

Can the promise of 2nd Chronicles 7:14 save America?

2nd Chronicles 7:14 in context

LESSON ONE

Jonathan Cahn issued a “prophetic announcement” of “The Return” which is a National and Global Day and Movement of Prayer and Repentance on September 26, 2020 on the National Mall in Washington D.C.. On the website it states under WHY?: “America has in great measure departed from God and His ways. We have forgotten the Rock upon which we were founded. And we have removed Him from our public squares, our culture, and our lives. It is written in the Scriptures that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people and, further, that the ways of unrighteousness lead to judgment. But, the Scriptures also set forth that God is love and abounding in mercy and that all who come before Him to seek for His mercy will find it – and that in repentance and return will come forgiveness, salvation, healing, revival, and restoration. **It is upon that foundation that this promise is given: ‘If My people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their sinful ways, I will hear from heaven, I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land.’”**

The oftentimes appeal to 2nd Chronicles 7:14 by many in our nation and the leaders of “The Return” (most of whom are charismatic) for the healing of America must be analyzed in its scriptural context. Does 2nd Chronicles 7:14 provide a prescription for any nation’s healing? Is “The Return” based on emotional sentiment, at best, but false and misleading exegesis? Or, is it a biblically justified approach for the healing of the U.S.A.?

2nd Chronicles 7:

- 1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

Solomon’s “end of praying” was the prayer of chapter 6 for the dedication of the Temple. Notice the context.

2nd Chronicles 6:

- 2 But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever.
- 3 And the king turned his face, and **blessed the whole congregation of Israel**: and all the congregation of Israel stood.
- 6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be **over my people Israel**.
- 10 The LORD therefore hath performed his word that he hath spoken: for I am risen up in the room of David my father, and am set on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD God of Israel.
- 14 And said, **O LORD God of Israel**, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:
- 15 Thou which hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him; and spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.
- 16 Now therefore, **O LORD God of Israel**, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in my law, as thou hast walked before me.

- 24 And **if thy people Israel** be put to the worse before the enemy, because **they have sinned** against thee; **and shall return and confess thy name, and pray** and make supplication before thee in this house;
- 25 Then hear thou from the heavens, and **forgive the sin of thy people Israel**, and **bring them again unto the land** which thou gavest to them and to their fathers.
- 26 When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because **they have sinned against thee**; yet if **they pray** toward this place, and confess thy name, and **turn from their sin**, when thou dost afflict them;
- 27 Then hear thou from heaven, and **forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel**, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.
- 37 Yet if they bethink themselves in the land whither they are carried captive, and turn and pray unto thee in the land of their captivity, saying, **We have sinned**, we have done amiss, and have dealt wickedly;
- 38 **If they return to thee with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity**, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name:
- 39 Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and **forgive thy people which have sinned against thee**.
- 40 Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Our next lesson will continue our look at 2 Chronicles 6 to enable us to have a context for the promise of 2nd Chronicles 7:14.

LESSON 2

The context of chapter 6 is clearly a prayer, of Solomon, for the NATION OF ISRAEL.

In Solomon's prayer there are two covenants that are referenced. Both are important in understanding the context of chapter 7 and the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14.

“which keepest covenant” (2nd Chronicles 6:14)

This most likely refers to the Mosaic Covenant. The surrounding context is the promise of blessing and cursing which is dependent on the obedience or disobedience of Israel - Deuteronomy 28.

Blessings

Deuteronomy 28:

- 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
- 12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

Cursings

- 15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:
- 23 And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.
- 24 The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

To return to the blessing promises of Deuteronomy 28 the nation would need to turn back to God. In the above particular promise it is the blessing of rain upon the land of Israel.

“keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel” (2nd Chronicles 6:16)

This refers to the Davidic Covenant (the “seed” promise, Genesis 12:2, of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Solomon appeals to God for His mercies based on the unconditional, eternal promise of the Davidic Covenant - Psalm 89.

- 28 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.
- 29 His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.
- 30 If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments;
- 31 If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments;
- 32 Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.
- 33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.
- 34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.
- 35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.
- 36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.

Our next lesson will look at the promise of 2nd Chronicles 7:14.

LESSON 3

Chapter 6 was addressing the NATION OF ISRAEL. In chapter six the Mosaic and the Davidic Covenants are referenced. This confirms that the NATION OF ISRAEL is the focus of the chapter.

2nd Chronicles 7:

1 Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

Solomon's "end of praying" was the prayer of chapter 6 for the dedication of the Temple, and the result was the "glory of the LORD filled the house," Temple.

2 And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

3 And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

1. The glory of the LORD filled the house (the Temple)

2. The nation of Israel fell down upon seeing the fire and the glory of God and praised and worshipped.

3. The nation of Israel recognized the mercy and goodness of God

4 Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.

5 And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

6 And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

Sacrifices were offered, music (singing of songs is implied) was played, and the nation stood.

7 Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brasen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat.

Solomon proclaimed the courtyard to be holy.

8 Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.

9 And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

The celebration of eight days was the Feast of Tabernacles.

10 And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

When the celebration was finished all the people (the nation) went to their dwellings rejoicing in their hearts and with praise to the LORD.

- 11 Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.**

Solomon had finished building the Temple and his dwelling and all he desired in building was now accomplished.

- 12 And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.**

God appears to Solomon that night and tells him, He has heard his prayer.

- 13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;**

God reminds Solomon that if "the land" (of ISRAEL) receives drought or locusts and if "my people" (the NATION of Israel) are sent a pestilence (because of the sin of the people).

- 14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.**

God reminds Solomon of his prayer in chapter 6 concerning the people of Israel and the land of Israel that: "if my people" (the Jewish people, the NATION of Israel) "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

"if my people"

Deuteronomy 7:6

"For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

Amos 3:1-2

"Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

"which are called by my name"

Deuteronomy 14:2

"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."

Psalms 135:4

"For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His own possession."

The two objects in this verse - "my people" (NATION of Israel) and "their land" (land of ISRAEL) - are the two main objects of Solomon's prayer in chapter 6.

Thus, if the NATION of Israel (no other nation has this promise), humble themselves, pray, seek God's face, and repent, then God will heal the land of ISRAEL.

The promise of 2nd Chronicles 7:14 sees its ultimate fulfillment at the end of the Tribulation period when both the Mosaic promise of blessing and cursing come to pass and the Abrahamic Covenant is fulfilled.

Deuteronomy 30:

- 1 And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,
- 2 **And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul;**
- 3 That then **the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return** and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.
- 4 If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee:
- 5 **And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers.**
- 6 **And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.**
- 7 And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.
- 8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day.
- 9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:

Notice the warning at the end of chapter 7 to Solomon.

- 19 **But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;**
- 20 **Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations.**
- 21 **And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?**
- 22 **And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.**

If Israel sins God will judge them by removing them from His land (the land of ISRAEL).

CONCLUSION:

The context of 2nd Chronicles 7:14 is for the NATION of ISRAEL, as God's covenant people, and the LAND of ISRAEL. It is a promise (and a warning) only to the NATION of ISRAEL. It is also important to notice that the promise of 2nd Chronicles 7:14 was if the entire NATION responded (not necessarily every individual but the majority of the NATION). When Christians appeal to 2nd Chronicles 7:14 they are asking for a small segment of the U.S.A. (Christians) to respond. This alone would preclude this verse being used for the U.S.A. or any other nation for that matter.