

2 Chronicles 7:14

“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; 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.” 2 Chronicles 7:13,14

A. The judgments of God.

*“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;” 2 Chronicles 7:13*

הוּ אֶעְצֹר הַשָּׁמַיִם וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה מָטָר, וְהֵן-אֶעְצֹנָה עַל-חֲגָב לֶאֱכֹל הָאָרֶז; וְאִם-אֲשַׁלַּח דָּבָר, בְּעַמִּי

We understand the concept of **no rain** for that speaks of having a drought, which would impact their crops, which would impact all commerce, lifestyles, even the threat of malnutrition and starvation. In America we mitigate the problem of annual rainfall by irrigation from wells, and if the rain doesn't fall over a period of time, then we dig the wells deeper.

The **locust** problem was one that was a recurrent threat in that part of the world where even if there were crops the locusts would eat them up.

But the word **pestilence**, *deber*, held many ideas in it. It could refer to: contamination, blight, insects, crop mold, hail destroying the crops, disease, etc.. But there was something else in the idea of pestilence that would denote the ideas of: the sword, military invasion, or invasion by another people. And **the Muslim hordes that are being brought into America and Europe certainly fit that idea!**

The drought, the pollution of our air, water, land and food are just some of the things that should be telling the American people that we are under the judgment of God. But when you add to that the tens of thousands and thousands of Black Muslim savages being brought into our country and Europe to rape, kill and destroy that fits the curse of God under the idea of **pestilence!**

B. The Remedy.

“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.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

וַיִּפְנְעוּ עַמִּי אֲשֶׁר נִקְרָא-שְׁמִי עֲלֵיהֶם, וַיִּתְפַּלְלוּ וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ פָנַי, וַיֵּשְׁבוּ, מִדַּרְכֵיהֶם הָרָעִים--וַאֲנִי, אֲשָׁמַע מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְאֶסְלַח לְחַטָּאתָם, וְאֶרְפָּא אֶת-אֲרָצָם.

1. *“If my people, which are called by my name,” - weyikkanu' 'ammiy asher niqra'-shemiy 'aleyhem.* The English begins with **if my people**, 'ammiy, which tells us that *Yahweh* is referring to his **covenant people**, which was Israel in the OT and Church Age believers in the NT. So this passage applies to Christians today because we now are the people of God. *“Which in time past were not a people, but are **now** the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” 1 Peter 2:10*

Called by his name tells us that the people of God are identified with his name. In the OT they were referred to as the people of *Yahweh*, or the people belonging to *Yahweh*, even his name was inscribed over the door of his temple in Jerusalem. In the NT we were first referred to as Patricians meaning of the Father, then later on we were called Christianoi, or Christians because we belonged to Christ.

2. **Shall humble themselves** is the niphal future 3 masculine plural suffix of *kâna'*. *Kana* in the qal stem meant to bow the knee and in the niphal stem it had the reflexive idea of humbling oneself before a ruler. The **importance** of the word was not on the outer gesture, which was important in those days, but on the inner disposition of the mind. Whenever a subject went before his ruler, he would bow his knee before him showing that he was in submission to the king's rule over him and when he left the king's throne he would take that same mental attitude with him.

Now today the bowing of the knee before God is not the important thing. What is important, though, is that we as believers in Christ are internally humbling ourselves before the Father stating that we are in submission to God's rule over us! "***Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:***" 1 Peter 5:6

And this would go along the lines of **repentance**, which is having a change of mental attitude toward God. When we do repent it is a total change of mental attitude that we are to have about our involvement in the world system, our indulging the flesh nature, our attitude toward Bible Doctrine, attending church and our rebellion against the authority of God.

3. To **pray** is the hithpael future of *pâlal*, which is both reflexive and intensive, which tells us that only we can do this and are to do this and intensely so. This tells us that to correct the problem in our lives and in our land along the lines of repentance and obeying God we are going to have to make ourselves start praying and intensely so! What the passage indicates is that the land is already under the judgment of God and there is not that much time left before he wipes it out in utter devastation, so this is not the time for playing games with God and being lazy and lackadaisical, this is the time for intense prayer praying that we get our lives straightened out and praying for our nation.

4. **And seek my face** is the piel future of *bâqash*. Interestingly enough *baqash*, to *seek*, is only found in the piel intensive stem. **Seeking** is an activity that has in view the finding of an object which really exists, or is thought to exist, which is not close to the subject at the time of the seeking but is desired most earnestly and initiates the seeking. *Baqash* has to do with satisfying this desire to find the object. This activity of seeking can be, by chance, absent temporarily, but will be resumed.

It must be understood as a conscious act with a specific goal in mind noted here as seeking the face of God, which was an expression meaning one wanted to know God, and it will be accompanied by a great deal of effort. Examples would be seeking where a great treasure was buried in a field, or seeking after a reported known vein of gold in some mountain. Seeking the face of God shows that the believer has not only repented, but he has also converted, that is, he has turned his face toward God once again.

5. **Turn from** is the qal future of *shûb*, which had the ideas of: to turn to something or someone, to return, to turn away from, to turn away from something so one can do something again. In the qal stem it is dominated by the idea of the physical movement of turning around, or returning. The Greek uses the word *apostrepho*, which meant to turn away from something and that's what *shub* speaks of. It denotes both the mental and physical side of turning away from something. This is what conversion is all about; it's a turning of the soul to God and away from what one is presently focused on.

6. Their wicked ways is *middarkeyhem hara'iyim*. The word for **way** is *derek* and it denotes the path that one is taking in life, their lifestyle, and the things that they occupy themselves with. Now the path that we are on can be good or bad, that has to be denoted in the passage, which is denoted here as **wicked** or using the word *ra'ah*.

Ra'ah had the idea of something that is intrinsically evil and destructive in its effect. There are many things that exist in the world that are intrinsically wrong and there are many activities people can get involved with that are also wrong and detrimental to one's well being. We categorize them as: the lusts of the flesh, the emotional complex of the soul, mental and emotional sins and overt activity sinning that can involve all sorts of things.

This refers to believers who have gotten caught up in the things of the world system, the flesh nature, or the devil. They have forgotten God in their thinking; they have set aside his Word and no longer live the faith rest life; they no longer walk in the way he has ordained for them and their souls bear the brunt of it all. As the result the land they live in also suffers along with them.

So what are they to do? They are to humble themselves under the protocol plan of God concerning living in the spiritual life he has created for them. They are to start praying again in their lives and to do so intensely. They are to be seeking his face once again and intensely so. And they are to turn from their wicked ways so they can do so!

Their ways, *derek* in the plural, has the preposition *min* attached to the front of it telling us that there has to be a complete and total separation from them. Both **wicked**, the modifier, and **ways** are in the plural so this tells us that these believers have got caught up in one or more things that were not according to the lifestyle of holiness mandated for them by God. "*Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.*" Lev.19:2 The same thing for Christians today. "*Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*" 1 Peter 1:16

Then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land, *eshma' min-hashshamayim*. We have a condition being set up here by God; if his people do this, then he will do that. Just like in 1 John 1:9, "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" The condition being laid out is: 1) shall humble themselves, 2) and pray, 3) and seek my face, 4) and turn from their wicked ways, then God will forgive their sin and heal their land.

This applies to the Christians in America, Britain, Europe and all over the world. We have to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God's rule of holiness over our lives; we have to start praying to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ in the filling of the Holy Spirit; we have to start seeking his face each day of our lives through prayer and Bible Doctrine and we have to turn from our wicked involvement in the world system, our living in the flesh nature and our interaction with demonic things. If we do, then God will forgive our sin and heal our land and that includes the **pestilence** of foreign invaders! Our souls will be healed from living in the spiritual life dynamic.

Pastor Mike