



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE
II CHRONICLES 7:12-22
LESSON: SEEKING HIS FACE — March 25, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

For the next seven days, they celebrated the Tabernacle Festival with large crowds coming as far as Hammath at one end of the country to the brook of Egypt at the other. The feast was observed following immediately to the dedication of the altar. And on the eighth day, a final religious service was held (**7:8-9**).

On the 23rd day of the 7th month, Solomon sent the people to their homes. They went with joy and their hearts were glad. They were happy because of the good things that the LORD had done. He did those things for David, for Solomon, and for His people, the Israelites. Solomon finished the Temple of the Lord and he finished his palace. It took him 13 years to complete the palace (1 Kings 7:1). All that came into his heart he prosperously accomplished (**7:10-11**).

LESSON: I. THE BLESSINGS OF SEEKING GOD'S FACE 2 CHRONICLES 7:12-18

7:12 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. Wow what a moment when God appears and says He's heard one of His servant's prayers. Well, we see by night that God appeared to Solomon saying "*I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.*" Now, it took God 13 years and it was in Solomon's 24th year as king (947 or 946 BC), but God came and said that He was pleased with the house of sacrifice.

7:13 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 lets Solomon as well as us know that if he shut up heaven and no rain comes down, or if He command the locust to eat up the land, or if He send a plague in the midst of the people... if God does anything like that, look for judgment. However, also what will we do to seek His face; to seek forgiveness? It would have to depend upon our next step.

7:14 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. It will come down to what God's people do next. And that step is that those that are called by His Name are to humble themselves and pray. God wants His people to come under His mighty hand by humbling themselves; then pray, communicating with God; then seek His face (His presence). In His presence we find ourselves and we find that we are not what we think we are, because we will have to turn from our wicked ways; that sin that holds us; that separates us from God's Will. God says then and after then "*will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*" To get God's attention, be humble and pray. To be blessed, seek his face. To

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be restored, repent (turn from your sin).

7:15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. God is saying, now, you have my attention; now my eyes are open; now my ears are attentive to their prayer made in this place—that is, the Temple Solomon built!

7:16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. There is a time and a place for everything. There is something that happens when God hears our prayers. There is something that happens when those called by His name humble themselves and pray, and begin to seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. God is letting Solomon know that this was now the time He had chosen and consecrated the Temple built for Him. And that His Name may be there forever. There are a lot of churches open in His name, but does God dwell there, and are His eyes and His heart there? However, in the house Solomon built God says His eyes and His heart will be there continuously and permanently.

7:17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;— God plainly sets forth certain conditions for Solomon to meet if he wanted the kingdom to continue. Solomon had to serve the LORD as David had done to do according that was commanded of him; observing God's statutes and judgments.

7:18 Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel. If God's statutes and judgments were followed, Solomon and his descendants would prosper. God would then stablish the throne of his kingdom as He had made agreement with David, Solomon's father, saying you will never fail to have a man (one of their descendants) rule in Israel.

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT SEEKING GOD'S FACE 2 CHRONICLES 7:19-22

7:19 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;— However, if Solomon didn't follow God, but turned away and forsook laws that were set before him, there would be consequences. He and the nation would be destroyed. And they were not to serve and worship other gods for the LORD's anger would burn against them. God is a jealous God!

7:20 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. Therefore, choosing to turn away from God causes Him to pluck up and uproot them out of the land He's given them. They will be cast out of His sight, making it to be an object lesson and a word of shame among all the nations. Following God brings benefits and rewards. Turning away from Him brings suffering, punishment, and ultimately destruction.

7:21 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?— The temple which

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was so exalted that when everyone passes by, they would be so astonished seeing it, and begin to ask *Why has the Lord done this to the land and to this house?*

7:22 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. When those questions come up in verse 21, the answer will be given, because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, clinging to other gods and worshipping them. Therefore all this evil was brought upon them for their worship was not toward God.

SUMMARY:

The Lord appeared to Solomon by night, telling him that He's heard his prayer, and has chosen the temple as His house of sacrifice. God lets Solomon know as well as us know that if he shut up heaven and no rain comes down, or if He command the locust to eat up the land, or if He sent pestilence in the midst of the people, then if the people that are called by God's name, humble themselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from their wicked ways; then God will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and heal their land. God is saying, now His eyes are open and His ears are attentive to their prayer made in this place—that is, the Temple Solomon built! God is letting Solomon know that this was now the time He had chosen and consecrated the Temple built for Him. And that His Name will be there forever. God says His eyes and His heart will be there continuously and permanently. If Solomon wanted the kingdom to continue, he had to serve the LORD as David had done; all that was commanded of him; observing God's statutes and judgments. God would then stablish the throne of his kingdom as He had made agreement with David his father, saying you will never fail to have a man (descendant) to rule in Israel (7:12-18).

If Solomon didn't follow God, but turned away and forsook His laws that were set before him, there would be consequences, or if they go to serve and worship other gods, he and the nation would be destroyed. God is a jealous God! Therefore, choosing to turn away from God causes Him to pluck up and uproot them out of the land He's given them. They will be cast out of His sight, making it to be an object lesson and a word of shame among all the nations. The temple which was so exalted that when everyone passes by they would be so astonished seeing it, and begin to ask *Why has the Lord done this to the land and to the house?* And the answer will be because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, clinging to other gods and worshipping them. Therefore all this evil was brought upon them for their worship was not toward God (7:19-22).