

THE HERO'S SON IN A TEST: DAVID AND SOLOMON
THE TEST OF DENIAL
SSG 3-11-18 Syl Scorza
II Chronicles 7:1-9

Intro – It was a time of achievement for Solomon to invite leaders and people from all the twelve tribes to assemble and see the temple where Yahweh would “dwell.” He was tested, however, by three denials: (1) no one could go in; (2) David couldn’t see it; and (3) no other places of worship would be allowed. How did he deal with them?

- I. Denial of Entrance. 1-3
 - A. Glorious Filling in Majesty.
 - B. Solomon’s Finish with Muteness.

When the shekinah brightness appeared inside the sanctuary, neither Solomon, nor the priests and Levites could approach for a while, and the common people would never be admitted into such a holy structure. The king set the example of prostration in silence to welcome God’s coming.

- II. Denial of Enmity. 4-7
 - A. Guard of Fighting from Ministry.
 - B. Solomon’s Flourish of Music.

David’s plan of erecting the temple after his battles had ended had been postponed as unfitting for a man of war, to separate worship from warfare. Solomon compensated for his father’s absence by arranging a program of psalms of David accompanied by his musical instruments.

- III. Denial by Exclusivity. 8-9
 - A. Gaining Forbiddance of Multiplicity.
 - B. Solomon’s Feast for a Multitude.

To emphasize the centrality of Jerusalem as the prime site for worshiping Yahweh, Solomon announced the closing of all other temples and shrines for sacrifices, tithe-giving or vows. Major altars, such as Bethel, Shechem and Gibeon now gave way to Zion, the holy hill in Jerusalem. Israelites could pray wherever they were. But the three annual feasts required their presence outside the temple in its courts.

- 1. Access Prevented.
- 2. Architecture Postponed.
- 3. Alternatives Prohibited.