



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Reasons for Joyful Hearts

March 18, 2018

2 Chronicles 7:1-10

“On the twenty-third day of the seventh month King Solomon sent the people to their homes, joyful and glad in heart for the good things the LORD had done for David and Solomon and for his people Israel” (2 Chronicles 7:10).

During two weeks of festival celebrations in Jerusalem, King Solomon dedicated his newly constructed temple to the LORD as a place of worship. When he finished praying before all the people, “fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple” (2 Chronicles 7:1). During their festivities in Jerusalem, King Solomon also fed the people by sacrificing “twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats” (2 Chronicles 7:5). No wonder the king eventually had to send the people home! Thinking about all the LORD had done for David, Solomon, and all the people of Israel, they went home with glad and joyful hearts.

Later in the history of Israel, King David and King Solomon became models for what the Messiah would do when He came. He would defeat the enemies of Israel and feed all His people. When Jesus came, He defeated all the spiritual enemies of His people: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12). Jesus also fed thousands of people using only a few fish and loaves of bread. Along with His miracles, Jesus testified that He was greater than King Solomon (Luke 11:31). In Jesus, God was present with His people meeting their needs. Today, Jesus dwells within His faithful followers.

Thinking Further

1. Now that the temple has been destroyed, where can we find the glory of the LORD?
2. Compare or contrast the glory of the LORD in the temple and the glory of the LORD in Jesus.
3. What did the worshipers do and say when they saw the glory of the LORD above the temple?
4. Why do you think twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats were offered by King Solomon in sacrifice?
5. Why did King Solomon need to send the people home after the feasts and the dedication of the temple?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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