

**Exegetical Notes, 2 Chronicles 7:13-14, 19-22; Romans 1:18-25
Revival**

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2 Chronicles 7:13-14, 19-22

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 my people, ...”.

- These are God's words to Solomon in answer to Solomon's prayer.
- 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 allows 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 will I 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 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.

Verse 19-20

“...But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve others gods and worship them, then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

- God also tells Israel that if they reject his ways and seek to do things as seems best to them, if they turn away from him and seek to serve other “gods,” he will reject them and abandon the Temple. He will make them and the Temple an object of scorn among the other nations.

Verse 21

“And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, ‘Why has YHWH done such a thing to this land and to this temple?’ People will answer, ‘Because they have forsaken YHWH, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods; worshiping and serving them -- that is why he brought all this disaster on them.’”

- Other nations will look upon God’s rejection/judgment of Israel and draw the correct conclusion. He abandoned them because they left him to serve other gods!

Romans 1:18-25

Verse 18

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

- The tense of the verb, “is” is present. It means that this is happening NOW! God’s wrath is being revealed even now. God is not mocked!
- God’s wrath is being revealed against wicked men who use their wickedness to suppress truth.

Verse 19

...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

- God has revealed himself to all men in two specific ways...first through creation/nature and second, through the word, the Bible. So what is to be made known about God has been clearly given by God to all people.

Verse 20

For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

- Even without the written revelation, the Bible, God has clearly shown his power in nature, and people of every culture throughout time, looking at nature, have concluded that its creation required some intelligent being.

Verse 21-23

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

- Although God clearly revealed himself in creation, primitive peoples needed some more tangible expressions of God. So, they created images of God with their own hands and worshiped them. They sought to bring God under their control, to make him something they had created. They sought to confine God to what was rational to them.

This was the result of their foolish thinking and the hardening of their hearts. Their own thoughts cause them to reject the truth about God.

Verse 24-25

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator -- who is forever praised. Amen.

- Wrong thoughts lead to wrong thoughts. One thing follows another. This is the expression of God's wrath. He lifted his hands of protection because they turned from him and gave them over to wrong thinking not just about creation, but about many things. They became victims of their own minds!

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