

The classic error when studying 2 Chronicles 6-7 is to focus on **7v14**, it's the one verse in the book that people know. But, if we're to understand it we must put it back in context. When we do that we find that it's not necessarily the biggest mountain in the range. Everything God says must first be applied to those it was first said to, then to Jesus before it can finally be said to us. What God promises someone else he does not necessarily promise to us.

- Solomon appeals to God's promises. He has done everything he said to David he would do. Now Solomon asks for the blessing of the temple.
- Solomon then prays to secure forgiveness to the humble who pray at the temple. We don't then expect God's people to behave sinlessly. They will sin, in every area of life. But whatever they do – if they will humble themselves and pray forgiveness is sought (in ch6), and then promised (in ch7).
- God fills the temple with his presence. **The 'glory' is overwhelming. And yet this is a sub-Christian glory – the glory we know in Jesus and by the presence of the Holy Spirit is far far greater, if perhaps less tangible at times.**
- As promised and then when the party is over speaks to Solomon at night. What God says speaks to the requests on behalf of the nation, and to their King. The focus on the king is because he is the representative of the people – faithful king, faithful people... unfaithful king, unfaithful people.

What God says to Solomon.

V12 – the prayer was heard and the temple is God's place with his people!
V13-14, God responds to a particular request concerning times when he may afflict the people. In such circumstances, as requested (6v26-27), he will forgive and heal if they repent. This is a promise we love to transfer to us. But, we must be careful! We cannot transfer Israel to us, nor the land to our land. For Israel the land was the place God had given them... when they're finally exiled in *chapter 36* the land will celebrate because finally it is free from their sin. We do not live in a holy land, we're God's scattered people – whose life is in Jesus.

We must see that God has not made this promise to us – he made it to Solomon for the people at that time, under their covenant. However it does show us a pattern that stands in which God loves to forgive the repentant, and lead us from sin's curse to His blessing. God then addresses Solomon. In 17-18 he's told that God's promise (in 2 Samuel 7) of a King forever on David's throne will come if he is faithful. But if the Kings abandon God's word then they will lead their people into exile. God will pluck them out of the land and shame them. They will be ridiculed for abandoning the God who saved them. We praise God that we live in Christ, great David's greater Son – God's eternal perfect King. Nonetheless their story serves as a warning to take God seriously.



Cell Notes >1/5. Solomon - Humble Orthodoxy

Welcome (10)

Your cell is a **mission team** based in your hall.
And now with new **word** and **witness** leaders!

Share together...

WHAT IS GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE?

What's good? What's a struggle?

Explain that you'll study God's word together, pray and seek to encourage and equip one another to live and speak for Jesus. **This term we're studying the magnificent letter 2 Chronicles in cell from week 2-6, and then Esther in weeks 7-9. In 2 Chronicles we're called by God to a life of humble orthodoxy, in Esther to prize God's promises whatever our circumstances.**

Word (40)

2 Chronicles 6-7

Theme –

Solomon – Humble Orthodoxy
Transformational-Faith-Aim:
Whatever the sin, repent and put your trust in the promises of God.

6v1-11 Promise Kept!

What did God say he would do?

6v12-17 Promised Kings?

What does Solomon ask for?
How would this keep God's promises?
How do God's promises shape Solomon's prayers?

6v18-7v11 Prayers requested

What are Solomon's various requests?

Look at v36-40, what does this reveal about people?

If Solomon is asking for these sort of things, how might we expect the people to behave in the rest of the book?

What is the scope of God's interest in the life of his people?

What areas would that include today?

What difference does it make 'where' Solomon is requesting these things?

What does that tell us about how forgiveness can be secured – for them, for us...?

Living for Jesus
Speaking for Jesus



7v12-22 Prayer replied

12-18 Yes to your requests

What does God commit himself to do?

What does this tell us about Him?

What conditions are there upon this?

How does this shape our expectations as we read on in 2 Chronicles?

Compare this with 1 John 1v7-9 - How might this affect the application of the promises God made to Israel, to us?

19-22 Warning if you wander

What must they watch not to do?

What will be the consequences for them and their reputation if they do this?

How should what God has said here shape the priorities of God's people in Chronicles?

Reflect on what we see happen in ch6-7 – why would God's King & people wander away from God's chosen place?

How will does this warning to us help us to listen to Jesus? (e.g. Hebrews 2v1)

Next Week

Jehoshaphat – those who hate God's word, hate God

2 Chronicles 17v1-19v3

Worship (10)

Worship God for his promised & perfect King, Jesus!
His death is the sacrifices that secures forgiveness for us.

Witness (30)

Christian Union is a Mission Team – you're part of that.
Share stories of attempting to witness to friends.

Where do you need help? Who can you pray for?

**** Pray that God would grant repentance to those we know.**

Word Notes

2 Chronicles is the last book in the Hebrew Bible – a wisdom book in 'the writings'. It tells essentially the same story as the book of Kings – the decline of God's people from the reign of Solomon onwards. The emphases are different here – more focussed on the temple and the failure of the people to be humbled in their sin and seek forgiveness at the place of atonement. We want to follow what Chonicles says – so we are **CROSS WITH CROSS-REFERENCES**. We can study Kings another day.

It's a long book and we're just going to study five sections, looking at five of the Kings – Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Uzziah, Hezekiah and Josiah...*all of which leading us to be warned to take Jesus seriously by seeing what happened to Israel when they rebelled... of them leading us to try out for the perfect King to come... leading us to the one in whom all God's promises are YES and AMEN!*

In ch6-7 Solomon's temple is dedicated. **By God's promises this temple will be secured as a place for forgiveness for any who repent and pray at the temple.** Solomon recalls all God's past promises mostly to his father King David, and appeals along the same lines for more promises from God. Wise prayers for the forgiveness of his people at the temple. The temple is the place of sacrifice for sin – and whilst animal sacrifices will never atone for sin they are symbolic and represent the trust of the humble sinner in God. God promises to do what Solomon has asked in this matter – forgiveness at the the temple for the humbled who bring the true worship (orthodoxy) of a broken heart that confesses it's sin. But, if the King and his people persistently stray from God's word and worship elsewhere then only wrath remains for them – leading to shame and exile and destruction. The stage is set...