

“If MY People, called by MY Name....” 2 Chron 7:14



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This message is a call to action to the people of God – to do what 2 Chronicles 7:14 says. We’re much too lukewarm. I hope you will heed God’s word on zealously recommitting to Him with all our hearts and doing what He tells us to do if we want more of His involvement and interventions. IF enough of us do respond, I strongly believe God will do what he promises and we’ll start seeing many more miracles, healings and God’s intervention in our lives, in the church family and even in our country. God said He would -- and I believe Him.

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What’s one of your top 5 or top 10 scriptures in all the Bible? I’m sure John 3:16 would be there. But I’m sure many would list – in their top 10 – 2 Chronicles 7:14. Please take a moment and turn to it in your own Bible.

King Solomon - the son of David – had just dedicated the brand new temple - the fabulous House of YHVH. Though it’s often referred to as “Solomon’s temple” it really was God’s house. Anyway, that dedication had just happened and then YHVH appeared to Solomon by night – probably by a dream, based on the parallel story in 1 Kings 9:2. This was the 2nd time YHVH had appeared to Solomon.

What a glorious time this was in Israel’s history. The nation was united, they had a new king, a spectacularly beautiful temple to the one great Living God had been dedicated, blessings were pouring in – but then YHVH appeared in a dream to Solomon with a warning and a promise.

But remember these things are written for OUR admonition, so take it as a message directly to you and me – as much as it was to Solomon. (**1 Cor. 10:11**). Even **Romans 15:4** says these things are written for our learning. Paul adds in **1 Cor 9:9-10** that the teaching about not muzzling an ox while it’s treading corn was not written just for the ox so much, but for us – that we should work with hope! So don’t read the scriptures just for history – but for principles that apply to us today.

***So welcome my brothers and sisters** around the world who are in Christ to another lesson from the scriptures. This is Philip Shields with Light ontheRock.org with*

another focus on our relationship with our Father and with Yeshua, the Son of God. And please take time to tell me you are coming to the website and wish for me to continue it.

So Solomon has this dream. This YHVH would have been the One who spoke the universe into existence (Psalm 33:6). He’s said, “LIGHT – BE!” – and there was light. This is He who was also GOD, who came as Jesus Christ a thousand years later. Let’s read what God said to Solomon now in 2 Chronicles 7:14, but I’ll start in verse 12.

2 Chronicles 7:12-16

Then Yehovah appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: **"I have heard your prayer [what if Solomon couldn't have bothered to pray?]; and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people...**

So our great God tells us what to do during times of our lives when we are confronted with a time of hardship and feel He is not the happiest with us and our lives of late... he tells us what to do. So let’s listen to his words as a dear Father to his children.

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 will forgive their sin and heal their land.

15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. 16 For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

This is what we’re talking about today: ‘ if MY people, called by My name...’ So let’s get into it. God Almighty ordains a task for his people to do that could result in sweeping changes, miracles and blessings.

What we do in this end time do – or don’t do – will be read about and discussed for centuries to come. I don’t know if we live with that awareness.

Sir Winston Churchill once mused that we make a grave mistake to just think of history as documentation of events long past, but fail to realize we should think in terms of how we, in this age, are making history!

Do you realize you are living in the most momentous times – ever!? And that you and the rest of God’s people can be part of great events that involve God’s direct interventions – especially if we do what he says in 2 Chronicles 7:14?

We can just read about history – or we can be part of making history, of writing history, of being a part of a great period of time. I’m saying, you can have an important part in causing big changes in the way things are going - by doing 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Now let’s look at this with New Covenant eyes and hearts.

Yehovah said to Solomon in verse 12:

“I have chosen this place for Myself as a house of Sacrifice.”

What is God’s House in the New Covenant? Is it a building of gold and precious stones? No. Yeshua told the Samaritan woman at the well that the time was coming when we won’t be worshipping in buildings, or at mountains – but in spirit! (**John 4:21-24**). The New Covenant House of our God is his PEOPLE – filled with Him, filled with HIM – His Spirit saturates every cell of this group’s holy bodies. We are to be FILLED with HIM. WE are his *shekinah* glory in the New Covenant. I covered this in my recent sermon that I recommend you hear – “God’s Desire to Tabernacle with Mankind.”

“I have chosen this place for Myself...” Yes, you’ve been chosen by YHVH Most High himself, long ago –probably long before you were even BORN. And you are to be part of a group of others who are supposed to be saturated with his nature, full of HIS spirit, beating His heart inside your bodies... filled with HIS DRIVE, His ZEAL, HIS desire... and we together are to be known as the “House of God, the House of Prayer for all nations” to our Great God.

But I don’t think most of God’s children today are filled with zeal or are blazing HOT in our desire to seek and please our Redeemer and Father. **So this is WHY we need this sermon. And I preach to myself too.**

So you and I have been chosen to be his sacred HOUSE, his house of heartfelt prayer (**Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13**), his house of sacrifice, his House of worship where he has placed his Name (**Deut 12:5-7**). Our lives should ooze prayer, sacrifice and worship for our dear Redeemer and our Mighty God.

God MOST High and Yeshua should be dwelling inside of each of us right now (**John 14:23**). What power, what GLORY, what holiness should be emanating from each of us!

Would people who know you – say you’re a man or a woman of prayer? And ARE you a man or woman or child of Prayer?

*DO we still start each day, and end each day with bowed-down prayer before our Maker for at least 10 or more minutes each time, each day? Or do we rush out to face our spiritual battles without having put on the whole armor of God (**Ephesians 6:10-18**)? Do we just get up and grab a bite and run out to work basically in just spiritual underwear – and no more? We are to put on the whole armor of God and stand in the power of HIS might (**Eph 6:10**).*

So are we praying enough? Are we humbling ourselves? Are doing what YHVH says to Solomon – for all of us – or are we in danger of the results of not seeking God enough?

Jesus foretold that those of us living in these end times could be low on faith. This same Being who spoke to Solomon tells us “but when the Son of Man returns to the earth – ***will he even find faith?***” (**Luke 18:8**)

It is also very possible that the 7th church of the 7 churches of Revelation 2-3 - the **Laodiceans** – could be describing the bulk of end-time believers? US? Lukewarm, miserable, poor, blind and naked – but they think they’re fine! They think they see, they think they’re good believers – but Christ is outside, knocking on the door to get in!

We know it is prophesied that in the last days, great and perilous times will come such as the world has never seen. The Laodiceans are told to buy gold purged in a the fire – a graphic way of saying if we don’t heed this message, and other warnings like it, we will have to be purged spiritually by going through the Great Tribulation and probably being among those who are martyred or beheaded. We’d best be mentally ready for that.

The world around us is going to get worse and worse. The best way to prepare for tough times is to do exactly what **2 Chron 7:13-14** is all about: when we see tough times, calamities, and God’s blessings not being poured out.... HE shows what to do to reverse the trend line. Are you seeing why I’m speaking on this?

TO WHOM IS 2 CHRON 7:14 ADDRESSED? “If MY people...”

To whom is the Almighty referring to here when he says, “MY people”? This is crucial to understand. Why? Because God says He’ll hear, he’ll answer in times of trouble – especially when HIS PEOPLE do certain things!

At the time this was spoken, no doubt when God said “If MY People” –He was referring to the children of Israel, who in Moses’ day were decreed to be God’s people –**Deut 26:18-19**. They were to be a holy nation, the people of God in the Old Covenant (Exodus 19:6)

Exodus 19:5-6

“Now therefore, IF you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then **YOU shall be a special treasure to Me above all people;** for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

But in the New Covenant, the “holy nation” is now a spiritual Israel called the Israel of God (Gal. 6:16) composed of people from all nations who have God’s spirit. Turn to Gal 3:26 please. God’s people are no longer just composed of Israel – but people from Kenya, China, Philippines, Mexico, Germany, Russia and Italy as well, and people ANYWHERE who are now heirs of the promises to Abraham. Look what Apostle Paul wrote to Gentile Galatians in what is now Turkey.

Galatians 3:26-29

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

God’s people, God’s children in the New Covenant, are not just one physical nation anymore – but anyone and everyone who has been filled with God’s spirit and who are led by His spirit, as **Romans 8:14** clearly states. Those who do not have God’s spirit are not HIS children – yet.

Romans 8:9

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. *Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*”

Here’s the point: if things are going badly in your country, in your church, in your home – guess what? YOU are supposed to do something about it. YOU. You and I are supposed to do 2 Chronicles 7:14 – not the unconverted masses.

I used to read 2 Chron 7:14 and thought it was referring to our nation, the modern descendants of ancient Israel. You know –the USA, Britain, Canada, Australia, northwestern European nations—then God would refrain from punishing if those populations would seek him. It certainly would be nice if a majority of our nation would repent and seek the living God. But in these New Covenant times, the message of 2 Chron 7:14 is actually more directed at you and me! We are his people.

And even for God to hear the nation, does the whole nation have to repent? God required only ten individuals be righteous in Sodom for him to spare that city and the other 4 cities of the plain who were destroyed with Sodom.

WE are now the people of God. If you are led by God’s spirit – it doesn’t matter if you are white, black, brown or polka dotted – you are the “My People” referred to here. And God Most High is now our Abba, our Daddy, and Christ is now our big brother and Savior.

Romans 8:14-17

“For as many as are LED BY the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

I know the kumbaya mood that “we’re all God’s children” is the politically correct thing to say, but it’s not in scripture. Someday, all remaining humanity will be his children, but not yet. And even then, they will be his children if – once again – and only if they have and are led by His spirit.

In fact, Christ said some fairly harsh things to the Jews of his day and said they were of their father the Devil, Satan! Read it yourself in **John 8:41-44**. **“You are of your father, the Devil, and the desires of your father YOU want to do....”**

1 Peter 2:9-10

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

So **I am suggesting that God is looking for HIS children, his people, to be the ones imploring Him in prayer, fasting, and seeking Him.** He’s not calling on unbelievers he hasn’t called yet to be seeking him so much as he wants His own children, filled with his Spirit, to be responsive to him. He wants US asking him to be merciful to the people of the world, to our country, to our people –and to step in for his children’s sake if nothing else.

So he’s addressing you and me here. **We are to heed verse 14: IF MY People, called by my name will humble themselves, WILL PRAY AND SEEK my face...**

THE Present CONDITION OF “MY PEOPLE”

I think a sermon on this passage is past due. We are in a time - at least spiritually if not also physically – when the heavens seem shut up and there is no or little spiritual rain. Plus the nation and much of the world is having many natural disasters and it’s not “mother earth” but the One who controls the weather. We’re seeing hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, wild fires and more – of unusual proportions and frequency. God is trying to get the world’s attention and starting to prepare the world for what’s coming next.

You cannot read the book of Revelation and not realize the world has never seen “natural disasters” of that magnitude. Are you ready?

We’re in a time of trouble in our country and I believe in the Church of God. We’re not unified. We’re not making a dent, it seems, in declaring our Lord and Master and Redeemer to a world that needs it so badly.

Over 4,000 unborn babies are murdered each day in America – our modern equivalent of ancient baby sacrifices. The DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act of 1996) was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional on Dec 7, 2012, basically opening up the way for gay marriages to be recognized officially. Prior to this, marriage was officially only between one man and one woman. States did not have to recognize same-sex marriages. The Obama White House celebrated this liberal Supreme Court ruling by bathing the White House in rainbow colored lights, remember?

The rainbow colors were a particular insult to God since the rainbow is a symbol of God’s presence and promise (after the Flood). So since then, we’ve seen the open rise of gay pride and now the next step is the blurring of the sex genders. Some want to even strip the words “he” and “she” from our vocabulary.

And in our own churches, the pulpits are largely silent about all of this. I speak up and speak against abortion quite often, as I’m doing now. I’ve supported Pregnancy Crisis centers. I proclaim that godly marriage is solely between one man and one woman – without being hateful of gay people. I have several good friends who are gays. But I preach the Biblical values of man being the head of the home. I speak on respecting and praying for our leaders, as God says to do.

Besides the national scene, I also believe our churches have gone tepid for a long time now. Sermons in many congregations are often dull, boring or powerless – and don’t motivate. People come to church to hear God’s words but are spiritually unprepared. Do they all even take time to pray for God’s presence in the services before they leave home? I’m hearing God’s name taken in vain in church. I’m hearing more and more of “God’s people” using letters to describe profane expressions – OMG, even the F word and letters with it in there are showing up in Facebook – you know what I mean!

Dramatic healings and powerful answered prayers are not the norm – but a rarity.

But our God has not gone on vacation. Our Father and Savior have not retired. They are not in a nursing home. They have not lost their power to heal, to do miracles, to raise the dead, to cast out demons, to rebuke sickness! So why are we not seeing much more of this? We should be seeing much more of this, not much less!

Notice what Yeshua said:

John 14:12-14

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and GREATER works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

Did you get that?

You and I should be able to do the same or even greater works and miracles Yeshua did. And in **John 14:23**, Yeshua said God Almighty and the Word of God come to live inside of each of us when we receive their Spirit.

Do you realize what this means? Surely, if GOD the Father and Yeshua – truly live inside of us by and through their SPIRIT, surely there would be no LIMIT in what each of us should be able to do, if within His will! I preach to myself too. I want to see so much more of this too!

Now, I realize that there is no promise that God will 100% of the time heal everyone – even if they’re perfectly obedient, have great faith, and love everyone. For example:

- Isaac in his old age was blind.
- Paul had an incurable “thorn in the flesh” whatever that was.
- Elisha – whom God used to heal so many -- died of a disease.
- In John 9, Yeshua said the man born blind was not blind because of anyone’s sin (**John 9:1-3**).

So I get it. A perfectly healthy life, miracles and healing are not universally promised. But shouldn’t we be having way, way more miracles and healings than we’re seeing? Oh yes, most of us can talk about definite miracles and healings here and there, but we’re not seeing gobs of them – as in the days of the book of Acts believers, where people were raised from the dead, the lame were healed, Peter’s shadow was enough to heal, etc.

Some KEYS to ANSWERED PRAYER

We certainly know that our odds of being healed or having answered prayer increase if we’re in line with certain principles of scripture. Here are a few. There are more points anyone could add to this list, I’m sure.

- **Have faith** – even a tiny amount (of a mustard seed) can move mountains. People were healed because of, or according to, their faith in many cases. Others were healed who weren’t even asking to be healed, like the lame man in Acts 3:1-10. But having faith increases your odds of being healed.
- **Those who walk obediently in God’s ways** have a stronger opportunity to have a healthy life (**Ex. 15:26**), but that is not to say that those suffering from illnesses have been disobedient to God’s way. Some suffer because of the sins of others – like

those suffering as a consequence of chemicals in the environment. Or from drunk drivers who end up paralyzing someone for life. Who sinned? Not the one paralyzed.

- Asking according to God’s will (Heb 10:36). Surely we know our chances of receiving our requests by prayer are diminished if we seek something against God’s will. Yeshua always lived according to God’s will (John 5:30) and set us that example.
- Asking for answered prayer that is not just selfishly motivated, described as “asking amiss that you may consume it on your own pleasures” - **James 4:3**
- Asking in Yeshua’s name – John 14:13- 14 “Anything you ask in my name I will do...”
- Are willing to ask more than once; to be persistent? Luke 18:1-8
- Come boldly before the throne of Grace. So much of this is all because we have a merciful, gracious, loving God.
- We’re esteeming the body of Christ (other believers) – and not engaging in gossip, division, attacks and so on (**1 Cor. 11:29-31**). I think many are sick because God is displeased with the way we treat fellow believers. And many of those who are sick are NOT the ones who engaged in the gossip and character assassination but end up being “collateral damage” from the church in-fighting – according to Paul!

So – yes, I get it. We’re not promised a life of no pain, no setbacks, etc. ALL of us will die at some point if Christ doesn’t return soon. But God DID tell Israel though that if they walked in his ways, he would put NONE of the diseases of Egypt upon them. (EXODUS 15:26). He is God our Healer, after all.

But having said all that, we’re still left with what God told Solomon – that IF his people would do certain things, HE would HEAR and ANSWER those people, and God would heal our land. So with everything else I’ve also already said, let’s look at 2 Chronicles 7:14.

IF”

The passage in 2 Chronicles 7:14 begins with 2 big letters in our language. IF. So much depends on “IF”. So much gets done – or doesn’t get done, because of IF.

My People, called by my name - that’s you, as I’ve explained.

“Called by my name” – Christ-ians. Church of God. The Father’s House. Children of God. We will actually have our Father’s name placed on us (Revelation 3:12; 14:1; 22:4).

“WILL HUMBLE themselves...” What does that mean?

PRIDE is right up there, often the #1 thing God says he hates (**Proverbs 6:17**). God hates the proud look; #1 of 7 cardinal sins listed in Proverbs 6. Some of us/you are proud of our obedience, what “good people” we are, or proud that we are “better than” other people. God hates that. **Isaiah 58** says all that is a stench in His nostrils. God will not be close to people who project the “I’m holier than thou” attitude, pointing the finger, I’m better than you’...

We’re told over and over that God is far from the proud and resists them! (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5). We don’t want our God resisting us! But he listens to those who humble themselves. God even listened to **evil King Ahab** when he humbled himself by fasting, mourning, he spoke softly and dressed in sackcloth (1 Kings 21:20-29). God reversed what he had said – “because he has humbled himself...” V. 29.

To humble ones-self is often equated and connected in the Bible to fasting.

When kings and commoners would seek God, they often fasted (no food or drink for 24 hours), or wore sackcloth and ashes and prayed diligently.

When WAS the last time you fasted, other than on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement? I suggest we should all fast several times a year at minimum.

And don’t just go hungry all day. WHEN you fast, set aside extra time to diligently pray about the topic about which you’re fasting. Commit to making real changes in your life. But don’t just go hungry all day. Make it a day of real changes in your life.

Jesus said that after he left, his disciples would fast (Luke 5:34-35). So – are you one who fasts regularly, say once a month or every 2 months or so? It’s good to fast for someone who is very sick. Show God your deep concern and love. It’s good to fast in repentance over sins you’ve committed. It’s good to fast to implore our God for our family, our church and our nation.

It’s good to fast when the nation is in trouble – as **Esther** ordered a THREE-DAY fast for all the Jews in her palace area, when Haman received permission to exterminate all the Jews in the kingdom of Persia. Esther fasted for her people’s protection and for God to intervene (**Esther 4:10-17, esp v 15-16**). And look how their pleas to their God were answered powerfully!

What are WE waiting for? When will YOU set a day to fast and humble yourself in prayer as you spend lots of time on that day of fasting beseeching your God for forgiveness and to answer you?

America and Canada and really all our countries are in a MESS right now. Will you fast for your country to wake up, to repent, for God to be merciful to your people? Will you fast for your country? Have you ever fasted for your country? Do you CARE enough for your countrymen and women to fast for your people?

Now is a really good time to fast for our nation, its leaders and for God to wake up the nation. Fast and pray for our leaders. Our President Trump has done some marvelous things with the economy – but he himself is a very self-centered, very proud, very egotistical proud person who needs to repent of that.

The Ninevites fasted in repentance and turned from their wicked ways after they heard Jonah’s preaching. They fasted for their city-state, their country – and for God to be merciful to them. God saw their turn from evil, God heard their crying out mightily to him, and GOD FORGAVE (**Jonah 3:5-10**). Would you now also fast for your city, your state, your country and its leaders?

Jonah 3:5-10

So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. 7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying,

“Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. **8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way** and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?”

10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

What did Nineveh do? They responded by believing God (v. 5), fasted, wore sackcloth, sat in ashes -- that resulted in them making real changes in their lives and God changed his mind and did not eradicate the city.

Paul said he was “in fastings OFTEN”.

Serious times and serious problems require fasting. The disciples could not cast out a certain powerful demon and here’s what Yeshua said:

Mark 9:28-29

And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

DANIEL prayed and fasted for HIS people. Daniel was a high official in Babylonian and Persian empires and knew from Jeremiah’s prophecies that after 70 years in captivity, God would let some of them go back to Judea (Jeremiah 29:10-14). He didn’t take that for granted but fasted and prayed that it happen! IN his prayers and fasting, he also repented of his OWN evil, his OWN shortcomings. **Go read Daniel 9** slowly and carefully and maybe even pray his same words!

Notice how Daniel does not speak of just the people’s sins – but says “WE have sinned...” all throughout his prayer. Do YOU ever pray like that, when praying about your family, your church, your country? Do you even pray for your country and its leaders?

It’s time we all do start fasting and praying much more. I’m starting more fasting and praying. Will you join me in seeking our God?

Daniel 9:1-19

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans — 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the Lord through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

3 Then I set my face toward Adonai Elohim (Lord God) to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

4 And I prayed to YHVH my Elohim, and made confession, and said, “Lord (Adonai), great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 **WE have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.** 6 Neither have **we** heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.

7 Adonai (Lord), righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day — to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

8 "YHVH, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because **we** have sinned against You. 9 To the Lord our God (Adonai Elohenu) belong mercy and forgiveness, though **we** have rebelled against Him. 10 **We** have not obeyed the voice of YHVH our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. 11 Yes, ALL Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because **we** have sinned against Him. 12 And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

13 "As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. 14 Therefore YHVH has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for YHVH our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. 15 And now, O Lord our God (Adonai Elohenu), who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day! — **we have sinned, we have done wickedly**”

16 “Adonai, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; ***because for our sins***, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. 17 Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.

18 O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.

19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

And while Daniel was still praying, God sent the powerful arch-angel GABRIEL to fly in swiftly and reveal the 70 week prophecy and the coming of the Messiah. WOW! (See verses 20-23).

So would you commit to humbling yourself in fasting and seeking after God – and turning from your wicked ways that remain in your life?

Let's read 2 Chronicles 7:14 again.

“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 will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

“....and turn from their wicked ways”

Fasting should result in definite changes in our lives. **Look at Isaiah 58**, which is all about fasting and seeking God. What SINS are you tolerating in your life?

- Gossip? Sowing discord?
- Sexual immorality of any kind – in the mind or actual physical immorality, including flirting, porn, lust?
- Pride? Gluttony? Uncontrolled temper? Uncontrolled passions?
- Laziness? Drunkenness? Over drinking?
- Are we too lax on the sabbath – and go buy and sell and don’t refrain from work? Are we ready to start our “date” with Yeshua every 6th day Sunset to end of 7th day sunset?
- Any hate in your heart?
- Do you covet? Come on, many do in many ways.
- Are you racked with fear and worry – a terrible sin?
- Are you Laodicean lukewarm in your spiritual life and think you’re OK?

And yes, I admit it – I preach to myself in all of these things and in all my sermons, which always start as a personal Bible study to correct myself first.

But we must TURN from our wicked ways as the Ninevites did.

Where do you take God who resides in you – where do you take God with your eyes, your ears, your feet, or your mouth? What does He have to see, hear, do, and say through you? He won’t stay long with us if we persist in evil.

So that’s the message. Repent of our calloused lukewarmness, our lack of daily prayer and seeking our God fervently – and how we must turn that around. And we’ve got to start fasting more. Will you fast with me? WILL you pray with me – much more? Will you turn from your evil ways?

The promise is clear, if we do that: “then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

We’re coming up probably in the next decade or so to world events that will be momentous in nature. Some have already started.

By doing what God says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, you can make a definite difference in your country and your church. YOU have a chance to help write history, to MAKE history, to BE PART of a small end-time people of God who repent of lukewarmness and seek him with all their hearts. An end-time group of his people through whom He can do great things.

CLOSING PRAYER....