1 Kings 6 – October 24

 One advantage the modern believer has in reading the Bible is found in our knowledge of the New Testament. We now know God’s plan of redemption from start to finish. This is important for many reasons, but perhaps chief among them is gratitude. Today, when you and I read accounts of how God’s people related to Him we should be eternally thankful for our security and place in God’s family because of Christ.

 Today’s text provides one reminder of the difference between the Old Testament follower and the New Testament believer. In verses 11-13 God reminds Solomon that the temple, while beautiful and necessary, did not guarantee God’s blessing nor His presence with Israel. Instead, the temple was a conditional dwelling place for God among His people. The condition God gives is one that is repeated often in the Old Testament, namely their behavior. If Israel is obedient to walk in God’s statutes and obey His rules and keep all of His commandments and walk in them, then he will dwell among His children.

 We know from Old Testament history that Israel was poor at fulfilling this command. In fact, the majority of their history is summarized by sin and rebellion. This truth points to sinful man’s carnality and the fact that while Israel had rules to govern their living, they were not changed from the inside! In fact, the Old Testament longs for the day when true regeneration takes place. Ezekiel prophesies about a coming day when God will “give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (36:26). On that day of change, God would enter into the hearts of His people permanently and unconditionally. There would no longer be the threat of His presence leaving His people, instead His people would be fundamentally changed and their lives would be characterized by obedience and repentance.

 The ramifications of this are massive, but one truth stands out above the rest. Today brother and sister, when you and I enter into the family of God, we do so permanently and without fear of falling away. True Christians are eternally secure. God will finish what He started in us (Philippians 1:6) and those who are believers are sealed until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30). Now, the temple of God is not a building but His very own people!

 This was made possible by the sacrificial death of Christ. His death for our sins was the propitiation (satisfaction) of God’s wrath on our behalf. Through Christ we are reconciled to God for all eternity and therefore no longer live with anything but blessed assurance that Jesus is in fact ours forever! To God be the glory!