



God's Hearing, Forgiveness, and Healing Pt 1: A People Called by His Name!

January 1, 2023

Happy New Year!

Holy Text: 2 Chronicles Chapter 7 (focus on verse 14)

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV) *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.*

History and Context

This very popular and much needed verse is often **misunderstood**...or maybe more accurately...**misapplied**.

This Text is set in the context of Solomon's dedication of the Temple. After an extensive construction project, the LORD's House (that David and longed to build but God commissioned Solomon would build) was done.

The Ark had been brought to the Temple, the people had been blessed by their King, and Solomon prays a heartfelt prayer as sacrifices were offered unto God. In part, Solomon prayed:

2 Chronicles 6:24-27 (KJV) *And if thy people Israel be put to the worse before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee; and shall return and confess thy name, and pray and make supplication before thee in this house; **25** Then hear thou from the heavens, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest to them and to their fathers. **26** When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; **27** Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.*

The results were amazing. Scriptures says...

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (KJV) *Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. **2** And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house. **3** And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

Then, after more worship and sacrifices, the LORD appeared to Solomon by night and says...

2 Chronicles 7:12-13 (KJV) *...I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. **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;*

...and issues the great promise of 2 Chr 7:14: a promise to heal the land!

The LORD literally says, "If there is calamity, that I myself have allowed, if you do these things, I'll heal you!" Praise our God for Healing! We need in such our homes, cities, and Nation! We need God to do what only God can do!

But Beloved, please understand that this promise is **CONDITIONAL**. The contingent conjunction "IF" is so important. Note what God says to Solomon:

- **IF you understand that you are called by My Name...**
- **IF you humble yourselves...**
- **IF you pray...**
- **IF you seek My Face..,**
- **IF you turn from your wicked ways**

- **THEN I will hear from Heaven**
- **THEN I will forgive their sins**
- **THEN I will heal their land!**

Is our Primary Text Relevant for the Church?

Other questions that may arise:

1. Maybe asked another way, "Is revival or reformation possible? Can God still heal the land?"
2. Is another Great Awakening possible? Can we see larger numbers of people coming to Jesus and households and churches reformed? What about government officials falling down before Christ in humble submission?
3. Eschatologically, is this even something Christians should pray for and seek?
4. Saints, although it would likely be a mistake to make definitive statements as to what healing the land would look like from a New Testament perspective, here are some "New Testament equivalents" to our main thought for today:

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV) *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Acts 3:19 (KJV) *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;*

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (KJV) *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

The ultimate healing of the land will come when Christ returns. But beloved, God is still saving men and women!

God is more than able to spark revival and bring about reformation through the gospel of Jesus Christ in households, churches, communities, cities, and nations!

When such persons submit to the Lordship of Christ, they are “healed!” May the LORD do so among us, for the harvest is plenteous! (Matt 9:37)

A People Called by His Name!

1. Our primary Passage mentions the people of God and that such people are CALLED BY HIS NAME. From a NT perspective, this speaks to our identification with God in Christ. I believe this can be considered a part of the “IF” conditions.
 - In Hebrew, the two terms that make up “are called” literally mean “upon whom my name is called.”
 - One word, the preposition ‘*al*, means *above, over, upon, or against*.
 - The other, *qârâ*, means *to be bidden, to call forth, to preach or proclaim!*
 - The connotation or inference is that that God Himself has put or set His Name upon His people. He Himself has marked them, set them “against” any other “names” and called them to proclaim Him and all of His ways.
 - This is a term not of human choice but of divine grace and declaration!
 - When the people of God forget this, we struggle!

2. Let us remember that God’s Name is to be honored!

Exodus 34:14 (KJV) *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*

Ezekiel 36:22-28 (KJV) *Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not **this** for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. **23** And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I **am** the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. **24** For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. **25** Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. **26** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do **them**. **28** And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

Psalms 9:2 (KJV) *I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.*

Psalms 66:1-2 (KJV) To the chief Musician, A Song or Psalm. *Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: **2** Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious.*

Psalms 86:9 (KJV) *All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.*

Revelation 15:4 (KJV) *Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only **art** holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.*

3. We should be honored and humble to be Called by His Name!

- The New Testament saint, who lives in a fuller revelation of God's merciful redemption, MUST understand this!
- At the Jerusalem counsel, James (our LORD's brother), said this:

Acts 15:14-17 (KJV) *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. **15** And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, **16** After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: **17** That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.*

- Consider your "surname" or your last name. It signifies you as a member of that family and house, and identifies you as one of them, belonging to their character and disposition, linked to their destiny, and blessed to add to their legacy.
- In the Bible, one's name represented both his lineage and his purpose. To be "called by His Name" is to be His, to be associated with Him, to represent Him in all things, and to be committed to His will!
- "The name is used for everything which the name covers, everything the thought or feeling of which is aroused in the mind by mentioning, hearing, remembering, the name, i.e. for one's rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellences, deeds etc."¹
- **As believers who are "called by His Name," we must, by His grace and without instigating pride, develop a greater sense of our Identity in Christ, and subsequently, determine to do His will regardless of the circumstances. Consider:**

Acts 11:26 (KJV) *And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.*

Luke 21:17 (KJV) *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.*

Ephesians 3:14-15 (KJV) *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15** Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (KJV) *Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: **12** That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2 Timothy 2:19 (KJV) *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

4. Beloved, we chosen by God, saved by His grace!

¹ Thayer Bible Dictionary

John 15:16 (KJV) *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

Ephesians 1:3-5 (KJV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

Ephesians 2:8-10 (KJV) *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

5. We are ambassadors for Christ!

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (KJV) *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

6. We are strangers and sojourners, kings and priests!

1 Peter 2:11 (KJV) *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

1 Peter 2:5 (KJV) *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 1:5-6 (KJV) *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

7. We are Kingdom Citizens, with blessings and responsibilities thereof!

Philippians 3:20 (KJV) *For our conversation (politeuma in Greek; citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

Ephesians 2:19-20 (KJV) *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

What if we lived lives commensurate with who we are...those who are called by God's own Name?

What if we realized the great privilege we've been given to be identified with the Creator of the Universe?

What if we better embraced the responsibilities of being a citizens of Heaven and bondservants of the King?

Some Applications...

1. Consider His calling...His kind, mercy, and love filled choosing of you.
2. Consider His Name, and all that means...the Name by which you are called!
3. Consider what He did to “rename” you: suffering, shedding His own blood, and dying? You were once of your father, the devil (Jn 8:44; 1 John 3:8-10), but no more...you have a new name! (Rev 3:12)
4. Consider His desire to see His Name lifted up among the nations...

Malachi 1:11 (KJV) *For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same **my name shall be great among the Gentiles**; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: **for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.***

Romans 1:1-6 (KJV) *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, **2** (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) **3** Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; **4** And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: **5** By whom we have received grace and apostleship, **for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: 6** Among whom are **ye also the called of Jesus Christ:***

Given all these things, how then shall we, a people who “name the Name” of Christ, live?

Unto His glory in all things.

Amen.