

THE HOPE OF REVIVAL

2 CHRONICLES 7:1-14

Do you believe America is under the judgment of God? As you look around this precious world that we are living in, do you ever wonder how much longer the Lord will tolerate the wickedness in this land? The Bible makes it very clear that God is long suffering, but nowhere in the Bible does God say that He is eternally suffering.

The Bible reveals that there is a time in the calendar and the economy of God that He moves, He strikes and He acts. Because He is a Holy God, and a God that must always vindicate His holiness. How much longer will God tolerate a land that is involved in what we as a land are involved in.

We are now a land that is filled with poly-gods...that is the belief of many gods and many ways to eternal life. It is nothing new at all to see and hear people share some of the strangest beliefs imaginable on the radio, and television.

We are a land that has become obsessed with sex. The internet has promoted sensuality, sexuality, and pornography like nothing before. The number is not even able to be counted at the massive number of ungodly pornographic sights.

We are a land that is slowly, but surely walking away from the very Word of God, the truths of God, and the principles of God one day at a time and one step at a time.

All throughout Scripture God has revealed His holy nature on societies that have chosen to remove Him from their mind, and their living.

There was a people in the Old Testament...that decided they didn't want God in their life and living, they yearned to live for sex, and sexual pleasures, and in the proper timing of God, He made it His business to destroy them, and remove them from the very scenes of the earth. It was the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and two complete cities.

God has not changed, and God will not change. God is Holy. God is pure. The very nature of God has never altered and it will never alter.

The land that you and I know is slowly but surely eroding away. We are not the people that many of us remember growing up. We are a land that is trillions of dollars in debt...and the truth is...that debt may very well be the undoing of our land. There will be a payday in the timing of God.

The question then must be asked...is there a chance for renewal, for restoration, for revival in our land? Is there any way that our land can experience genuine authentic renewal. And the wonderful, yet sobering answer to that is "Yes...if".

1. THERE IS HOPE ONLY THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE.

As you read 2 Chronicles, there is a backdrop that must be understood. Solomon the servant of God has finished building the temple that the Lord had decreed. It was the temple that was "the place" representing to all the people the very presence of Holy God. It was the temple where the people would come to sacrifice for their sins. It was also here that God rained down fire from heaven to consume their burnt offerings. It was through a very special revelation to Solomon, that God speaks in vv.13-15.

God made it clear to His servant Solomon, that His people have a special relationship with Him. The wonderful truth of Scripture declares that "the people of God" have a special relationship to God, and have a direct affect on what happens in the land. As the people of God go, so goes a land. Where the people of God refuse to hear the Word of God, obey the Word of God, follow His decrees, that will have a bearing on the entire land they live. For God's people always affect the land either positively or negatively. One such example is the life of Joseph in Genesis. God blessed the very house of Potiphar "for Joseph's sake". Biblically, it never has been a government, society, legislation, that brings help to a land. There is hope only through the people of God, that are named by God. If the people of God refuse to be oriented to God, to listen to Him, there will be devastation in the land, and ultimate curses from the Lord God.

2. THERE IS HOPE ONLY IF GOD'S PEOPLE EXPRESS TRUE HUMILITY.

God makes it abundantly clear that He watches the activity of His people, and the activity of His people determine His moving in the earth. When the people of God refuse to humble themselves or literally bow the knee to God, He will allow a continual famine in the land. However, if the people of God would humble themselves or literally "bow their knees" to Him, then He would hear them from heaven. But the question must be asked, when was that last time we bowed our knees to the God of gods, the God who alone can heal our hearts, homes, and lands. When was the last time you deliberately bowed your knee in worship and praise to the Living God. When was the last time you bowed your heart in humble praise and adoration to Him. In truth, real revival is not primarily the reaching of lost souls, but rather it is a new beginning of obedience to the Living God, to the One who redeemed us from sin which will affect a lost and dying world.

The hope for healing of this land lies in the people of God humbling themselves to God. Our God has made it

clear that He will hear from heaven, when His people “humble themselves”. It is important for you to humble yourself to God, or do you feel as though this world is beyond hope? God made it clear that if He closed the heavens that there was no rain, and sent pestilence to the land because of sin, that His people could affect change through serious repentance, humility, confession and prayer.

Sadly, countless numbers of believers feel that we are beyond hope. Yet, that is not the truth of God’s Word. God declares that the changing of the world is in the hand of His children, through humility.

3. THERE IS HOPE ONLY WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE SEEK HIS FACE.

What does it mean to seek the face of God? When we encounter the face of another person, we are encountering them. When we desire to see the face of another, we desire to see them. Is it heavy on your heart to desire to walk intimately with the Father? Is the issue of obedience of utmost priority with you? Sadly, the reality in the lives of countless saved individuals, obedience is not that important. Yet, the sobering truth of Scripture reveals that there is but one person that has power with God. It is that person that places a premium on obedience, who loves and worships the Lord God. That person will be able to affect an entire society and world. If you are a believer and fail to stand in obedience to God, it is completely possible to lose the very family you love through disobedience. It is totally possible to lose this land through believers rebellion to holiness, godliness and purity.

However, it is totally possible for one person to affect change in the world through obedience to God. The life of Moses stands as a prime example. The people of God were suffering, their society was hurting. Yet Moses sought the face of God. Though he didn’t understand all God was up to, his walk of obedience, brought the children of Israel out of bondage, on a path to the Promised Land.

How significant is it to us to obey the Father that redeemed us? How important is it to us to walk in purity, holiness and godliness? Do you realize that your personal walk with the Living God affects this land either positively or negatively? Do you realize that God’s eyes are looking through the earth to find those men and women in whom there is a serious walk with Him?

Sadly, so many individuals simply “pretend”, and the results are devastating. The world is suffering blight in ways we never before knew. Yet one of the sobering reasons is the lack of godly men and women in the land. What would the Father declare of your walk? Are you one who affects change through your godliness?

4. THERE IS HOPE ONLY WHEN GOD’S PEOPLE AUTHENTICALLY REPENT AND TURN FROM WICKEDNESS.

Though Israel was the people of God, God well knew that they each lived in a human body, in a fallen world, with a bent turned away from God. For His times of refreshing to come, it was vital they realize their personal and corporate sins before a Holy God. Our fallen nature has become so deceived, that often times we fail to realize the seriousness of our sinfulness before a holy God. Yet, the truth is, God is completely pure and perfect, and all who approach Him must be pure. Since there is no purity of our own, God through Christ has given us access to Him. However, even when we come to a relationship with Christ, it is still possible to turn away from God.

What are wicked ways before the Father? A wicked way is anything that takes the place of love and obedience to the Living God. 1) Do I yearn to please self over God...that is idolatry and that is a wicked way. 2) Do I desire to gratify self over obedience to God....that is a wicked way. 3) Do I take from the Lord His finances and use it for myself...that is a wicked way. 4) Do I love things and the world over and above the Lord God...that is a wicked way. 5) Do I have indifference toward my neighbors...that is a wicked way, for the call of God is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

The truth is, God is looking for a people who will allow Him to surface all sin, wickedness, and genuinely repent before Him, and when they do, their prayers over anyone else on earth will have a divine hearing from the heart of God.

5. IF GOD’S PEOPLE FAIL TO REPENT THERE IS NO REVIVAL AND THERE WILL BE RUIN. Jesus made His Word very clear to the early disciples in their society, “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men.” (Mt. 5:13) It is the call of God, that His people be the very “salt” and preservative of each society they live in.

When there are godly people, following God, obeying God, applying His principles, that society is preserved by God. However, when the people of God choose to walk rebelliously to Him, His truth and His Word...that society will meet with disaster. Such was the case on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. These were two cities that had not godly reference point...and in time the judgment of God destroyed them.

When there are religious people in the land, but no godliness...that society will soon rot away and through time become a byword to future generations. What will time reveal about this generation of Christians. God makes it clear,

His people, responding to Him in obedience are the only hope for a society. God's people responding to Him in obedience are the only hope for a land that has gone astray. Is your heart turned toward God?