

Remnant Life Church
July 12, 2020
The Only Answer for Our Nation
-Introduction-
2 Chron 7:11-22

Where is our hope found this morning for what we are continuing to witness in this country?

- If you say it is the political system – perhaps you do not realize that they are responsible for much of what we are struggling with
- If you say the goodness of people – perhaps you have not been keeping up with current events and seeing the videos of violence perpetrated against innocent people
- If you say the might of our economic system – perhaps you are not aware that our economy, while having gotten much stronger in the previous three years, has now suffered tremendously over the past four months
- But none of those things change the fact that we still need an answer to where can our hope be found

The thing about being rescued from seemingly impossible situations is that you rarely see the solution coming

- And when it does you often cannot explain it

Reading David McCullough's Pulitzer Prize book 1776

- It is an account of the events of late 1775 into 1776 surrounding the events of the American Revolution
 - We only think of the outcome, but what were the things that led to it?
- Washington's resolve and even courage faltered many times
- The winter of 75 into 76 was a brutal one but was pivotal in determining the final outcome
- The focus during much of that time was on Boston and the surrounding area including Bunker Hill
 - The continental army had literally nothing with which to fight
 - Supplies, food, munitions, even clothing
 - Disease and malnutrition were rampant
 - Men were deserting by the hundreds daily
 - The Army was reported to be between 10 and 12 thousand men
 - The actual number was closer to half that
 - Untrained soldiers, many as young as 12 and 13, against the strongest, and best trained fighting force in the world
- In his letters home Washington often marveled at why the British were not attacking them given their horrible state of readiness
 - The answer was, very simply, the British did not know
- It was in June of 1775 that the battle of Bunker Hill took place for what would ultimately give control of Boston Harbor to the winner
 - The British eventually won but suffered heavier casualties than they expected and had to rethink the resolve of their ragtag opponents
 - It made them more cautious about how aggressive they would be

- Washington often wrote that it was his opinion that divine providence was blinding the eyes of the enemy
- There was no explanation, but there was faith in God to sustain them when it seemed impossible
 - This did not mean that there were no more struggles
 - The winter at Valley Forge was still a year away
 - The fighting would not end until 1783
 - But time after time events of unexplained intervention occurred

That is what we are in need of today

- While we cannot know the form it will take
- We must continue to hold to the truth of God's presence, power, and plans for these times

The formula for us to do our part is found in the Holy Word of God

- Specifically, I believe, in a passage that may be very familiar to many of you
- Found in the OT book of 2nd Chronicles
- And they are words spoken by God Himself

Context of this Scripture passage

- The two books of Chronicles were most likely written as one historical journal
- The author, as can best be determined by the date and content, is the priest Ezra
- It was written in the mid to early 400s BC
- Meaning that it is post-exilic writing or after the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon
- 2nd Chronicles divides into two segments
 - The first nine chapters complete the narrative of the reign of Solomon
 - Most of it focusing on the building, completion, details, and dedication of the temple
 - With the remaining 27 chapters a selective account of the kings of Judah who followed Solomon
 - While there was great sin and an overall spiritual decline, the few godly kings are also noted
- Our passage this morning finds Solomon at the end of the 20 years it took to build the temple (**I Kings 9:10**)
 - The temple was complete in approximately 970 BC
 - And it remained the center of worship for the Israelites for the next 384 years until the Babylonians led by King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it and carried the people into captivity in 586 BC
 - Solomon has completed his prayer of dedication recorded in chapter 6
 - When he did, God demonstrated his acceptance of the temple by sending down fire from heaven to consume the sacrificial offerings (**7:1**)
 - The priests could not even enter the temple because the glory of the Lord filled it (**7:2**)
 - Then the king and people offered their personal sacrifices to God
 - (Note) We read that Solomon sacrificed 22,000 head of cattle and 120,000 sheep and goats (**7:5**)

- Solomon consecrated the temple, they observed a seven-day national festival following the seven days of dedication, and the people were sent home
- God then appears to Solomon one night

READ – 2 Chron 7:11-22

Our focus for the next few weeks will be the 14th verse

- But it is not to do an overview
- We are going to carefully dissect it in order to fully understand what is needed for this nation to survive
 - The answer is not new policies
 - It is not more governmental programs
 - Money will not fix us
 - Nor will just continuing to say that we acknowledge a change is needed
- Our responsibility is to know intimately what God is saying in this passage because He is our hope
 - It was the answer for Israel
 - You must realize that they did not follow the formula God had given them and the nation was soon divided and then ultimately conquered
 - First the northern kingdom by the Samaritans and then the southern by the Babylonians

God is truly our only hope, but He has given us what we need to know in order to see His face shine on us again.