

Wednesday, January 4, 2023
ROUTE 66
PART 29

To kick off this new year, our Bible study journey takes us to the book of 2 Chronicles. No one knows for sure who authored this book. But we do know that it was written after the Babylonian exile although it traces the history of Israel – primarily the Southern kingdom from David to exile.

God was faithful to Israel. He brought them from slavery in Egypt to their Promised Land. He gave them the Law of Moses to teach them His ways. He raised up the Davidic line – the line of the Messiah – who was responsible for the building of the Temple the center of Israel's worship of God. But as time passed, the Israelites began to fall away from God. The ten northern tribes rejected Davidic rule, fell into idolatry and were carried away into exile by the Assyrians in 722 BC. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin continued to live in the land but eventually their sin caused them to be exiled at the hands of the Babylonians in 586 BC. This historical account is very important to us. If God did not spare His own people (Israel) from judgment – is there any nation on earth whose rebellion will go unpunished? The verse which most clearly describes the actions of Judah is:

[2 Chronicles 36:14-16 \(NIV\)](#)

As you can see, God called to the people through His messengers, but they despised God's word. For our nation, let's hope there is still time to repent. The most famous verse of 2 Chronicles is the one crying to us today:

[2 Chronicles 7:14 \(NIV\)](#)

These words were spoken by Solomon at the dedication of the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. What appears to be a very happy occasion is really the beginning of the demise of God's people as Solomon began a culture of compromise that with few exceptions sealed Israel's fate. The presence of the Temple could not save the people. God was looking to a different temple to reign in – the heart of His people.

[Hebrews 8:8-10 \(NIV\)](#)

The revival of a land begins in God's people.

[1 Peter 4:17 \(NIV\)](#)

Change in a nation begins in the house of the Lord.

Remember what 2 Chronicles 7:14 says? If My people who are called by My name. Who is this scripture talking to? Next – “will humble themselves and pray.” We can humble ourselves before God or be humbled by Him – it is our choice.

Matthew 21:44 (NIV)

We must pray. This is a necessity. It is a key to revival. This is the year of prayer and fasting. Remember the disciples asking Jesus, “Why couldn’t we cast this spirit out?” What was His reply?

Matthew 17:21 (NIV)

Seek My face. This is the year to put fellowship with God at the forefront.

My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “LORD, I am coming.” /// Psalm 27:8 (NLT)

Turn from wicked ways. These are not just sinful ways but complacent ways. Turning from wickedness and turning to God is the evidence of revival. God’s response? He will hear. He will forgive. He will heal.

Personal revival is the beginning of corporate revival.

This is one of our themes for this year.

Today’s Scriptures:

- 2 Chronicles 36:14-16 (NIV)
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)
- Hebrews 8:8-10 (NIV)
- 1 Peter 4:17 (NIV)
- Matthew 21:44 (NIV)
- Matthew 17:21 (NKJV)
- Psalm 27:8 (NLT)