

IF/WHEN

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever faced a situation where someone told you: "IF you do X, THEN Y will happen? Share!

Q: NOW...have you ever faced a situation where someone told you: "WHEN you do X, then Y will happen"?

Q: What's the difference between the two?

READ: 2 Chronicles 7:11-18 "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.' "

Q: What is significant about verse 12?

Q: What's ominous about verse 13?

Q: What's the condition of verse 14?

Q: What's significant about the phrase "if my people who are called by my name"? Does this mean there's some kind of qualification? Discuss....

Q: What's significant about verses 15?

Q: What has God "chosen" in verse 16? So notice WE have a choice and God has a choice! Discuss "freewill"!

Q: In verses 17-18 we have another "IF/When" statement! Notice now it's reversed! What's the condition and the promise?

Q: How does the influence and example of the parent figure into the blessing of the child/children?

READ: 2 Chronicles 7:19-22 "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.' "

Q: How does this section remind you of the previous section?

Q: What's the warning/issue here?

Q: Do we see "idolatry" manifest in our world/culture/country today? In what ways?

Q: Why is idolatry "less" and ultimately worthy of judgment?

Q: What are the consequences of it?

Q: Do you think God is being "just" in warning us before hand?

Q: Do you see any examples of God's judgment on idolatry around you today?

Q: But wait, didn't Jesus take the punishment/judgment for sin? Why then the judgment still?

POINT: When we reject/separate ourselves with God's means of grace and forgiveness, then there's only one thing left! We have a description of that in these verses.