomon sent the people home. The people departed**"joyful and glad of heart"*** because of the goodness God had shown to David, Solomon, and the nation of Israel. [\[bibleproject.com\]](http://bibleproject.com), [\[danielwestfall.com\]](http://danielwestfall.com)

Spiritual Significance

The dedication of the Temple teaches that:

- Worship should be centered on God and His presence.
- True dedication involves sacrifice, thanksgiving, and obedience.
- God's people are strengthened when they worship together in unity.
- Joy is a natural result of experiencing God's faithfulness and blessing.

[\[biblegateway.com\]](http://biblegateway.com), [\[biblehub.com\]](http://biblehub.com)

Key lesson: The Temple was dedicated not merely as a building, but as a place where God's people would meet Him in worship. The celebration ended with joy because the people recognized God's goodness and His presence among them. [\[bibleproject.com\]](http://bibleproject.com), [\[danielwestfall.com\]](http://danielwestfall.com)