

## MONARCHY (Solomon) TO THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

### Perspective on the OT Worldview (following the big story line)

Q. How does 1 Kgs 8.56 (“Blessed be the Lord who has given rest to his people Israel according to all that he promised”) connect the temple theme and Israel’s history with God’s purpose for man from the beginning?

A. The passage is the benediction of Solomon after the building of the temple. Attaining this point in history is a matter of covenant promise and fulfillment by which man is going to reach the true rest that is provisionally given in the land of Canaan. Solomon constructed a place for God to dwell with His people on the earth in the promised land with peace and rest. However, the provisional (temporary and now but not yet) character of things is rooted in the nature of the rest that God promised in Genesis 1-2 and that Solomon directs us to when He says about the temple dwelling place that the highest heaven cannot contain the Lord so what a marvel that He dwells in the house I built! We have allusion to the fact that God is Sabbath king who sits on the throne of the heavens and profts up His feet on the footstool of the earth. The earthly dwelling is graciously real but it represents the true king of Israel and His ultimate purposes for man on the earth. This temple is another stage in God’s dealing with His covenant people in history in stage like fashion in which He gives promises and partial realization those promises in a continually expanding way. This expansion brings more and more gospel into view as the OT unfolds towards the NT and the coming of Christ. The fact that the fulfillment that comes in Christ is both now and not yet should not surprise us for this is how God is pleased to accomplish His will in history.