

# Prayer- Prayer Of Protection and Dedication

## **\*Illustration of Dedication:**

- Child dedication is often prayed out of fear of harm or hindrance—Bless and Protect Lord!
- Mission teams being commissioned or dedicated have prayers that are often rooted in blessings and protection.
- Places of worship being dedicated have a special place in our heritage as to their importance, hence prayers of dedication are about protection of its purpose and blessing in that purpose.

## **The temple as a place to converse with God. 2 Kings 19:14-19**

- King Hezekiah and Judah were under severe threat and certain annihilation from the Assyrians.
- Hezekiah goes to the temple and lays out the threat before the Lord. (14)
- He appeals to God as the one true creator God and God over all kingdoms. (15)
- He petitions for God's attention to the serious matter at hand. (16)
- The "big ask" is that God deliver Judah so that his name as the true Lord God be made known. (18-19)

## *Why go to the temple for this matter?*

## **The Temple Story.**

- God chooses David to be the father of a holy dynasty of kingship. **1 Chronicles 17**
- The vision for a place to proclaim the name of the Lord and to go to worship him was given to David.
- David's son Solomon is chosen by God as the one who will build his temple.

- David finishes his reign preparing both his son and a nation for the building of the temple. **1 Chronicles 22**
- Solomon builds the temple according to the instructions given him by his father which was received from the Lord. **2 Chronicles 2-4**

### **The Dedication of the Temple. 2 Chronicles 6:14-42**

- Praising God for who he is. (14)
- He is a God who keeps promises. (15)
- Solomon asks God to keep his promises made to his father David. (16)
- God is greater than this man-made temple. (18)
- Solomon asks for forgiveness when repentance happens. This request is to protect the promise. (20-31)
- Purpose declared—build your name up Lord! (32-34)
- Forgive and build up your name Lord. (38)
- Commissioning of the temple and dedication to its purpose. (41-42)
  - May your presence rest here—a constant sense.
  - May your might be evident here.
  - May the message of the priests be salvation.
  - May there be rejoicing here over your goodness.
  - Remember your promise to David.

### **God protects and advances his purposes. 2 Kings 19:32-34**

- God responds to Hezekiah’s petition at the Temple.
- Assyria will not even sniff the outer walls of Jerusalem. (32)
- God will be the defender and savior. (34a)
- For the sake of his name and for the sake of his promise to David! (34b)

### **Take Aways.**

- In praying for our future as a church, we are dedicated to the calling of God to go out into the Harvest Field as proclaimers of Jesus.
- We pray for his protection of the mission he has called us to as a church, and that this church building is dedicated to the support of that mission.
- To fulfill that mission, the church building is a place where we worship and praise his name, we teach his truths to apply to our lives, and commission each other to fulfill God's calling upon each of us.
- In conclusion, this building has been and will be where we lay before God our challenges, our burdens, our questions, and plead for his help as we seek his response. This is a house of prayer!

**To the glory of the Lord and the power of his name to be forever praised! Amen!**