



"GOD'S REMEDY FOR A SICK NATION"

"IF" Series, Lesson #3

2 CHRONICLES 7:14, ***If** my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

The four things that the people must do.

- 1. Humble themselves.**
- 2. Pray.**
- 3. Seek His face.**
- 4. Turn from their wicked ways.**

What God will do.

- 1. Hear from heaven.**
- 2. Forgive their sin.**
- 3. Heal their land.**

Most people will agree...the biggest "IF" in the whole Bible is found in second Chronicles 7:14.

That is not saying that the "if" scriptures concerning salvation is not as important. No...the wonderful promises of God concerning our salvation and how to be saved and why are the most important for the non-Christian (lost) and some of the most important for the Christian who desires to witness to those who are lost. However, for we who are wanting to go to the brink of eternity and know what and how to pray for ourselves and our nation, 2 Chronicles 7:14 is "big" in the department of importance in the Word of God. Why? Because it is the answer to our problems and our nation's problems. It is the greatest promise for us...and yet, it can be the greatest barricade for advancing (individually and as a nation of believers) to the heavenly level in the whole Bible.

God says, "If you will-then I will."

- **Revival will come when people humble themselves and pray.**
- **Forgiveness comes when people humble themselves and pray.**
- **Healing comes when people humble themselves and pray.**

History before this Scripture: For seven years the nation of Israel has been building the temple on Mount Moriah and it is now completed. The time has come to dedicate the Temple, and the people have gathered together for this special occasion. Solomon is kneeling on a small platform that has been built for the occasion and his hands are lifted toward heaven he offers a very pertinent prayer.

“LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. ¹⁵ You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it—as it is today.

And now, LORD, the God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David come true. “But will God really dwell on earth with humans? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built! ¹⁹ Yet, LORD my God, give attention to your servant’s prayer and his plea for mercy. Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence. ²⁰ Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.

²² “When anyone wrongs their neighbor.... when we have been defeated by an enemy because we have sinned.... when the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because we have sinned...when famine or plague comes to the land...or disaster and afflictions and pain or prevalent throughout the land...then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Forgive, and deal with everyone according to all they do, since you know their hearts (for you alone know the human heart), ³¹ so that they will fear you and walk in obedience to you all the time they live in the land you gave our ancestors.

A PROMISE FOR THE GENTILE...THE NATION WHO BELIEVES THE SCRIPTURES.

³² “As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, ³³ then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.

⁴⁰ “Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. “Now arise, LORD God, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests, LORD God, be clothed with salvation, may your faithful people rejoice in your goodness. LORD God, do not

reject your anointed one.

Remember the great love promised to David your servant.”

- **When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.**
- **When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple:**
 - ✓ They knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and
 - ✓ They worshiped and
 - ✓ Gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “He is good; His love endures forever.”

Question of the Day: Are we ready to make amends with our God, our family, our friends, our neighbors?

Direct Communication with Solomon: The LORD Appears to Solomon

*“¹¹ When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, ¹² the LORD appeared to him at night and said: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.¹³ “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ **if** my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. ¹⁶ I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.*

*¹⁷ “As for you, **if** you walk before me faithfully as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, ¹⁸ I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a successor to rule over Israel.’*

*¹⁹ “But **if** you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you^{cl} and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ²⁰ then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name.”*

Why is this prayer of Solomon’s so important for us today?

1. IN Solomon's PRAYER HE FIRST RECOGNIZES THE PURPOSE FOR THIS HOUSE.

- Not a house to contain God (The universe is not large enough to contain Him).
- A place where men might come to meet God in order to find forgiveness of sins.
- A place to offer their sin offerings, that they might find a covering for their sins.

"Lord, keep Your eyes on this place continually and when people come here to pray, hear from Your dwelling place in heaven, and when You hear, forgive."

2. THIS IS TO BE A PLACE FOR THE SETTLING OF THE SIN ISSUE.

- Personal sins, and national sins.
 - ✓ Sin is always destructive.
 - ✓ It will destroy you individually.
 - ✓ It will destroy a nation.
- Forgiveness is necessary to save you and me from the inherent destruction that sin brings.

3. MAY THIS BE A PLACE WHERE TRUTH IS REVEALED!

- ✓ You reveal the truth so that the righteous may be justified and the guilty punished.
- ✓ National sin against God.

Jesus said, "...You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

2 Chronicles 7:13, "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;..."

Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, forest fires, floods are events that are generally looked at as natural disasters, which they are, but God allows them in order to get our attention.

You might call them "wake-up calls."

- ✓ 9\11 was a wake-up call to America.
- ✓ For a little while we woke up, but soon lapsed back into our sleep of death.

What will it take to truly wake us up?

- ✓ As a nation we have turned from God, we are guilty of all kinds of national sins.

- ✓ We are worshipping the gods of pleasure and sex.
- ✓ The thought of righteousness and God are openly ridiculed daily on radio and television.

2CH 7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

THE WONDERFUL PROMISE OF GOD.

- If the people will pray and seek God's face and turn from their sin, He will forgive their sin, and heal their land.
- God has promised if we would come to Him and confess our sin, that He is faithful and just and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

NOTE: Solomon later wrote:

PROVERBS 28:13, *He that seeks to hide his sins shall not prosper: but whoever will confess and forsake them shall find mercy.*

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:6