

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

May 28

MONDAY

Solomon prays for soldiers who lose a battle and are taken captive to a foreign land. If they would repent of their sin (that would be the reason they lost the battle) and turn back to God, Solomon asks God, would He hear their prayers and maintain their cause?

READ: I Kings 8:46-49

Solomon describes the turning back to God of the soldiers in this way: *if they repent and say, 'We have sinned, committed iniquity, and acted wickedly.'*

Without this kind of repentance, there can be no forgiveness; there can be no true turning back to God. Not then, in Solomon's day, and not now, in our day. In an age of an easy belief system ("Just trust God and you will be saved") we do well to remember that we must turn from sin in order to turn to the Savior. We cannot serve two masters.

TUESDAY

Solomon reminds God that Israel is God's special people, and prays that God would forgive those who sin against them, and that He would make them to be objects of compassion in the eyes of their conquerors.

READ: I Kings 8:50-52

Solomon's request that God would cause their enemy to look upon the Jewish captives with compassion is terrific! God can do that! He can change the way other people feel about us. Do you sense hostility or anger from a neighbor or boss? Ask God to change the way he or she feels about you. God does that, *that they may have compassion* on you, in the way they act. That's a lot better than us planning revenge all day!

WEDNESDAY

Solomon reminds God (but let us not suppose that God forgot!) that he chose Israel to be His people. He picked them out (separated them, the text says) from all the people of the earth to be His own

READ: I Kings 8:53

Separated is a really fantastic biblical word! When God called us to be His, He separated us from all other people (who are not His). He called us out of the group to be different from the rest. To begin with we have a different God. We have a different hope. We have a different reason to live. We have a different goal in life. We have a different set of priorities. We live on this earth (just like everyone else) but we are not of this world. We are separated. What God has pulled apart, let no man put together!

THURSDAY

Solomon finishes his long prayer and now faces the crowd of people before him, and he blesses them.

READ: I Kings 8:54-56

Some coffee is good to the very last drop, but God is good to the very last jot, or whatever punctuation may come with one of His promises. "Not one word of all His good promises has failed," Solomon reminds the people. Not one word! That means, not even a part of a promise! What God says, God does. That was true for Moses; that was true for Solomon; and that is true for you and me today! We are to claim the promises and then live according to them, for they are true, every last word!

FRIDAY

Solomon blesses the people by reminding them that God is with them as he was with Moses, and that He will not forsake them.

READ: I Kings 8:57-58

That God will not forsake us is a great promise because we know that we really deserve to be forsaken. We don't deserve God's blessing. Not at all! But it is ours, Solomon says. And furthermore, it's God who sees to that!

He inclines our hearts to Himself and He sees to it that we walk in His ways. Christian living is not us doing our best and somehow hoping that our best is good enough. Christian living is Christ living in us and through us. We love others with the love that God pours, first, into us, and then, out of us!

SATURDAY

Solomon exhorts the people to follow the Lord with hearts fully devoted to God because He will meet their needs - whatever they may be - as they come, one day at a time.

READ: I Kings 8:59-61

Everything good in the lives of people who follow the Lord, come from following the Lord whole-heartedly. All the peoples of the earth were to see the way God's people trusted Him, and the way He provided for His people, and from that to conclude that He and He alone is the one true God. That is God's plan for you and me today! He wants the confession of our faith, and the way we live our lives to bring others to the Savior! He wants the world to see in us a life that has been changed! God's plan is this: that today, in the way you love others, that you would reflect His love for mankind. God's plan is that you would be a living witness of His grace!