

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
HOME & FOREIGN MISSION TOPICS



SPRING QUARTER
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And the work of righteousness shall be peace;
and the effect of righteousness,
quietness and assurance for ever. **Isaiah 32:17**

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QUARTERLY THEME: HE IS FAITHFUL WHO PROMISED

MONTHLY THEME: THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD'S PROMISED

MARCH FIRST WEEK

LESSON TEXT: I KINGS 8:54-61

MEMORY VERSE: Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.

I Kings 8:56

SUGGESTED EMPHASIS: Before David died, he gave final instructions to Solomon concerning those who either proved themselves loyal or disloyal to the king during his reign (I Kings 2:1–11). It was clear that David did not want his son to endure the same hardships he had suffered during his reign. In those times, avenging such wrongs were justified, but, to do so today would break the law and put an individual at risk of a lengthy prison sentence. In addition to slaying his father's old enemies, Solomon married many wives to solidify political alliances. In these first few chapters of I Kings, it seems that Solomon is placing his trust in his own ability to establish and maintain his throne.

After Solomon's Temple was completed, the Ark of the Covenant was brought from Jerusalem and put into the temple's inner room, called the Most Holy Place. God's presence, as represented by a cloud, filled the temple. After blessing the people and giving a brief personal testimony, King Solomon uttered one of the most notable prayers recorded in the Old Testament. The final portion of his prayer, contained in this passage, lists several inspirational truths about God: His word is completely reliable; His past goodness guarantees His future goodness; We need God's help every day of our lives; God blesses us to draw others to Him; and, knowing these truths about God should motivate us to a life of obedience to Him.

FOR DISCUSSION: It was only after the Ark of the Covenant was put into its proper place that God's glory filled the temple. Since we are also His 'temples', what can we expect to happen when we give God His proper place in our lives?

Discuss the reasons why we can place so much confidence in God's promises to us. Use the inspirational truths listed in this passage as well as other scriptures to support your answers.

QUESTIONS

- 1. How can we encourage others to believe in the infallibility of God's promises?**
- 2. Was David incorrect in advising Solomon to rid himself of his enemies?**
- 3. What spiritual principal is illustrated here?**
- 4. How do God's blessings draw non-believers?**

FINAL THOUGHT: God deserves our absolute loyalty and devotion.