

Small Group Study Notes

1 Kings 8:1-66

1. The whole notion of “ceremonies” at important junctures in life (even down to birthday parties) has always been considered important. Why do you think this is and what would we lose if we did not celebrate significant events?
2. The “fellowship” offering (v63) was an offering (sacrifice) that was not totally burnt but was consumed as a meal (Lev 7:11-15 & 30-36). This was the party that Solomon threw and v63 gives us a picture of his generosity. Deuteronomy makes provision for part of the tithe to be used on partying (Deut 12:17 & 14: 23-25 & 26:12). Why this emphasis on eating and drinking and socialising and in what ways can we model this emphasis in our own lives?
3. The cloud came down and the priests could not see what they were doing (v11) and so it was at Sinai (Ex 19:16) and at the dedication of the tabernacle (Ex 40:34) and when Jesus was transfigured (Mat 17:5). In each event the emphasis is moved from “seeing” something to “hearing” something. What is it that we do not need to see and what is it that we need to hear?
4. We are told Solomon’s posture while he prayed, v 27 & 54. What were his postured and why have we been given this information. Should we model on him? What instruction do we have in the bible on what our posture should be while praying? What posture do you normally have? How important is the emphasis on closing eyes? Where has this emphasis come from?
5. Solomon declares God to be in “heaven” and yet he prays “toward the temple” (30). What truth were the people being taught in the instruction to pray toward the temple?
6. In the prayer Solomon affirms that God has kept his promise (v24) and the hope is that God will always keep his promise (v26). In the sermon much was made of the fact that some of God’s promises will not be fulfilled in this life. This being so what do we do with the criticism that we Christians only live for “pie in the sky when we die”?