

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Seeking God's Face in Worship

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
September 24, 2023



2 Chronicles 5:13b (NLT) “They raised their voices and praised the LORD with these words: ‘He is good! His faithful love endures forever!’ At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the LORD. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple of God.”

2 Chronicles 7:11-16 (NLT) So Solomon finished the Temple of the Lord, as well as the royal palace. He completed everything he had planned to do in the construction of the Temple and the palace. <sup>12</sup> Then one night the Lord appeared to Solomon and said, “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this Temple as the place for making sacrifices. <sup>13</sup> At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you. <sup>14</sup> Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. <sup>15</sup> My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. <sup>16</sup> For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

1 Peter 2:4-5,9 (NLT) “You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honour. <sup>5</sup> And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God...

for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”

- **God uses delays, difficulties, and dissatisfaction to get our attention.**

<sup>13</sup> At times I might shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or command grasshoppers to devour your crops, or send plagues among you.

## To experience God’s plan for individual, corporate, & national renewal & revival we...

- **Turn from Self-Promotion to God-Promotion.**

<sup>14</sup> Then if my people who are called by my name will **humble themselves...**

- **Turn from Self-Reliance to God-Reliance.**

<sup>14</sup> Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and **pray...**

- **Turn from Self-Centredness to God-Centredness.**

“...and seek my face”

Numbers 6:22-27 (NIV) The Lord said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: <sup>24</sup> “‘“The Lord bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”’ <sup>27</sup> “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

- **Turn from Self-Serving to God-Serving.**

“...and turn from their wicked ways...”

Romans 6:23 (AMP) “For the wages which sin pays is death, but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.”

## When we make these “turns” God promises to bless us lavishly...

- **God will hear and answer our prayers...**

<sup>14</sup> I will hear from heaven... <sup>15</sup> My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. 1 John 5:14-15

- **God will forgive our sins...** <sup>14</sup> and [I] will forgive their sins...

- **God will restore our land...** <sup>14</sup> and [I will] restore their land.

- **God will set us apart for His holy purposes...**

<sup>16</sup> For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honoured forever.

- **God will watch over us.**

<sup>16</sup> I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

**Big Idea: Turn to God and seek His face because He wants to bless you with Life.**

## What specific “turn” do you need to make today?

Matthew 16: 24-26 (MSG) Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

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**Seeking God's Face in Worship**  
**#2 of 4 - September 24, 2023**

- 1) Last week we looked at Revelation 5 and the identity of Jesus as the Lion of Judah and the sacrificial Lamb of God. We learned that Jesus is worthy of all of our worship and devotion. What did you learn and apply this week in regard to this?
- 2) Read 2 Chronicles 7:11-16 . What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passage? What is the major theme in the passage?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us?
- 5) Read 1 Peter 2:4-9. What does this tell us about our identity as the people of God?
- 6) Read Numbers 6:22-27. What does it mean to seek God's face and have God's face small upon us?
- 7) What promise seems most significant to you and why in 2 Chronicles 7:11-16?
- 8) **Application:** What "turn" do you need to make today?
- 9) How is God speaking to you through this message. What steps will you take to seek God's face in worship in greater ways?



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