

MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN
II CHRONICLES 7:13-15

Intro: Our country is in chaos. Presidential candidates are promising that they can make America great again. Can they?

Here's what God's formula for America's revival is:

[The Lord said], "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..."
II Chronicles 7:13

I. Our Nation's Problems

- ***Contagion among the _____*** — God sends plagues (either actively, or passively by not protecting us) as judgment for sin. The Covid-19 Wuhan virus has plagued the world. Our nation has suffered more than 2.4 million infected, and 123,155 deaths. This plague has overtaxed our medical system, caused great damage to our economy, and contributed to the chaos in our country. There are no good choices in fighting it.
- ***Crisis in our _____*** — In His judgment, He shuts up the heavens and there will be no rain. Our economy has gone from strong to catastrophe almost overnight. Some of the damage (closed small businesses, factories closing) is permanent. Unemployment and economic dislocation has caused incredible suffering overnight. The rain of God's blessings have been stopped.
- ***Chaos throughout our _____*** — The social chaos that has come from the despicable death of George Floyd has illuminated the problems of race relations, economic class and opportunity, equal justice under the law, political ideology, and respect for law and order. It seems to many that the chaos and lawlessness is out of proportion to the problems. Overreaching on all sides ignore compromise and sensible solutions. God is allowing the "locusts" to devour our land.

What's the answer to our problems?

[The Lord said], "...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 sins and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place."
II Chronicles 7:14-15

II. Our Right Response – Turn to God

- ***Avoid the _____ response*** – Attempting to solve our nation's problems through self-wisdom and self-effort through politics, secular enlightenment, or technological progress.
- ***God's people must _____*** – We are His people called by His name. We must totally commit ourselves to Him through Jesus Christ – Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). We have been called by God to boldly speak the truth, proclaim the gospel of Jesus, further His kingdom, and love/serve in His name.
- ***We must _____ ourselves*** – 1) Let go of our pride (an overly high opinion of ourselves, our abilities, our achievements, arrogance) and let go of being in control of our lives, 2) Realize God is the source of our abilities, achievements, blessings, and greatness.
- ***We must turn to God and _____ His face*** – Seeking God's face is to focus on Him, not give God a casual glance; to seek Him continually, not occasionally. It is to emphasize getting to know and understand Him and His will intimately, then to follow Him totally and personally.
- ***We must turn from our _____ ways*** – We must quit rationalizing, minimizing, or redefining our sin. All sin breaks God's heart and damages our connection (relationship) with Him. All sin is wicked – serious with serious consequences. The repentance (deep sorrow and a spiritual U-turn) involves deep sorrow and renewed, determined commitment to turn from our wicked ways. Until we do, we are a part of the problem, not a part of the solution. True repentance is more than talk, it is true changed thinking and behavior.

III. Turn From Our Wicked Ways

- *We must admit our sin as _____* – We must quit rationalizing, minimizing, or redefining sin, both individual and as a nation. All sin breaks God’s heart and damages our relationship with God. All sin is wicked – serious with serious consequences. True repentance involves deep sorrow and renewed commitment to turn from our wicked ways. Until we do, we are part of the problem, not part of the solution.
- *We must turn from lies, distortions and propaganda to _____* – Most of what is being said in public on any side is not the objective truth (the reality, the facts) regarding racism, police injustice, the Covid-19 response, America’s past history, etc. People hear what they want to hear and disregard the rest. We must do the hard work of finding the real truth, believe it, and act on it. Real truth will never contradict God’s truth.
- *We must seek liberty and justice for _____* – God will not honor a nation which allows injustice toward any group – individuals, institutions, or ethnic groups. Our nation has made much progress throughout our history, but there is more to be done.
- *We must stop the judgmentalism, labeling, and _____* – IT has been said we need “conversations” about our problems, but that can’t happen until we are more tolerant of our differences, civil to one another, and listen to one another to find solutions under God’s guidance and truth.

IV. God’s Gracious Promise

- *God will _____ from heaven* – Heaven represents His superiority, authority, power, and lordship. Though God may seem distant (way up in heaven), especially when a nation and people have rebelled against Him, He is always ready.
- *God will _____ our sin* – No matter how serious our sin, God will forgive us (no longer hold our sin debt against us) and our nation. The magnitude of this forgiveness is amazing as shown by Jesus dying to pay the price of our sin so God the Father can forgive us.
- *God will _____ our land* – God’s forgiveness unleashes God’s supernatural power to bless and heal our church, our society, and our nation – our land. We can be restored as a great nation again. This greatness will be as God defines it according to His will and ways, not necessarily as the world defines it. Can we accept God’s greatness for us, or will we demand greatness our way?

*God is watching and carefully listening for our response.
Will we allow God to make America great again His way?*

Answers: I. People; economy; society. II. Wrong; act; humble; seek; wicked. III. Wicked; truth; all; intolerance. IV. Hear; forgive; heal.