**If My People**

**2 Chronicles 7:1-3, 11-15**

**Fire from Heaven**

**7**As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. **2**And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord filled the Lord's house. **3**When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the Lord on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

**If My People Pray**

**11**Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the Lord and in his own house he successfully accomplished. **12**Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. **13**When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, **14**if 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 and will forgive their sin and heal their land. **15**Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

1. Intro
   1. We are in the midst of a strange time in our country and world
   2. **There are answers to our problems, but we keep getting distracted from the real answers and the real problems.**
      1. **We tend to focus on symptoms and salve rather than real problems and real solutions**
      2. **The real problem is sin and a wicked heart**
      3. **The real solution is Jesus and surrender.**
   3. **We will look at a familiar passage today that needs to be kept in context and truth in order to fully and faithfully understand**
      1. **Regarding scripture: All scripture is FOR us, but not all scripture is TO us.**
      2. **So we see the passage as being written to and about Israel, but truth can be drawn from it for us today.**
2. Text
   1. Verses 1-3: Solomon is dedicating the temple. And God sends fire from heaven to purify the new building and make it into the temple of God.
   2. Verses 11-15
      1. Solomon completed the temple, 14 years later completed the palace…according to Solomon’s plan.
      2. Verse 12: God hears our prayer, and always will
      3. Verse 13: God’s judgment needs to be received and rightly reacted too.
         1. During difficulty, God shows us our strengths and weaknesses
         2. We do not seek difficult times, but when they come, we respond.
      4. Verse 14
         1. God’s people…that’s us, bought by the blood of Jesus
         2. When written, this would have been a reminder of God’s covenant promise to the Jews,
         3. we are not promoting “Replacement Theology”
            1. This would say that believers replace God’s chosen people throughout scripture
            2. We do not replace the Jews, but are grafted into the vine
            3. The promise of messiah was to be believed by God’s people
            4. This truth has not changed
         4. So, we see the prescription or formula given to us: Humble themselves, Pray and seek, repent
         5. Promises: He will hear, forgive, and heal our land
3. Point
   1. **Prayer Precedes Revival**
      1. Take application from this passage as we serve Christ today.
      2. **The power of prayer is in the one who hears it, not the one who prays it.**
      3. **We seek revival in our land, so we Humble ourselves, pray, and repent**
      4. This is a huge statement!
         1. Humility is a key to this truth
         2. **I see this as the key to repentance and prayer**
         3. **Humility seems to be the most difficult element, and without humility we expect God to bless our arrogance and pride**
         4. **Now we would never notice this, because arrogance does not usually recognize itself.**
      5. **What does this lack of humility look like?**
         1. **Arrogance, pride, selfishness**
         2. **It looks like blame, failure to accept responsibility, and misplaced loves.**
         3. **It demands its own way, and denies the need for the true and living God**
      6. What do we do about it?
         1. **Go to 1 Corinthians 13 and see the heart of Love we are to have, and ask the Lord to change you into HIS image.**
         2. Love is patient, kind, does not boast…
   2. **Principles Direct Repentance**
      1. **If we truly repent, we have found ourself turning from our flesh and turning to the working of the Spirit of God**
      2. **What happened in the temple that day needs to happen in the temple today**
         1. **The holiness of God purified the temple with fire**
         2. **We are now the temple of God, and we need the same holy fire from heaven**
         3. **We must have the power of God directing our every thought**
      3. The Principles we are to live by, direct us to right relationship with God.
         1. **Humble yourself:** 
            1. 1 Peter 5:6-7 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
            2. James 4:10 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
         2. **Pray and Seek:**
            1. Matthew 6:33 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
            2. Matthew 7:7 7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
         3. **Turn from wickedness**
            1. Hebrews 12:14 14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
            2. Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.
   3. **Promises Promote Fellowship** 
      1. We can trust God
      2. We can have Faith in God
      3. We can believe God
      4. We can Hope in God!
      5. **HE has made a promise, and we live today in that promise:**
         1. **The promise today is in the promise of salvation**
         2. **The promise today is in the Spirit filled life**
         3. **The promise today is in the fellowship we have.**
      6. **So we walk in these promises and in fellowship**
      7. **Conditions in fulfilling the Promises of God:**
         1. **If we do the things God has set before us, God will bless us with His presence**
         2. **If we do not, He will bring His judgment.**
4. **Close**
   1. **We should take this passages as our guide**
   2. **We should remember the calling, the empowering, and the dependance we should have on our Lord.**
   3. **Start with salvation**
   4. **Continue in surrender**
   5. **Here I am, I am yours, do with me as you will.**