SERMON TRANSCRIPT

Let Fire Fall

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Holy Fire | November 1, 2026 | 2 Chronicles 4:5; 2 Chronicles 5; 2 Chronicles 6:18-21; 2 Chronicles 7:1-3; Psalms 26:8; 1 Chronicles 29:1-3

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

Well, good morning. If you have your copy of God's Word, and I hope you do, turn with me to 2 Chronicles chapter 7.

While you're turning there, let me just tell you, I love getting to be with you here at North Klein. I always high-five Pastor Steven on Steubner when we're passing each other. He's at the Champions Campus, like Lewis just said, and so it is a joy to be with you this morning.

As you're turning to 2 Chronicles, maybe you don't spend a lot of time there. It's toward the beginning of your Bible. We're starting this new series that you just saw the video for called Holy Fire. For the next five weeks, we're going over five passages, all in the Old Testament, that have to do with God's presence drawing near to us. In every story we're going to talk about, there is an instance of fire.

I was reading this this week, and this is my prayer for us as we go into this morning, this series, and this season as a church:

> *O Lord, I love the habitation of your house*
> *and the place where your glory dwells.*
>
> — Psalm 26:8

I had no idea that the song would line up with it just like that, but, God, let this be a place where Your glory dwells. Let that be our prayer this morning as we open God's Word.

But I've got to ask you this. I know it's 9:30 in the morning. I know some of y'all are not awake yet. But just me and you talking, what do you expect God to do in this room?

Take a little breather. Take a little extra sip of coffee, whatever you need to do. You probably came in here like I do every week, and your kids were screaming and all sorts of things were going on. But take a moment and ask yourself that question one more time: What do you expect God to do in this room?

When you walk into God's house on a Sunday morning, I think a lot of us come in here with different expectations. You might have the expectation of a good seat and a good cup of coffee. I'm very partial to the pecan out there. I've had about four cups already, and I am excited for the day, okay?

You might expect God to fix problems that you're going through or broken situations that you're experiencing. None of those expectations are wrong. But you'd be missing the best thing you could expect if you didn't expect to walk in here and experience God - to experience His presence.

We should want God to be here with us and near to us. The presence of God is all through Scripture. It's not a new thing. We're going to talk about where He comes in the form of fire, but you see Him in different ways from the beginning of Scripture to the end.

God walked with Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter 3. God dwelt in the tabernacle in Exodus 40:

> *Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting.*
>
> — Exodus 40:34

Today we're talking about God filling the temple in 2 Chronicles 7, where we see it as fire. God came among us in the form of Jesus in John chapter 1:

> *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
>
> — John 1:14

We see God filling His people with the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2. God will allow us into His presence in eternity, and we see that promise in Revelation 21:

> *And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.*
>
> — Revelation 21:22

The presence of God is not a new thing, but it's something we should long for. We should long to be with God's presence and to have God's presence with us. To be in the presence of God is better than anything else this world could offer. Can I get an amen on that?

This is a beautiful thing about the God you and I serve. If you have a relationship with God, He's not a distant God. He wants to be near to us. But sometimes we miss expecting Him to show up because we settle for other things.

Before I get too far ahead of myself, I should probably read our main passage, but I'm excited for today, if you can't tell.

In 2 Chronicles 7, it talks about God's presence coming. I'll give a little bit of background on it in a second, but this is the grand opening, if you will, of the temple. Solomon has done a lot of legwork to get to this point.

I want to read our passage together, and then, after that, we're going to take it a bit at a time, chop it up, and look at what we can change in our lives to better line up with what Scripture says. Read with me in 2 Chronicles chapter 7, starting in verse 1:

> *As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.*
>
> *And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house.*

> *When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."*
>
> — 2 Chronicles 7:1-3

Could you imagine that moment happening? You've been expecting and waiting for this temple to open, and as soon as Solomon finishes his prayer, the place fills up with fire and the presence of God.

Solomon was praying in this moment as a final consecration over the temple that was built. The reason the temple was built was so that he and all the people of Israel, because they longed to be in the presence of their God, could be in the presence of their God.

This morning, just like what was already spoken, the worship center at our Champions Campus is reopening. Let me tell you, I'm sure it is a great morning there, just like it is a great morning here. But our staff got together in that worship center earlier this week and prayed over it.

Let me tell you about the prayers that were prayed in that time. It wasn't that the lights would look good, that the music would sound good, or that any of the production quality would be great. The prayers were that God would use a room like this or like that for the glory of God, so that people could come into a place like this on a Sunday morning, lost, broken, and hurting, and not just get a self-help book, but get new life that can only be experienced with the presence of an almighty God. That's the point.

Our desire this morning should be to see fire fall, to witness the presence of God, and to give Him praise. That should be our desire.

So what should we know if we want to see God move in this place? When we look at Scripture, what does it teach us? What should we be aware of if we want to see God move?

Do you want to see God move? Because I do. I don't want to come up here and talk for a little while, or for us just to sing or even hang out together. I want us to experience the Lord in this place, and Scripture speaks to this.

Preparation and Prayer Are Pivotal

Before the temple is consecrated, this prayer happens, and fire falls, there are some things that happen before the fire comes down from heaven. There was preparation.

Let me tell you this: Preparation and prayer are pivotal. I'm hoping some of this rhymes or starts with the same letter so that you can remember it when you go home. If you take notes, this is a good place to jump in, okay?

If we want to know how we can see God move in this place, first and foremost, preparation and prayer are pivotal.

Before our main passage, it says in 1 Chronicles 29:1-3 that there was some preparation that happened. There was some work being done. There are different types of people in here. There are the work people and the prayer people. Watch how all of this comes together:

> *And David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God.*
>
> *So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood."*
>
> *Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God.*
>
> — 1 Chronicles 29:1-3

Solomon is young and inexperienced. That's encouraging, right?

What is happening here? David knew that he would not be the one to see the temple built, and he knew it was Solomon. So he said, "I'm going to give everything that I have. I'm going to give sacrificially so that this thing can happen."

In verse 3, what you're seeing is that he took stuff, not that he had as a king, but personally, and he gave it so the temple could be built.

Some of you don't realize this morning that you are standing, or maybe sitting where you are right now, on the shoulders of the generation that came before you and sacrificed. You didn't realize the preparation and work that it took through years of the Blue Crew to get you into a room like this. There were people who sacrificed, prayed, worked, cried, and pleaded with the Lord so that you could be here this morning. There was preparation that went into it.

In 2 Chronicles 2:5, Solomon says:

> *The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.*
>
> — 2 Chronicles 2:5

What's he saying? If there are other places of worship for little-g gods that don't amount to anything, that have no power and no authority, then what are we going to do as a people who worship the almighty, eternal God, Yahweh? We're going to build Him a house that's a reflection of how good He is.

We want our place of worship to reflect how great our God is, but it takes preparation.

In 2 Chronicles 5, it says:

> *And when the priests came out of the Holy Place - for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions,*
>
> *and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters;*

> *and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the Lord, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud,*
>
> *so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.*
>
> — 2 Chronicles 5:11-14

What did we see here? There was praising, gathering, and singing, all in preparation that God would come.

If we want to see God come into this place, there's some preparation that goes into it, but there's also prayer that goes into it.

Right before our main passage today, where Solomon says, "Amen," and then fire falls, you're like, "Hold on. What kind of prayer did he pray? Because I've got the food prayer covered, right?" But I think this might have been a little bit different.

Second Chronicles 6:18-21 is part of a much larger passage, but for the sake of time this morning, look at these verses. This is Solomon's prayer:

> *But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!*
>
> *Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O Lord my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you,*
>
> *that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.*
>
> *And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.*
>
> — 2 Chronicles 6:18-21

What a blessing that is.

This prayer showed the people what a godly leader does. Solomon prays in front of the entire assembly. All of Israel is there. Everyone is watching him consecrate this temple in prayer. It says in verse 12 that he prays in front of them with his arms stretched out.

It's like what we do in worship. That's us saying, "God, we need You. God, we're asking for You to move in a way that only You can, because we're not enough."

What he said in this prayer was, "This house is not enough to contain a God who fills the heavens. But God, if You're hearing me, please, we need You. Come dwell in this place."

This prayer honors God and His faithfulness. Throughout this prayer, Solomon talks about God keeping His covenant with His people, showing His steadfast love and His faithfulness to His servants who walk with God

with all their hearts, and keeping the promises He made to Solomon's father, David.

This prayer is for people - and this is really cool. You've got to go home, and this is your homework: Read this prayer on your own.

He prays for the people who are not part of Israel, the people who don't know God. He prays that the people who don't know God would come to this temple and see God's glory, and because of that, follow Him, repent of their sin, turn from their wicked ways and false gods, and follow the God of heaven. He prays for the foreigner to experience forgiveness and know that Yahweh is the name above all names.

This prayer is for God to hear His people, forgive them, save them, and lead them.

This morning, we should prepare and pray, but that should lead us to being a holy people. If we're going to do that, we have to live like we expect God to move.

How did you walk in here this morning? Did you come for a good seat, good coffee, and good friends, or did you expect, when you walked in, to experience God?

I know some of you prepared all week for this. You've been longing for a word from the Lord. You've been praying throughout the week. Maybe you got here early this morning and prepared this place, because some of y'all don't know this, but this doesn't just happen every Sunday. There are people here who are up well before the sun to make all of this happen.

There's preparation and there's prayer, but it should lead to us living a life that's expectant of God to move. When I read Scripture, I see this happen when God's people are prepared and praying.

So I've got to ask: Are you doing those things? Just between you and the Lord, before you ever walk in here, are you prepared? Are you prayed up?

The Presence of God Is Undeniable

Secondly, what should we know if we want to see God move in this place? We should know that the presence of God is undeniable.

What do I mean by that? Look back at 2 Chronicles 7:1-2. It didn't say, "I got some chills when the chorus came on to the song." It said that fire fell from heaven.

I know we said we're praying for that, but I think that would scare a lot of us, honestly, if that happened. You'd be like, "Man, I dozed off for 10 seconds while you were preaching, and then fire just came down from heaven." Yes, that would wake you up, wouldn't it?

But it says:

> *As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.*
>
> *And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house.*

> — 2 Chronicles 7:1-2

You know what I know? God answers the prayers of His people. Solomon prayed this bold prayer, and God immediately answers it. He meets His people.

Isn't that great? Yes, we're running after God and trying our best, but thank God that He meets us. He comes down from heaven.

This is not the first time God's presence has come as fire. It comes in the burning bush in Exodus 3 and in the pillar of fire by night in Exodus 13. It consumed the offerings in the time of the tabernacle in Leviticus 9. It describes who God is. You've probably heard this in Deuteronomy or Hebrews: God is a consuming fire.

When the presence of God comes, that burnt offering is gone.

Have you ever heard the phrase "Shekinah glory"? Some people use it lightly, but it's a very serious phrase that talks about the dwelling presence of God.

Just a little flash-forward: We, as New Testament believers who have followed Jesus, have the glory of God dwelling in us. We don't have to come to a place like this to experience it. We have the glory of God, through the Holy Spirit, residing in us.

But this idea of the dwelling presence of God in the fire would have been a reminder to the people at this time of the salvation that only God can provide.

Some of you this morning need to be reminded that the God of salvation is among us today. His presence is in you and around you right now. He is the God who can save you from your sin and save you from your circumstances, and He is never far away.

Fire can do a lot of things. I was talking with Pastor Jarrett about it this week. It can bring people together. If you've got a fire pit in your backyard, that's a beautiful thing, right? I'm hoping that in the next two to three months we'll get a little bit of cold weather and we can use the fire pit that you might have. Invite me over when it gets to be that time.

Fire can bring people together, but it can also run people away. Have you ever seen the fire get out of the pit? Time to go, right?

It can purify, but it can also consume. It can warm, but it can also burn. Fire is a symbol of the power and presence of God all through Scripture.

One thing I know about fire is that you and I are not very good at controlling it. In fact, I would say that we just can't control it. It does what it does.

In this passage, we see that fire came down. You know this: Only God can do that. Fire for us only goes up, right? When God sends fire, He sends it down from heaven.

God hears the prayers of His people, and He answers this prayer by residing among His people. This was on

purpose. It was for everyone to see. The assembly of all Israel was there for this moment. It's like the Super Bowl Sunday of church for them, and everybody is there. This was for them to see, so God's people would know that He was always with them.

In fact, they made it a custom after this to always keep a fire going in the temple as a symbol of this.

The fire comes down, and then it consumes the sacrifices. If you get into it a little bit and want to geek out, it means there was really nothing left but ash.

Some of you are not good with barbecue and you burn it, but there's still a little bit left, right? This was totally consumed. There's nothing left but ash, and this is a sign of God's approval.

God accepts the sacrifice that was made, this burnt offering, just as He did with Moses in Leviticus 9, with Gideon in Judges 6, with David in 1 Chronicles 21, and with Elijah in 1 Kings 18. When a sacrifice is pleasing to God, we see it consumed by fire.

This type of sacrifice, this burnt offering, is something we're going to get into a little bit later, but don't forget about it.

Then we see the glory of the Lord come down. Can you imagine what that would feel like? You show up to the grand opening of the temple, and you're expecting something to happen. The priests come out, sing, and play music, and you're like, "Man, that was pretty good." Then Solomon comes out and prays this bold, grand prayer, and you're like, "Man, that's incredible." Then you think something else is going to happen. Maybe somebody is about to preach or something like that.

But then the glory of God comes. It comes down and fills the whole temple.

I've shared this with you before, but one thing I love about when Scripture says something is filled is that it means there's no room for anything else. There was only the presence of God.

Have you experienced the glory of God before? Have you ever had a moment you go back to on days when you're struggling? You're going through a valley or difficulty, and you look back and point to God's faithfulness - where you felt His presence, where He spoke to you in a way you could understand, and it changed something for you. Do you have a moment like that?

Sometimes they're incredible and special. They're these grand events, but it's not always a fancy thing.

I'll share this with you because I want to be real and transparent. I was in our Family Life Center, the basketball gym, a couple of weeks ago when we were hosting a prayer conference. It was a really sweet thing. It was a Tuesday night in a basketball gym, but the worship team started singing songs from the '90s, okay?

Some of y'all might be like, "There was no good music written then." There was some great worship music written in the '90s, okay? They were singing hymns, too.

I was sitting in the back of a basketball gym, hearing these songs from the '90s and hearing these hymns I grew up with, and it was the most overwhelming moment I've had in a long time.

I'm not normally an emotional guy, but I started to tear up because I started thinking about God's faithfulness in my life when I was a kid and started singing these songs. I thought about the people I sat next to in church who had sung those songs long before me, who were faithful, who raised me up, discipled me, prayed for me, and gave me an opportunity in ministry.

I just thought, "God, You are so faithful."

The glory of the Lord is not something you and I can fabricate, nor should we try to. But when we come into a place like this, we should pray, "God, let fire fall. Let Your presence be here, because it's better than anything we could do on our own."

We should expect a holy encounter when we walk in here. We should expect a holy encounter when we meet with our God.

A holy God will reside in a holy place with a holy people. That word "holy" means set apart. If our lives are not holy, if there's something in us that looks like and gets along with the rest of the world and it's not pleasing to God, there's a problem there.

There's weight and seriousness when we walk into a place like this, and when we go before God in our time alone with Him, maybe in the morning. We don't come flippantly. We come expectantly. We come pure before Him, and we ask Him to make us clean, just as the priests did in the days of Solomon.

We should expect a holy encounter.

Public Praise Is the Proper Response

Third and finally, what should we know if we want to see God move in this place? We should know that public praise is the proper response.

I hope you're praising the Lord each and every day. When you're alone with Him, when you're in your car, and when you're in your quiet time, I hope praise is a frequent part of your life. I hope it's a defining part of your life.

But what we see in this passage is that there was public praise directly in response to what God did. It says:

> *When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."*
>
> — 2 Chronicles 7:3

Look at what they did. They bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement.

Have you ever done that? Have you ever realized just how small you are and how much you need a Savior? When you're in the presence of God, you cannot get low enough to make that relationship right.

They see the presence of God, and they respond by bowing down. Then they worship and give thanks to the Lord, saying, "For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever."

Why is that their response? They see the presence of God come down in fire, and they say, "God, You're good."

I think we would say, "God, You're big. You're a lot. You're mighty." But they say, "God, You're good. Your love keeps going. It never runs out. It endures forever."

Why did they do that? The type of sacrifice they offered, this burnt sacrifice, was for the atonement of their sin.

They placed this sacrifice down, saying, "God, we are imperfect, sinful people, and here is a sacrifice to atone for our sin."

When the fire falls, it burns up the sacrifice, when a good and righteous God would have been right to take the people who made the sacrifice.

Do you understand the severity of that? Do you understand the significance of that? They laid down a sacrifice, and God could have taken them, a sinful people. But He takes the sacrifice and says it's pleasing.

They look at that, respond, and say, "God, You are so good."

A perfect, holy God loves us enough to accept our sacrifice, and He shows us mercy. Isn't that a blessing?

Do you know what mercy is? Mercy is when you deserve something and you don't get it. We talk a lot about grace, when you don't deserve something and you do get it. But mercy is like, "I had it coming for me, and somebody else paid my debt."

A good God who is marked by His steadfast love does this. They respond accordingly. They bow down in reverence.

Do you come in here reverent? I don't mean so serious that you won't talk to somebody. I mean serious about who God is.

Augustine said, "You have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds You."

We should have a reverent heart before the Lord. They worshiped, and worship is declaring the truth of who God is. When we sing the praises of God, like what we just did, we're reciting back to Him what He already knows: the truth of His Word, that He is good, merciful, and loving.

Then they gave thanks, not just alone, privately, or for the food that was on the table, but collectively as a people.

Do you get this? When they came together and experienced the glory of God, they gave thanks as a sign of their gratitude. The people were grateful that God accepted their offering for their sin.

You and I are blessed, because this morning, when we come in here, we come because of the work Jesus did on the cross for us. Because of what Jesus did when He beat death, came out of the grave, and called us to follow Him in the life we can only experience if we follow Him, now we can come in here and sing the praises of God because Jesus made the sacrifice for us.

We should lift a holy praise.

Our worship should be a holy response to a holy God. When God's presence comes, the only right response for you and me is praise. That's what we should do.

Stop, Drop, and Roll

As we close, I want to leave you with this. I don't know about you, but sometimes God speaks to me through my kids.

I have a four-year-old - a four-and-a-half-year-old. I want to specify that. She comes home from school and dance, and I always ask, "Hey, what did you learn today?" Because we're sending you there to learn stuff, right? Not just have a good time.

She always hits me with the same line. She's like, "I don't know."

I'm like, "That's not very encouraging to me as a dad."

But I'm learning, okay? Give me some grace on this. What I'm realizing is that if I listen, ask different questions, and spend time with her, she'll tell me what she's learning. It's a really, really sweet thing. It's helped me grow a lot, and it has taught me a lot about my prayer life. Sometimes I need to stop asking questions and just listen.

Last week, she walked in, and we started talking for a little while. As we were getting ready for bed, she looked at me and said, "Hey, Dad, do you know what you're supposed to do if there's a fire?"

I'm immediately thinking, "Do I smell smoke? Is there something burning in the other room? Why is she asking me this?"

She had learned that day about stop, drop, and roll, and she wanted to know if I knew about it. I was like, "I haven't thought about that in probably 15 years."

She said, "That's what you do if there's a fire."

I'm like, "Well, I think it's if you're on fire. I don't think you just roll out of there."

But here's our closing application, okay? God has called us to be holy as He is holy, and we offer up holy praise to Him. It's also a practical thing. So, as practical as I can be, your application for when you leave here today is to stop, drop, and roll.

Here's what I mean.

Stop. When you experience the presence of God, you've got to stop everything else. We get so busy that we miss it sometimes. You'll miss what God has for you. You'll miss what's happening in this room because you're so busy with everything else you have going on.

This is a beautiful picture in 2 Chronicles 7 of everybody coming together. Nobody had a cell phone. Isn't that

cool, too? They all came together and experienced the presence of God. They stopped what they were doing, and it was a consecrated moment.

Stop.

Then, next, drop. Stop everything you're doing and drop. Get before the Lord. Worship God in reverence.

If you need to do it in here, I think it would be a sweet thing, when we worship, for you to get on your knees, get on your face before the Lord, and just say, "God, You're good."

What if we did that at home when nobody else was looking and just proclaimed, "God, You're good. You're so good that I don't know what else to do except get on my face, because You are so worthy and I am not"?

Then roll. When you leave here, when you roll out of here - now, don't actually roll out of here, okay? Because Steven will never let me come back. When you walk out of here, take what you've seen and what has happened here, and tell the world of the glory of God.

With everything you are and all that you have, if you have ever experienced the glory of God, tell the world about Him.

Let's pray this week that God would let fire fall, that we would worship Him, and that we would tell the world just how good He is.

Let's pray together.

With your eyes closed and your heads bowed, this is our moment of invitation. Our team is going to be up here - people who want to pray with you, people who want to speak with you, and people who care about what God is doing in your life.

But I've got to tell you, as they're coming up here and God is working on your heart, God will not move in a life that is not surrendered to Him. God will not dwell in a temple that is not wholly consecrated to Him.

Just you and God right now, will you confess your sin? Will you surrender your life? Will you let the Spirit of the living God live in you and guide you today?

If that's you, as soon as I say amen, our team is going to be up here. I want you to walk down front, grab them by the hand, and say, "I need to know this Jesus. I want to experience who God is."

Maybe you've walked with the Lord for a long time and you just need somebody to pray with you. Whatever it is that God is doing in your life, our team will be here down front.

Jesus, we love You. God, we pray right now that You would be with us in this time. God, I pray that we would experience Your glory and Your goodness. God, that we would see fire fall from heaven in our lives, and that we would give You the praise You're due because of that.

God, the purpose of this room, this building, and this church is so that people can know You and see You. God, I pray right now that if You're working in people's lives, they would be bold enough to respond.

God, I pray that You would be with us in this time and that You would get the glory You're due.

It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.