

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Chronicles 7:11-15**.
- B. The setting of this text is that Solomon as completed the building of the temple.
- C. God answers his prayer by affirming that the temple will be a house of sacrifice.
- D. 7:13 says that God may have to discipline the people, but in 7:14, He gives the formula for forgiveness of His people.

I. GOD'S USE OF DRAUGHT, LOCUST, AND PESTILENCE.

- A. There are examples of in the OT of when God used draught, locust, and/or pestilence to show His displeasure in the lives of the Jews.
- B. This activity goes back to Deut. 28 and the covenant of blessing and cursing. In that text, God simply says that if you do my will I will bless you, and if you do not do my will I will curse you.
- C. God has used draught:
 - 1. No rain fell during the days of Elijah for the space of 3 years. This was during the time of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel.
 - 2. Elijah condemns Ahab and his following of the Baal (1Kgs. 18:18).
 - 3. After the 450 prophets of Baal were proven false, they were killed and Elijah restored the rain to the land (1Kgs. 18:39).
- D. God has used locust:
 - 1. In the days of Joel, God sent a plague of locusts to get the people to repent.
 - 2. In response to this calamity, the people called a solemn assembly and began to pray (Joel 1:14).
 - 3. God, at that time, did not destroy Israel.
- E. God has used pestilence (or plague):
 - 1. Warnings of the use of pestilence are found in Lev. 26:25 and Deut. 28:21.
 - 2. We remember God's use of the plagues in on Pharaoh and Egypt.

II. A NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF 2CHRONICLES 7:14.

- A. Peter gave instruction to Simon (Ac. 8:22), and told him the same thing expressed in 2Chr. 7:14.
- B. The key to understanding this similarity is that both commands are given to covenant people. The plan of salvation for an erring Xian is different than that of an alien.
- C. An Israelite became so at the time of physical birth. A person becomes a Xian at the time of spiritual birth (baptism).
- D. Once in the covenant, sin is forgiven by repentance and prayer. So we can use the admonitions found in 2Chr. (the reference is to "My people") and apply them to our NT walk with X.

III. 2CHRONICLES BROKEN DOWN INTO A NT PERSPECTIVE.

- A. There are five basic parts to our verse under discussion.
- B. First, "...**humble themselves and pray**..."
 - 1. Humbleness is the correct attitude of prayer (Lk. 18:9-14).
 - 2. Humbleness means the denying of self (Lk. 9:23).
 - 3. Peter instructs us to be clothed w/humility (1Pet. 5:5).
- C. Second, "...**and seek my face**..."
 - 1. Seeking God is essential to a saving faith (Heb. 11:6).
 - 2. Jesus said blessings come by those who ask, seek, and knock (Mt. 7:7-8).
 - 3. We are to be seeking those things that are above (Col. 3:1).
- D. Third, "...**and turn from their wicked ways**..."
 - 1. To turn from sin is to repent of it (Ac. 2:38; 3:19).

2. True repentance leaves no regret in the one who does it (2Cor. 7:10).
 3. There will be works (fruit) in keeping w/that repentance (Mt. 3:8).
- E. Fourth, "...I will hear from heaven..."
1. For God to hear us, we must get rid of our sin (Isa. 59:1-2).
 2. Peter quotes from Psa. 34:12-16, stating that God hears the prayers of the righteous (1Pet. 3:12).
- F. Fifth, "...will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
1. In the OT context, to heal the land will mean an end to the draught, locust, or plague.
 2. The more important blessing is that of the forgiveness of sins (Heb. 10:17).
 3. God will bless with abundance those who follow Him (Mk. 10:29-30).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Some have called 2Chr. 7:14 the showplace verse of the OT. If not, it is in the top 5!
- B. May we carry from this verse lessons about God's attitude toward His people, His attitude toward sin, and His attitude toward extending forgiveness.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.