

WEEK 2 - REVIVAL, 2 CHRONICALS 7: 13-15.

2 Chronicles 7: 13-15.

¹³ **(When)** I shut up the heavens and there is no rain, or **(when I)** command the locusts to devour the land or **(when I)** send pestilence among my people, **if (as soon as)** My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, **then(once they have done that)** I will hear from heaven, and **I will (most definitely)** forgive their sin and I will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place."

Introduction:

You will remember from the first lesson that we learned that 2 Chronicles 7: 13-15 contains a "recipe" for restoration and revival for our country. Read the above scripture again and note the words in bold and between brackets, I believe it gives us the content of God's recipe.

(when I) **if (as soon as)** **then (once they have done that)**..... **I will (most definite)** hear and heal their land.

Put differently - **If (when)** the Lord withdraws it's blessing from a country **and (if, as soon as)** His children (the Christians) react in a certain way..... **Then (after that has happened)** God will hear His children, forgive their sins and heal our land.

We will spend the next few lessons investigating this heavenly recipe in more detail.

Lesson 2: (when I) --- if (as soon as).

Last week - (when I):

Lesson one dealt with the first part of our heavenly recipe - when the Lord withdraws His blessing from a nation. We learned that the Lord withdraws His blessing for certain reasons, but that it is always motivated by love for His children, because He desires more than anything else a deeper, more intimate relationship with His children. Hardship and pain are (unfortunately) one of the most frequent methods the Lord uses to draw us closer to Him (Please read Hebrews 12 vs 5-12)

This week - if (as soon as)

The (when I) speaks of a situation that has already arisen in our country. The if (as soon as) speaks of the desired reaction by believers to that situation.

We do not have to wonder if the "when I" (withdrawal of God's favour) has already happened or not - it is very clear that the Lord has already withdrawn his blessing from South Africa - that's what the whole Tipping point initiative is about. We are now focusing our attention on the Christians' reaction to the situation - the if (as soon as) part

When the Lord withdraws his blessing from a nation, it is not so much that He is speaking to unbelievers. Difficult situations in a nation's history are precisely the times when God is talking to his own children (the Christians) We read in verse 14: if My people, **who are called by My name:** God's name has proclaimed (called) over His children (the Christians). (In Biblical times, if a city was captured and taken over by a king, eg David, he would parade through the city while the name "David" was constantly being cried out. David's name was being called out over the city - the city became David's property). Similarly, Christians are God's people, (My people) because God's name has called out over us, we have been purchased by Jesus blood!

Trails and difficult circumstances are therefore first and foremost God's "wake up call" to His people (the Christians). Let's put it practically:

- South African Christian - God has withdrawn His blessing from South Africa because He has an appointment with you - He longs for you to do the 4 things outlined in 2 Chron 7:14.
- Christian - Are you part of the education profession? - God brings difficult times to get your attention - he wants you to start with the **if (as soon as)** part of the recipe.

- Christian - Are you part of the police or security forces? God is busy talking to you through tough and difficult circumstances, - Start interceding for our police and security services (we will help as much as we can through our prayers and teachings)
- Christian - Are you in the medical profession? - God is calling you to start praying and interceding with God for healthcare in all its facets in our country.
- Christian - Are you in the legal profession? God, whose Name have been called over you, is calling you to begin with the **if (as soon as)** part of His recipe.
- Christian - Are you in agriculture? God has an appointment with you - start (or keep on) praying more and more for your farm, your workers, and your fellow farmers – we will help and guide as much as we can.

We all get the point - God has withdrawn His blessing from every aspect of our beloved country - and He is waiting for us (the Christians) to respond to him, as outlined in 2 Chron 7:14.

What response does the Lord expect - 4 things. (2 Chron 7:14)

And (as soon as) My people, over whom My name has been called out (i.e. the Christians) will:

1. humble themselves
 2. and pray
 3. and seek My (God's) face
 4. and turn from their evil (wicked) ways,
- then I (the Lord) will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and heal their land.

The Lord requires **4 actions** from His children before He will hear, forgive and heal their land. As distressing it is to read, the Lord makes it very clear for us - He will first forgive our sins and then (afterwards) heal our country. Who's Sins - The Christians!

This is not something I want to hear (or any Christian) but it is written by a God who cannot lie. (Titus 1: 2), God first of all will forgive the sins of South Africa's Christians, and there after heal our land.

The primary stumbling block to be removed is the sins of the South African Christians! (See also Isaiah 59: 1-21, Jeremiah 3: 12-16)

By God's grace, next time we will begin to look at the 4 things the Lord requires of every Christian in more detail.

To summarize.

The Lord cannot and will not operate outside His revealed Word - What is written there is fixed (rock solid) for all ages. 2 Chron 7:14 makes it clear, there is only one way to turn around a desperate situation - God's children must heed God's wakeup call and pray, seek God's face, humble ourselves and turn away from our evil (wicked) ways.

With the Lord's help, this is exactly what we plan to do at Tipping Point. We will discuss, and be obedient to each of the 4 actions God requires of His children in due course.

Prayer:

"Lord, thank you that you are not finished with South Africa and all its people. Thank you for giving us another chance. Help us (Your children) to obey your commands from Your Word, knowing that You will hear, forgive our sins and heal our land. Amen. "

Blessings, MPC prayer team.