

Remnant Life Church
July 19, 2020
The Only Answer for Our Nation
Pt 2
-If My People-
2 Chronicles 7:14

LAST WEEK: What is the hope for our nation?

- Not politics, the goodness of people, or the economic might of our country
- It is going to require a supernatural intervention by God that is unexpected and unexplainable
- We looked at the time of the Revolutionary War
 - Washington's misgivings, fears, and doubts
 - Unexplained why the British were not more aggressive
 - Washington said it must have been the providential hand of God

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 this to happen and the part we play is found in the Holy Word of God

- God worked through His creation most of the time in the Bible to accomplish His will
 - Moses was needed to lead the people out of Israel
 - Noah was needed to build the ark
 - Joseph was needed to bring the descendants of Abraham to Egypt in the time of famine
 - The disciples were needed to carry on the work of Jesus after He returned to heaven
 - The authors were needed to record the words of the Bible
- God has a use for you in His service for the Kingdom of heaven

In 2 Chronicles:

- Solomon has completed construction of the temple
- The temple has been consecrated
- Sacrifices have been offered
- A feast celebration took place
- And the people have gone home
- Solomon is visited by God in the night and tells him what the people must do

And it is what we must also do today

READ – 2 Chron 7:14

We are going to dissect this verse

- Several key elements; each an important part of what we must do as a nation
- And it begins with the first three words
- IF MY PEOPLE...

IF

- This two-letter word carries great weight and significance for the Christian. At least it should!
- It is most often used as a conjunction but can also be a noun
- The primary definition is “on condition that”
- Something will happen on the condition that something else happens

God used “if” a great deal when communicating the concept of blessing and punishment with the new nation of Israel

- “If you” is used over 200 times in the OT
- Not every one of them is from God but the concept of “if you, then...” is an important one

Carefully consider these words: If you, then...

- It is one action predicated or dependent on another
- College basketball coach who taught us “if this, then that; if that, then this”
- But this is foundational principle, established by God, for us to live by

First time we see it is in **Genesis 4:7**

- You would think with Adam or Eve, but God is talking with Cain
- **4:7** – *If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.*
- To Moses in **Ex 19:5** - *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession*
- To the Israelites when they prayed to stop a drought and grow their crops in **Lev 26:3** – *If you obey my commands and are careful to obey my commands...*
- Again to the Israelites for the blessings of obedience in **Duet 28:1** - *If you obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.*
- The prophet Samuel’s farewell address before his death to the people of Israel in **I Sam 12:14** - *If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God—good!*
- Do you think God wanted His people to grasp this concept of if?

God presented this to David and Solomon as a promise to keep their family on the throne of Israel forever if...

- But the vast majority of the kings who proceeded Solomon did not follow God
- And that reveals to us that the “if” of God carries with it two sides
- The first side is the blessings of God, the second are the judgments or punishment
- God most often uses “if” for the people to chose either righteous living or sinful living

The word “IF” in the Scripture is built around choice

- The people of Israel, the Kings, the great men of the Bible all had a choice
- Just as we do today
 - There is not one time in your entire life when you were forced to sin; it was your choice
 - What about the temptation? – you chose to embrace it
 - You don’t know the circumstances – you chose your path to follow

- I've got this terrible weakness in my life – no, weakness is what you are calling your choices

“If” means I can choose one thing or the other

- And so let's look again at **2 Chron 7:14** – *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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

This verse says to us this morning that there is hope!

- But it will not happen of its own
- It is a choice that this country must make in order to receive the blessings and healing of God

But where does it begin? With the people of God!

MY PEOPLE

- The instructions given by God in **2 Chronicles** are not given to the heathen nations surrounding Solomon
- It is addressed to the nation of Israel – to God's people
- So too we are God's people
- The initiation and fruition of God's promise must begin with us

God claims for Himself those who are in a faith relationship with Him

- **Heb 11:6** (speaking of the people of great faith who had lived previously to the time of this writing) - *Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*
- There is an intimate relationship between God and those who know Him
 - It is much more than master and servant (although it is still that)
 - It is much more than potter and clay (although we are a lump of clay before Him)
 - It is even more than God and His worshippers
 - It is that of a Father with His children
- Paul writes in **Romans 8:15** – *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him, we cry Abba Father.*
- He also writes in **Gal 4:4-5** - *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*
- There is a close and intimate relationship between God and His people

That people is us!

This is why I implore you virtually every single week to live a life that demonstrates the love and power of God

- Others must see the difference in your life
- You are a living witness to what God does in the life of a person who follows Him
 - As you grow in the Lord, His presence in your life must be more than words
 - It must be those things that speak louder than words – your actions

- **Rom 2:13-15a** - *For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts...)*

There are those who believe that the gentile believers of the world (that's us – anyone who is not Jewish) are second-class in the family of God

- Not true!
- Paul teaches in **Romans 11** that we are grafted into the lineage of Abraham to be the people of God
 - We are no less and no more a part of the family of God
 - All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved (**Rom 10:13**)

Every follower of Jesus Christ and who calls God Abba Father is addressed in **2 Chron 7:14**

- If – there is hope that our nation can be saved
- My people – all those who call on His name and are saved through Jesus Christ
- It begins with us

What choices are you going to make in the days, weeks, months, even years ahead to demonstrate the power and love of God in your life?

- Your choices are going to help set the course for your life, the lives of your family and loved ones, as well as the future of this nation
- Do you think I am overstating this?
- What lives will be turned to God through your actions?
 - Actions you do not know are being observed
 - But God is working through you

If my people...