

Title Slide "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2Ch 7:13-14)

How many times have you heard this verse in its context? Don't we normally hear "if my people, who are called by My Name...." all by itself? Have you ever looked at the greater context to see what was happening when these words were recorded? Check this out.

Slide 2 Thus Solomon finished the house of YHVH and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of YHVH and in his palace. Then YHVH appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2Ch 7:11-14)

Isn't it interesting that the context is at the completion of the building of beit YHVH, the house of YHVH? This is very similar to Moses' last writings telling the Israelites what would happen to them when, not if, they fell away. It's almost the same exact message and the same exact theme. With Moses, they were about to enter the promised land and become a nation. Here with Solomon, they were blessed to incredible heights. Wealth beyond measure, shalom in the land, access to resources far and wide, and the most beautiful structure on earth that was to be a house of prayer for all nations. The message was clear: if bad stuff happens get humble and seek His face quickly. The bad stuff is probably the result of something they did. They were going to fall away and need to repent. And when they did, He would hear them.

What's also interesting is how Messiahianity uses these verses. It's almost always used to urge repentance, or to stay on the right track. but without the context or deeper meaning at all. The context here is the temple, or house, of Yahweh being completed. Jerusalem was established as the headquarters for earth in these verses. Have you ever thought of that? That there's a moment in time when Jerusalem became HQ and that this is it? Now lets' look at further context.

Slide 3 So Solomon observed the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly who came from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt. On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days and the feast seven days. Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that YHVH had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel. (2Ch 7:8-10)

The temple was completed and inaugurated at Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles. The glory of YHVH filled the temple at that time so the priests could not enter. It was literally purified with fire – baptized with fire. This supports our view of the holy days as being prophetic incredibly well. The first time Sukkot is used for a prophecy is when the first temple is inaugurated. The second time will be when Yeshua returns and we have 1000 years with Him reigning from, you guessed it, Jerusalem. Notice it says from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt? This is a phrase for all Israel being present and a prelude to when all mankind will go to Jerusalem for Sukkot during the millennium.

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Now we have the context. His people, called by His Name, were Israel at that moment in time. And they were all present. To seek His face, they had to use the temple. In other words, they had to follow Torah. At the base of Mt. Sinai, all the people looked toward YHVH when He gave the 10 commandments. And at this moment in time, all the people were rejoicing during Sukkot as YHVH accepted the offering of a house and established Jerusalem as His headquarters. Seeking His face is to do what? Obey Torah and not be ashamed to be in His presence. Obey the appointed times. Observe them. They have meaning. They are historic. They are prophetic. YHVH put these time markers down for a reason. And they hinge on Torah observance. Imagine the blessing of being present when the first temple was inaugurated. How wonderful would it have been to be there with the nation in one accord? How wonderful will it be when the temple not made with hands comes down from shamayim and all of us are in one accord.

Humility is founded on there being a higher authority or a higher power. The people accepting YHVH and His Torah was the act of humility. To recognize all we have is a gift from Yahweh, and not our own, is to recognize His authority and power. How does any of this apply to us, though? How do we, born of the nations, get to the point where we can be His people. Because that's a problem for most of Christianity. Most of Christianity doesn't want anything to do with Israel or the commandments, but they still want the blessing of "if my people". Praise YHVH for He has revealed this to us through His Son.

Slide 5 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, **being a wild olive, were grafted in** among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you. (Rom 11:17-18)

Still slide 5 For you are all sons of God through faith in Messiah Yeshua. For all of you who were baptized into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there

is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua. **And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's descendants**, heirs according to promise. (Gal 3:26-29)

In order for the verses in 2 Chronicles to apply to us, we first have to become His people. The humility part is realizing that we are not His people by birth. We have no right to salvation. We have no knowledge of sin without the Torah and the New Covenant was given to Israel and Judah. For salvation or any of this to apply to us, there must be some mechanism for us to become God's people.

I started re-reading the NT recently. Actually sitting on the couch with a printed bible and just reading it. Returning to my first love, I suppose. With the growth of all these years of study and experience, different things stick out. The four gospels were not written as journals. They were written a long time after the Messiah ascended. They were circulated to different geographic locations. Point being the people didn't have much to go on at first. For 20 years, they didn't have the gospels at all. Just word of mouth and the Torah at the synagogue. The first believers were Jews who kept being Jews while accepting the Messiah. They kept Torah. They kept the holy days. As the gentiles, us, joined, we were grafted in and adopted the same practices. As the Gospels were written they were circulated in different parts of the known world. Just having one Gospel doesn't tell us how to repent, what to repent of, or how to live. I finished the book of Mark the other day and was struck at how little information is there. The people who had to rely on just that Gospel needed the rest of the Bible for the details. This is more affirmation why the New Testament cites the Old so often. Because the Tanakh (torah, neviim, Ketuvim, law, propheets, and writings) wasn't just the foundation of the faith, it was all they had for a long time. The Gospels, Acts, and the rest of the NT are super important, but we need to understand and embrace that our faith is a continuation of the faith of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that builds on the history. It's fully connected. And Paul is telling us how we are connected. We did not replace Israel, Christianity is not a new religion, oh no. We join Israel. We are grafted in. We are adopted children of Abraham and heirs according to the promise.

Slide 6 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY. (1Pe 2:9-10)

Peter is referencing a prophecy from the book of Hosea. The New Testament shows us how we become Yahweh's people. Through the Messiah's shed blood, we are permitted to join the family of Yahweh. His sacrifice allows those who accept Him as the Son of God to become baptized, born again children of the Most High. Those who were not a people now have a pathway to become His people. This is how the verses "My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray

and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Apply to us. We join Israel, in the blessings, curses, and promises. We learn the Torah to seek Yahweh’s face. The Torah convicts us of our sins and we repent. We start the process. And instead of healing our land, we get access to the whole kingdom to come!