

Exegetical Notes, 2 Chronicles 7:13-14
Life of Worship Part 2: Seek Him
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2 Chronicles 7:13-14

Background

- After King Solomon had completed construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, a great service of worship was held in which the Temple was dedicated. At that service, Solomon prayed, asking God to fill the Temple with his glory. As Solomon prayed fire fell from heaven to consume the sacrifice Solomon was offering on the altar and the glory of the Lord filled the Temple. The Priests were afraid to enter the Temple because of the visible manifestation of the Lord in the Temple. Later, God spoke directly to Solomon in answer to his prayer. 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 is the first part of God's response to Solomon's prayer on this occasion

Verse 13

“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among the people, ...”.

- These are God's words to Solomon.
- God says that when he brings distress on his people, they should do what follows in verse 14. The point is that there will be times when God brings distressing circumstances. Such times will come, and they will come on God's own people by God's own hand.

Verse 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 will heal their land.”

- God says that when such circumstances fall, “IF”. The word if implies the conditions. In order to receive blessing and/or help, certain conditions must be met.

- Those conditions are these. God's people, those called by his own name, must **humble themselves**. The word means that they must seek to find the Lord in humility, not demanding his blessing but seeking to know his reasons for the situation and his will for them. If they, **pray**. It means that they come to him expressing their concern and their interest in knowing his will. If they **seek his face**. The idea is that God's people want to look him in the eyes and understand him. If they **turn from their wicked ways**. The implication is that God's people will stop seeking to do whatever they please and seek to do what God desires. If God's people will do these four things in times of distress...
- **Then**, God will bless them by hearing their prayers, forgiving their sin, and healing their land. However if the preconditions for these blessings are not met, God will not necessarily provide these blessings. He might do so out of his mercy. However, if the conditions are met, he **WILL** do these things for his people.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Life of Worship 2: Seek Him*, preached by Mr. Peter E. Jensen. The notes have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)