

What are you reading?

With having some extra time on my hands, in addition to other things, I have been reading. Not just anything but delving into scripture. Recently I have seen 2 Chronicles 7:14 in memes and posts in various places. So, given my OCD, I decided to check it out. Exploring what the context is and why. The scripture reads:

...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.

To get the full measure of things, I took to reading the entire book of 2 Chronicles and found some rather interesting facts that had skipped my mind.

The period covered in the book is from the beginning of Solomon's reign in approx. 970 B.C., until the fall of Jerusalem under king Zedekiah in approx. 586 B.C. for a total of 384 years covering 21 rulers of Judah. Of those 21 rulers, 5 walked in the way of the Lord. Those who did not follow God's laws were faced with great destruction, violence, wars, and loss. Those who came after Solomon and walked with the Lord had to restore what their predecessors had destroyed.

Solomon built the temple as the place where God would dwell. In this Holy place, God would reside, and entrance was reserved for only the elect of Holy people. These is where you had to come to have your prayers heard.

The context of 2 Chronicles 7:14 is part of a response, from the Lord in the night, to Solomon regarding the prayer he lifted up to the Lord when he dedicated the temple in Jerusalem earlier that week.

In part, the prayer from 2 Chronicles 6:24b-25, outlines some dire circumstances created "*because they have sinned against You,*" with Solomon's plea that if they "*return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this temple, then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to them and their fathers*" (Read the entire prayer in [2 Chronicles 6:14-40.](#))

Solomon knew his people would need redemption and wanted to be sure that they could be redeemed. He says in his prayer... "*When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin)...*" – 2 Chron 6:36a.

The Lords response in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is the "agreement" that if the people do these 4 things, their land will be healed.

- 1 - humble themselves (to do or say something which shows that one knows one has been wrong)
- 2 - pray (to address God)
- 3 - seek My face (to go in search of)
- 4 - turn from their wicked ways (to refuse acceptance to evil)

In this context (and mini bible lesson) does this scripture fit today's needs? Well, kinda, sorta.

When Jesus died on the cross, the veil to the temple was torn in two. ([Matthew 27:51](#), [Mark 15:38](#), [Luke 23:45](#)) So all could access God through the intercession of Christ.

It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Romans 8:34b

Going to a specific Holy place is no longer required. Our God is an omnipotent God. Triune in nature with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But we still need to humble ourselves, pray, seek His face in what we do and turn from the wicked ways. When we receive salvation, it is ours forever. That does not give us license to behave in any manner we please knowing that we will be forgiven.

Humble yourself in prayer by admitting you have been wrong, either in thought or deed. Now more than ever, we need to seek His face. Where can you find it? In the pages of the Bible. It is hard to know what to do sometimes and uncertainty breeds fear. If nothing else, read [Psalm 23](#), [Matthew 6](#), and [Philippians 4](#) to find comfort, learn to pray and reduce anxiety. In seeking His face through scripture, we are more apt to turn from evil as we read the words of love taught by Jesus himself.

I know these are hard times with pestilence (COVID 19), violence and division in our country. Just remember the words of Jesus in John 16:33...

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Until next time, don't just snuggle up with A good book, snuggle up with the THE Good Book!

Many blessings.



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Note: Definitions in parentheses are from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>