

2 Chronicles 7:14

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.

Oh, don't we just love this verse, and if you are like me, you are quick to post it on social media or even quote it when talking to others about how bad the USA has gotten. And we do so saying that the USA needs to repent and turn from its wicked ways. Which is true, but if you read this verse carefully, it's not talking about the USA as a whole, but for us, it would be a small portion of the USA, or any country if you think about it, and that small portion would be the believers in each country.

Yet, we tend to think that since this country was founded on biblical principles, that this nation is the Lord's. But there is no where in the bible that says that the USA are the people of God. Israel is the chosen people of God, not the USA!

So does that mean this verse is not for us after all? Well... Yes and no. If you read this verse in its context, it is God speaking to King Solomon, who was not the king of the USA, but of Israel, God's people. And God is speaking to King Solomon about His people, Israel and how Solomon was to lead the people.

So, that would be the "No" part, but I also believe in the "Yes" part as well, and that I get that from the first several words in today's verses, which are "***if My people who are called by My name.***" I believe as children of God, believers, Christians, that we are God's people, and we are called by His Name as He is our Lord and Savior; therefore, I believe that this verse does apply to us as well as Israel.

So, if this is true, then by posting this verse on social media and telling others based upon this verse that the USA needs to turn from its way, is a far stretch and does not apply. But rather, it's actually speaking to us as the church, the people of God. God is telling us, the church (***My people who are called by My name***) to repent and turn from our wicked ways. And not only to repent, but God gives us specific instruction on the things we need to change in our lives, which are to:

- † "***Humble themselves***"
- † "***Pray and seek My face.***"
- † "***Turn from their wicked ways.***"

We tend to focus primarily on the last one which is to "***turn from their wicked ways***" which is what repentance is, and something we need to... No, something that we **MUST DO!**

But are we coming to the Lord humbly (*humble themselves*)? Are we truly praying and seeking God's face like He says to in His word (*pray and seek My face*)?

What would that look like? Well when you seek someone's face, you are seeking to know that person intimately, to know as much as you can about that person, and you do so because you want to be pleasing to him or her, or in this case, getting to know more and more of God in an intimate, personal way, because we want to be pleasing to Him, and not, I repeat, not seeking God's Hands, which we tend to spend more time doing, which means we are seeking God because we want something from Him. Rather we should be seeking God, simply because He loves us, and we love Him.

It's like a married couple, sure there is the physical aspect, but to have a good solid relationship, it has little to do with the physical side, but more so the emotional and spiritual side of knowing one another.

So yes, today's verse does apply to us as the Church, not the nation (USA), and if it does then let's be obedient to what God is telling us (the Church) to do and stop laying that burden on the USA as a whole. Therefore, let us as His people (the Church):

- † *"Humble ourselves"*
- † *"Pray and seek His face."*
- † *"Turn from our wicked ways."*

And once we (the Church) do, then God says that He *"will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

God will heal the USA and other countries once the CHURCH repents and seeks the Lord with our whole heart.

- † **Hebrews 4:16** *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
- † **Colossians 3:12-15** *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*