

Revival: “If My People, Who are Called by My Name....”

Part 1

Please turn to *2 Chronicles 5:1*.

WARNING: this sermon contains lots of doctrine and may require listening more than once. It's long and I couldn't make it shorter. Please relax even if it goes beyond its normal time and try not to get antsy for it to be over.

We've all heard *2 Chronicles 7:14* quoted:

2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV)

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.

What does this truly mean? Today we'll explore the background behind this famous verse and therefore fill our spirits with divine revelation and hope for a revival in America! Let's now go back a couple chapters and begin our exposition:

2 Chronicles 5:1 (ESV)

¹ Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, and stored the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the treasuries of the house of God.

TEMPLE FINISHED/BEAUTIFUL. The Temple was finally finished after great expense and years of hard labor. Solomon's Temple was meant to be a permanent dwelling place for God to live here—on earth—among His people! It was glorious and beautiful to behold—a shining place on the summit of Mt. Zion that took the breath away...like the first time you see the Grand Canyon.

YOU are God's temple in the NC! The human body, even in its fallen state, was created to be the home of God which is why the Lord declares in Genesis that only humanity is made “in the image of God.”

TREASURES. Look at the rest of verse 1: the first thing Solomon brings into the Temple are TREASURES and remember that the NC is far superior to the old: if Solomon's Temple was stocked with silver and gold, then imagine the treasures God placed in you when you became His! He gave you gifts, passions, and your calling in life that all serve one purpose: to serve Him and make disciples for His Kingdom. Not just to “make a living.”

NOT MOVED IN YET. Please notice that GOD has not yet moved in! In other words, He put treasures inside of us to be used for His glory even before we ever knew Him. Let's read on to see how else God PREPARES us to house Him:

2 Chronicles 5:2-7 (ESV)

² Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

³ And all the men of Israel assembled before the king at the feast that is in the seventh month.

⁴ And all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark.

⁵ And they brought up the ark, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the Levitical priests brought them up.

⁶ And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

⁷ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

Phase 1 of God moving into His house was to build it.

Phase 2 of God settling in were the treasures.

Phase 3 is the agreement—the covenant—and everything that entails.

LEASED/RENT. When was the last time you rented or leased a home or apartment? You signed a lease agreement to do so, a covenant with the landlord agreeing to terms. When was the last time you bought or built a home? You signed a mortgage loan agreement with terms laid out by the bank.

ARK IS AGREEMENT. The Ark represents the Old Agreement God was making with His people. The Ark also represents the new one we're under now. The agreement must be drawn up and all parties agree before God will move in.

DOWN PAYMENT. Now a down payment must be paid...a security deposit, if you will. Notice that Solomon and his priests sacrificed so many sheep and oxen that they lost count. Remember something very important for today's message and the rest of this sermon series: the only payment God accepts is blood.

Hebrews 9:20-22 (NKJV)

²⁰ saying, "*This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.*"

²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.

²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

ARK BROUGHT IN/CLEANSED. After you and I accepted the terms of the NC and the “Ark” would brought into our “Temple” the entire Temple and all its articles needing to be cleansed with blood...the Blood of Jesus! Then and only then we were forgiven.

Verse 7 of 2 Chronicles 5: then the Ark was brought to the inner sanctum of the Temple: the Holy of Holies where only the High Priest could enter...and where God would live. You and I are God’s Temple and we have different chambers/rooms just like Solomon’s Temple did. The Outer Court, the Inner Court, the Sanctuary, and the HOH. God dwells in the HOH within us which is covered by “the wings of the cherubim.” In other words, it’s a **secret place of the Most High**. It’s the shadow of the Almighty where we can go be covered under the protection of His wing...and it’s right here inside of us, available all the time.

2 Chronicles 5:8-14 (ESV)

⁸ The cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles.

⁹ And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

¹⁰ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

¹¹ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions,

¹² and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters;

¹³ and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever,” the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

¹⁴ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

THE LAW INSIDE ARK. What’s inside the covenant God made with us? The first thing is God’s Moral Law, represented by the two stone tablets Moses brought down from Sinai. The whole reason you and I have a conscience is because God wrote His Law onto the tablets of our hearts:

Romans 2:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

Verses 12-14: While in the midst of praise and worship, God finally moves in...yet this was only part 1 of His move, as strange as this sounds. Let that percolate as we move to chapter 6.

Chapter 6 provides us with the “why” behind 2 Chronicles 7:14—listen carefully to Solomon’s prayer and declaration:

2 Chronicles 6:1-11 (ESV)

- ¹ Then Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.
² But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.”
³ Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood.
⁴ And he said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying,
⁵ ‘Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there, and I chose no man as prince over my people Israel;
⁶ but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’
⁷ Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
⁸ But the LORD said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart.
⁹ Nevertheless, it is not you who shall build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’
¹⁰ Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.
¹¹ And there I have set the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with the people of Israel.”

Verse 1: Up until this moment, God shielded His presence by only appearing behind thick, black clouds. Why? Listen to a famous verse from Exodus in the new light of today’s message and 2 *Chronicles 7:14* and let your spirit receive:

Exodus 33:17-20 (ESV)

- ¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”
¹⁸ Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”
¹⁹ And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on

whom I will show mercy.

²⁰ **But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”**

CONUNDRUM?! We have a major problem: God told Moses that to look upon His unveiled face would be to die...yet in *2 Chronicles 7:14* we are taught to SEEK HIS FACE.

SHIELD US. Now we're back to the verse 1 of *2 Chronicles 6*: God must shield us from His face by dwelling in a thick, black cloud.

Verse 2: does verse 2 solve the problem? Solomon says “but I’ve built You a house” which was the Temple, so that God would no longer have to hide Himself to be among us. Even then, as we just read in chapter 5, the two wings of the cherubim serve the purpose of hiding God from us so that no one sees Him and dies...***so the problem really isn’t solved.***

Verse 5: whatever house God chooses to live in, His Name will be there. Do you know that, at some point, we all receive a new name written on a white stone? (Revelation 2:17). Do you know the white stone is called Urim and was worn by none other than the High Priest who would go alone into the HOH to stand before God? (Exodus 28:30). Written upon the Urim was names of the tribes of Israel which God would see when Aaron entered into His presence, to make atonement for the sins of the nation? God would see their names and “remember” they were in covenant with Him, and forgive their sins.

Connect everything to 2 Chronicles 7:14....

The purpose of God’s House is to bear His Name.

2 Chronicles 6:12-17 (ESV)

¹² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.

¹³ Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven,

¹⁴ and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart,

¹⁵ who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

¹⁶ Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.’

¹⁷ Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David.

Verse 16: The blessings of God over a nation depend on following God, living their lives according to His ways.

Solomon continues in his prayer:

2 Chronicles 6:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ “But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!

¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you,

²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

HEAR FROM HEAVEN. Remember the strange part in *2 Chronicles 7:14* where God says He will “hear from Heaven”? The proper interpretation is that, in Heaven, He will hear our prayers down here on earth. Did you notice that Solomon qualifies these prayers, by saying the people will “pray toward this house”? Much like the Muslims face Mecca when they pray, the people of that day pointed themselves toward the newly built temple when they prayed because the presence of God was there.

Where is God now? He’s in heaven, where else? Inside of us. The NC Church doesn’t need to face east, west, north, or south...nor do we need to look up when we pray. We turn our spiritual faces toward God Who lives here inside of us because we are the Temple of the Lord.

Verse 21: Solomon is talking about ***nationwide prayer***, not just a small prayer group. When all of Israel prays toward the temple and pleads with God to forgive them—because that’s the context—God will hear them from His lofty position in Heaven. Wait...I thought He was there in the Temple?! Why will He be listening from the High Heaven?!

The Temple was the conduit between Heaven and Earth.

DIRECTED AT TEMPLE. They made their prayers here directed toward the earthly presence of God so that the “part” of God in the High Heaven would “hear” them and answer...to forgive their sins. Where is God here on earth?

2 Chronicles 6:22-31 (ESV)

²² “If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house,

²³ then hear from heaven and act and judge your servants, repaying the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

²⁴ “If your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and they turn again and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house,

²⁵ then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to them and to their fathers.

²⁶ “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,

²⁷ then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

²⁸ “If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemies besiege them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is,

²⁹ whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own sorrow and stretching out his hands toward this house,

³⁰ then hear from heaven your dwelling place and forgive and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways, for you, you only, know the hearts of the children of mankind,

³¹ that they may fear you and walk in your ways all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.

Here’s the order of things:

- Individual people sin, repent and plead with God, He hears their prayer, and forgives them.
- The nation sins resulting in foreign invasion, pestilence, plague, famine, natural disasters, etc., they need to repent, pray to God, He hears their prayers, and forgives them.

The purpose of all this is to turn back to God, to fear God, repent, and start walking in His ways.

2 Chronicles 6:32-33 (ESV)

³² “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this house,

³³ hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

GENTILE SEEKING. This isn't referring to immigration, but rather a Gentile seeking God...to be in covenant with Him. Instead of refusing the foreigner, the Israelite is called upon to help and disciple the unbeliever to the Lord.

2 Chronicles 6:34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ "If your people go out to battle against their enemies, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to you toward this city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,
³⁵ then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.

DEFENDING BORDER. Israel was constantly defending its borders against invasion, and the Lord promises them victory...if they walk in His ways.

2 Chronicles 6:36-42 (ESV)

³⁶ "If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to a land far or near,
³⁷ yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,'
³⁸ if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,
³⁹ then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you.
⁴⁰ Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.
⁴¹ "And now arise, O LORD God, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.
⁴² O LORD God, do not turn away the face of your anointed one! Remember your steadfast love for David your servant."

NATION, NOT INDIVIDUALS. The context of these verse is the entire nation, and not individuals. Being attacked and "carried off" as slaves is the whole nation, and their repentance is also the whole nation. **Verse 37:** even in their place of foreign enslavement, if the nation repents and turns from their wicked ways, confessing their sins, God will hear them from His lofty position in Heaven, forgive them, and restore them.

DECLARATION TO ENTER. Chapter 6 ends with a declaration from Solomon for the Lord to FULLY inhabit His earthly Temple...he actually calls it God's RESTING place.

Look at verse 42: God's face is TOWARD Israel.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (ESV)

- ¹ 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."

OFFERING ACCEPTED. An amazing miracle takes place and God FULLY enters into His house and the miracle is important: God accepts the offering which means He's hear their prayers and forgiven their sins. He's acknowledging that their repentance and humility are real, coming from their hearts. The fire represents His wrath receiving blood payment to expend itself.

In **verses 4-10** more animals are sacrificed, a great feast is held lasting days, Solomon sends everyone home, and goes to bed.

2 Chronicles 7:11-18 (ESV)

- 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.
- ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.
- ¹⁷ And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules,
- ¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.'

Verse 12 applied to NC: God heard the prayer of Jesus and chose us—the Church—to be His house...of sacrifice. The sacrifice He's referring to is the same as has been repeated over and over today: repentance from sin and any wicked way.

GOD'S WRATH? Christians contend over whether God sends draught, pestilence, etc. upon the world anymore or whether they're all just a result of the fallen world.

NC IS WITH PEOPLE, NOT NATIONS. Please hear me carefully: God's NC covenant is with people, both individually and the Church as a whole. Our sins have already been forgiven and God does not send calamities on us to punish us...but that's not so with nations. In the Book of Revelation sin and lawlessness increase in the world with the advent of the Antichrist, called the man of sin, destruction, and lawlessness. God pours out His wrath in several forms upon the nations of the world at that point, and it's even referred to as "the wrath of Lamb" Who is Jesus.

The Church is exempt from God's wrath, but nations are not.

THE USA IS NOT THE CHURCH, IT'S A NATION.

COVID? Is Covid 19, the CA wildfires, and the lawlessness within our country a result of God lifting His hand of protection off us?

ANTICHRIST? Why hasn't the Antichrist come yet? The Lord says in Thessalonians that he's being restrained by God Himself from appearing until the appointed time. It goes on to say God will stop restraining which means that the full manifestation of the spirit of Antichrist—spoken by John in his letter—will be set loose from it's shackles. When that happens, chaos, sin, wickedness, and lawlessness will reach unprecedented levels in the world...in the nations.

BEAST AGENDA/LOOSEN RESTRAINTS. In sermon #2 of my Manipulation series, I outlined the agenda of the Beast system and made it clear that the USA has been practicing all these things more and more. I believe that if we continue to do so, God will allow the spirit of antichrist to rear its head more and more...He will loosen its restraints.

AGAIN I BRING YOU BACK TO 2 CHRONICLES WHERE GOD STATES CLEARLY THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIM DOING THIS TO A NATION IS TO BRING IT TO HUMBLE REPENTANCE.

2 Chronicles 7:19-22 (ESV)

¹⁹ "But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,

²⁰ then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

²¹ And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?'

²² Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.'"

WRATH NOT FOR CHURCH, BUT WE LIVE IN NATION. The wrath of God is not meant for the Church because Jesus shed His blood on our behalf, taking God's "fire" upon Himself and giving us grace. Yet we still live in this nation where disease, disasters, and lawlessness is taking place just as there will be Christians living during the Tribulation when God's judgments are poured out.

WE MUST LEAD! We are the Temple of God. We are the High Place that Jesus created to be the guiding Light of this world and the shining city on the hill. We are the ones who need to lead the rest of this nation to God. It's not the President's job, nor that of the military, nor the government who is called by God to Make America Holy Again, it's our calling.

LEAD WAY TO CALVARY. How do we do that? We pick up our crosses and lead the way to Calvary Hill. We're the ones who begin praying, seeking the face of God, humbling ourselves, and turning from any wicked way within ourselves first. We lead the way to Calvary...we don't point the way.

2 REVIVALS IN USA. Two times in American history the church has done this, leading to a nationwide revival that swept people by the hundreds of thousands into God's Kingdom. It's time for it to happen for a 3rd time!

We can seek God's face now and not die, because He dwells in the Secret Place of the Most High which is inside of us. The answer to American problems is us, the Church, humbling ourselves, seeking His face which is turned TOWARD us, repenting of our sins, and pleading with God for revival.