

LORD, HEAL OUR LAND

(God 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. God Will Bring Judgment on a Nation for Sin. It is Not If, But When

- ***God can shut the heavens so that there is no rain*** – 1) A warning to Israel that drought and famine could be inflicted on their agricultural economy. 2) A warning to us also that we could face an actual drought, but in a larger sense, that the rain of God's blessings can stop in our nation, a drought of God's provision and protection.
- ***God can command the locusts to devour the land*** – 1) For Israel, it was the locust swarms (a type of grasshopper) in the billions that could devour all crops and vegetation, destroying the economy and causing mass starvation. 2) Today, the locusts are any pestilence that can destroy our economy and society (such as social division, chaos, and mass violence).
- ***God can send a plague among His people*** – 1) For Israel that lacked modern medicine, various plagues could easily wipe out one third to one half of the population. 2) Today, in spite of modern medicine, plagues (such as COVID-19) can do similar damage and devastate a previously strong nation. But also, we are seeing a plague of social and political division that is tearing our nation apart.

(God 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 sin and will heal their land." *II Chronicles 7:14*

II. God's People Need to Turn Back to God

- ***My people, who are called by My name*** – This is a specific call to those who believe in God. "By My name" – represents God's presence, holiness, and glory – not just anyone who claims to be a believer, but those whose lives reflect God's presence, holiness and glory. Today, "by My name" represents Jesus, the One and only Son of God – God's call is to us.
- ***Humble themselves*** – Abandon our pride, self-centeredness, self-sufficiency and independence, realizing we cannot fix our crisis ourselves, but only God can – and we will depend on Him.
- ***And pray*** – We turn to Him in serious and continuous prayer, begging for His help and direction.
- ***Seek His face*** – Earnestly look to Him for His answers and direction in personal communion and connection. This is up close and personal prayer.

- ***Turn from our wicked ways*** – It is time to “get right” with God as a people and individuals. This includes the sins of spiritual mediocrity and pride.

III. Then, I Will Hear, Forgive, and Heal

- ***God will hear*** – God is not a distant and uncaring God, but intimately interested in our needs, welfare and prayer.
- ***Forgive our sin*** – This is the most important of His actions, because only through His forgiveness can the obstacle of sin be removed and our relationship with Him restored, clearing the way for His supernatural power, provision, and blessings.
- ***Heal our land*** – God can heal the mess in America today. He will heal it through His:
 - 1) ***Direction*** – How we must change things;
 - 2) ***Transformation*** – Changing us into better Christians – more like Jesus;
 - 3) ***Participation*** – We will be a part of the solution. It will be hard and sacrificial work. Are we willing?

God is listening.

Are we turning to Him and praying?