

*The Root
Of
The Problem*

Part VI

2 Chronicles 7:14

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NKJV)

13 *When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people....*

14 *IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME*

will 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.

Week One, We Observed...

Principle #1

*We Will Not See Results Until **The Right People Take Responsibility***

Principle #2

*We Will Not See Results Until **We Follow The Prescription***

Principle #3

*Expect to See Results Because **The Promise Will Be Fulfilled***

Week Two, We Observed

*Are We **IDENTIFYING** As Christians
Without Any **IMPACT**?*

Week Three We Observed...

*The Lack Of Humility, Hinders Our Prayers
You will never come **BOLDLY FOR HELP**,
If **YOU FEEL** you can handle it **ON YOUR OWN**...
It all begins with **HUMILITY***

Week Four

*When We Pray... We Tell God
I Need You
I Trust You
I Am Depending On You*

Last Week.....

*We Must **Seek God's Face** and Not Just **God's Hand***

*Seeking God Begins With A **Wholehearted Desire***

*The World Has **Distractions** That Tend To **Detour Us** From **Seeking God***

*As I **Turn Toward God's Face**... I Turn Away From My **Wicked Ways***

Introduction

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

14 **IF** my people, who are called by my name, will 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*.

In context, you can see that God is saying, “When I’m disciplining you with something like a drought, a famine, devouring insects, or pestilence, **IF** you humbly confess your sin, **THEN** I will heal your land.”

In Basic Computer Language... It uses If/Then Statements

That Statement creates **OPTIONS** for the computer from which to **MAKE CHOICES** depending upon the **circumstance of the item considered**. **IF** this is *the condition*, **THEN** do this; **IF** that is *the situation*, **THEN** do this.

Scripture is filled with If/Then Statements that bring us to a place of **MAKING CHOICES**

John 15:7 (NASB)

7 "**IF** you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, {**then**} ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Romans 10:9 (NASB)

9 that **IF** you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, {**Then**} you will be saved..

Matthew 6:14 (NASB)

14 "For **IF** you forgive others for their transgressions, {**then**} your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)

17 Therefore **IF** anyone is in Christ, {**then**} he is a new creature; the old things passed away....

Once We Have Satisfied The “IF” Expect The Results

Introduction

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NIV)

13 "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 **IF** my people, who are called by my name, will 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.

~ There is a **DIVINE PRINCIPLE** ~

DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS ABOUT JUDGMENT/WRATH
REPENTANCE BRINGS ABOUT FORGIVENESS AND FAVOR

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God is inviting them to **RECEIVE HIS FAVOR THROUGH REPENTANCE** ("humble ourselves . . . and turn from our wicked ways") **AND BY FAITH** ("pray and seek my face")...

IF they met these **FOUR CONDITIONS**, God would **FORGIVE THEIR WICKED WAYS** and **HEAL THEIR LAND**.

He would stop His hand of judgment, and the people could recover from their loss.

Both **THE INDIVIDUAL** and **THE NATION** would experience the mercy and forgiveness of God.

Although This Is An Old Testament Passage... There Is **A DIVINE PRINCIPLE** That Can Be Applied
TRUE REPENTENCE Brings About DIVINE RESULTS

THE PRINCIPLE DOES NOT CHANGE

The Divine Principle

Let's Examine The Divine Principle From the Beginning

Genesis 3:17-19 (NLT)

17 And to the man he said, "Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit **I COMMANDED YOU NOT TO EAT, THE GROUND IS CURSED BECAUSE OF YOU**. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. 3 18 It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though **YOU WILL EAT OF ITS GRAINS**. 19 By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made.

GOD BRINGS JUDGMENT on something that Man Is **DEPENDENT** Upon
He can still have what he needs, But Now **IT IS A STRUGGLE....**

You Still Can Have **ACCESS TO IT...** But Now there is **STRESS, STRAIN, AND STRUGGLE....**
DIVINE FAVOR allows be to have it with **ENJOYMENT AND EFFICIENCY**

Proverbs 10:22 (NIV)

22 The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and **HE ADDS NO TROUBLE/SORROW TO IT.**

The Blessing of the Lord is **GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN....**
But **SIN** Brings About A Change Of Plan

So From The Very Beginning... God brings Judgment on the LAND....
BUT This **DIVINE PRINCIPLE** Gives An **OPPORTUNITY** For Change

The Individual or The Community

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (NIV)

1 If you **FULLY OBEY** the LORD your God and **CAREFULLY FOLLOW ALL** his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God...

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NIV)

15 See, **I SET BEFORE YOU** today **life and prosperity, death and destruction**. 16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; **THEN** you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17 But **IF** your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you **LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSINGS AND CURSES. NOW CHOOSE LIFE**, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

God Is Speaking To His Chosen Group Of People

In The Old Testament He Speaks To His People...

He has a Divine Covenant With HIS PEOPLE

The Divine Principle Is Still The Same!!!

Disobedience ~ Wrath..... Repentance ~ Forgiveness/Favor

The Individual or The Community

Although The Land/The People **Choose** To Disobey
The Individual Can **Choose** To Obey God and Receive Favor

Genesis 6:5-8 (NASB)

5 Then the LORD saw that **the wickedness of man was great on the earth**, and that **every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**. 6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The LORD said, "**I WILL BLOT OUT MAN** whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them."
8 **BUT NOAH FOUND FAVOR IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.**

Numbers 14:22-24 (NLT)

22 **Not one of these people will ever enter that land.** They have all seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs I performed both in Egypt and in the wilderness, but **again and again they have tested me by refusing to listen to my voice**. 23 **They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it.** 24 **But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have. He has remained loyal to me, so I will bring him into the land he explored.**

Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV)

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 **so that you may become blameless and pure**, children of God **WITHOUT FAULT IN A CROOKED AND DEPRAVED GENERATION**, in which you shine like stars in the universe

The Individual or The Community

Biblical Example

1 Kings 17:1-10 (NIV)

1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, **THERE WILL BE NEITHER DEW NOR RAIN IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS** except at my word."

2 Then the word of the LORD **CAME TO ELIJAH:**

3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan.

4 You will drink from the brook, and **I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.**"

5 **So he did what the LORD had told him.** He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there.

6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. 7 Some time later the brook dried up **because there had been no rain in the land.**

8 **Then the word of the LORD came to him:**

9 "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. **I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.**" 10 **So he went to Zarephath.** When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks.

Even In The Midst of Divine **JUDGEMENT FOR DISOBEDIENCE**

God **STILL PROVIDES** Based On The Divine Principle

Just Because The Land Is Being **PUNISHED**... You Can **STILL PROSPER**
Humble Yourself, Pray, Seek God's Face and Turn From Your Wicked Ways....

Forgive Sin ~ Heal the Land

God's Desire and Design Is To **DEAL WITH THE SIN** Not Just **Satisfy The Situation**
When Man Fell In The Garden, God's Plan Was To **DEAL WITH SIN**

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

*21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS,
for He will save His people **FROM THEIR SINS.**"*

Biblical Example

Mark 2:3-12 (NKJV)

*3 Then they came to Him, bringing a **PARALYTIC** who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "**SON, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN YOU.**" 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" --He said to the paralytic, 11 I say to you, **ARISE, TAKE UP YOUR BED, AND GO TO YOUR HOUSE.**" 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God..."*

He Does Not Just Desire To Deal With Your Situation... But Mainly Your Sins

Forgive Sin...Heal the Land

John 5:5-15 (NKJV)

5 Now a certain man was there who had **an infirmity thirty-eight years**. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" 7 **The sick man** answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "**RISE, TAKE UP YOUR BED AND WALK.**" 9 **And immediately the man was made well**, took up his bed, **AND WALKED.** 12 Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" 13 But the one who was healed **DID NOT KNOW WHO IT WAS**, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. **SIN NO MORE**, lest a worse thing come upon you." 15 The man departed and told the Jews that **IT WAS JESUS WHO HAD MADE HIM WELL.**

Not Just The Situation... But The Sin

The Continuation of Sin is a Signal Toward A Bigger Problem

1 John 3:6 (NIV)

6 No one **who lives in him KEEPS ON SINNING**. No one who **CONTINUES TO SIN** has either seen him or known him.

When I Humble Myself ~ God I See I Need Help

When I Pray ~ I Ask God To Change My Heart

When I Seek God's Face ~ I Desire To Be In Your Presence

When I Turn From My Wicked Ways ~ I Put Myself In Position For God's Favor

Forgive Sin...Heal the Land

John 8:3-11 (NKJV)

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him **a woman caught in adultery**. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, **this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act**. 5 Now Moses, **in the law**, commanded us that such **should be stoned**. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; **GO AND SIN NO MORE.**"

*She Was **Given Mercy** ~ The Law Says Stone Her*

*She Was **Given Grace** ~ Jesus Gave Her Another Chance*

*She Was **Given A Command** ~ Stop Sinning!!!*

Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV)

1 What shall we say then? Shall we **CONTINUE IN SIN THAT GRACE MAY ABOUND?**

2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

YOUR CONSCIENCE SHOULD NOT LET YOU CONTINUE!!!!

Conclusion

*We do not have to continue to sit still and see sin destroy our homes, schools, and communities
We have been give the **DIVINE PRESCRIPTION FOR REVIVAL***

*Our homes, communities and nation have been devastated through a **DROUGHT OF SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS AND POWER**. If God's people will come back to Him in genuine repentance and faith, we will see our nation **IMPACTED** by the Power of God. We need that kind of revival!*

Our Prayer Should Be...

*Lord **Send The Revival** and Let It Begin **IN ME...***

*I will **Humble Myself***

*I will **Pray***

*I will **Seek God's Face***

*I will **Turn From My Wicked Ways***

SO THAT

We Can Experience A Healing In The Land