

I. In Exile - 1 Kings 8:46-48

1. All have sinned (**verse 46**)
 - when they sin against you
- Rea -to believe that all sin is one thing to have someone sin against YOU is quite another
2. And you become angry with them and give them over to their enemies
3. In this circumstance Solomon asked God for mercy for them
 - if they turn and repent (**verse 47**)
 - have a change of heart
 - note that the repentance takes place in a foreign land
4. Solomon gives the words of the “repentance” - “we have sinned...”
5. If they turn back to you (**verse 48**)
 - with their entire heart and soul
 - deep sincere repentance
- Rea -pause here... when we say “God forgive us if we have sinned...” is that deep sincere repentance?
6. God’s discipline should lead to repentance
- Rea -often it does not... how so?
- Rea -true repentance leads to true forgiveness - false repentance does not
7. Pray toward the land you gave their ancestors
 - the city you have chosen
- Rea -speaks to the WAY they expect to receive God’s forgiveness
- toward the temple
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. It is common in our culture and in our time that the preacher never asks for forgiveness
 - why is that so?
 2. It has been a long time since I’ve even heard the word “repentance” at church
 - so... if there is no repentance, there is no need for an altar, nor a time of “decision”
 3. Solomon asks God to forgive if this happens

II. God Hearts - 1 Kings 8:49-53

1. Hear their prayer (**verse 49**)
 - uphold their cause
- Rea -verses 49-53 are an intercessory prayer
- heaven is God’s “dwelling place”
2. If God hears then God forgives (**verse 50**)
- Rea -note it is “your” people who’ve sinned, not all those terrible people out there who will not attend church services
- forgive the sins
- forgive their offenses against you
3. Cause their captors (in exile) to show them mercy
4. Why forgive? (**Verse 51**)
 - A. They are your people

- B. You brought them out of Egypt - an iron-smelting furnace
 Rea -a hot place, intense suffering
 Rea -God, you delivered then, so deliver also now
5. May your eyes see their plea (**verse 52**)
 -liste when they cry out
 Rea -again, Solomon is asking God to hear and forgive... putting himself in the role of intercessor
 Rea crying -sometimes our prayers are very small and simple - a “cry out” - like a baby
6. You singled them out - and chose them (**verse 53**)
 -to be your own inheritance
 Rea -??so God has an inheritance?
 Rea -according to Solomon why should God hear their prayers?
 Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Discuss the value of prayers of repentance
 -discuss the absence of prayers of repentance
 2. Revivals used to be a time of repentance - where are the revivals?
 3. So God is reachable?? - He is not so removed that things cannot change?
 4. Barely a word was said about the National Day of Prayer - always first Thursday in May... what does that mean?

III. Blessing Offered - 1 Kings 8:54-60

1. Solomon's prayers were finished (**verse 54**)
 -he rose from the altar
 -prayed with his hands spread out toward heaven
 Rea -two prayer postures:
 A) hands spread out
 B) kneeling to seek Him
2. He turns to the assembly (**verse 55**)
 -with a loud voice
 -Praise be to the Lord
3. Reminds them of God's goodness: (**verse 56**)
 A. God has given rest
 B. He has not forsaken
 C. He has fulfilled His promises - kept the commands
 Rea -before they entered the promised land God gave a list of blessings through Moses
4. May he never leave nor forsake us (**verse 57**)
 Rea -through the Holy Spirit this is especially true - He is always there
5. May he turn our hearts to Himself (**verse 58**)
 -to walk in obedience
 -to keep His decrees and laws
 -may He uphold the cause of His servants (**verse 59**)
6. The end result - all the peoples of the earth may know the Lord is God and there is no other (**verse 60**)
 -the ultimate end result is not that we have big churches but that He be praised

- and that there “is no other”
- Rea -we turn repeatedly to other gods, and repeatedly they fail us, again and again
- Rea -Solomon does not just assume that his people will “get it” or draw the right conclusion... he says this is the end result
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. A king (politician) who intercedes and turns the people to God - whoever heard?
 2. The way to God is a way of repentance
 3. God can/ will and does hear our prayers

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