

## **A Nation on the Precipice**

2 Chronicles 7:11-22

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If you love our nation, pray for repentance.

There was a couple recently who traveled to another country. They stood on the precipice of a cliff that had a breathtaking view, so they could take a selfie. They fell to their death. When you stand on a precipice, you are in grave danger. Either you return to safety, or you fall to your demise. That couple did not return to safety.

Our nation is standing on the edge of the precipice. We are in danger of falling to utter ruin. While most people are busy celebrating patriotism on our anniversary of Independence from England, few are consciously aware that we are in danger of losing our nation. There is a widespread effort to undermine our constitutional form of government, for a socialism. Socialism will lead to a single dominant party system in which the State becomes the master, and everyone a slave to the state.

We are in the midst already of civil war, at least a civil war of social values, according to former congressman Alan West. The use of the media and courts to push sexual change upon society that goes against nature and the Bible is part of that picture, along with open immigration which goes against the practice and rules of our nation and all other nations, including the nations of South America. At the same time, the corruption of leaders in the nation on both parties, and the acceptance of such corruption by the media when it helps

them push social change leaves us with a darkness over the land. If God does not come and help us, we are certain to fall into a ruin we cannot recover from.

When we think about revival for the nation we often look at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Let's look at the passage; but let's look at the larger part of the passage. Solomon had just built the temple. He had just dedicated it to God. That night, the Lord comes to him and speaks to him.

### **2 Chronicles:11-22 NIVO**

**<sup>11</sup> When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, <sup>12</sup> the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.**

**<sup>13</sup> "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, <sup>14</sup> 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.**

**<sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. <sup>16</sup> I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.**

**<sup>17</sup> "As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, <sup>18</sup> I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.'**

**<sup>19</sup> "But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, <sup>20</sup> then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.**

**<sup>21</sup> And though this temple is now so imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and say, 'Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' <sup>22</sup> People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them-- that is why he brought all this disaster on them.'** "

### **I. It is foolish to stand on the precipice with indifference.**

The temple of Solomon was one of the great wonders of the world. Here was a temple built of limestone with cedar on its walls, and gold covering the cedar. He made a bronze altar 30 feet wide by 15 feet high. He made a bronze sea 15 feet in diameter and 7.5 feet tall, and a 42 feet circumference. The bowl had a lip like a cup. It was circled on the outside with two rows of oxen or bulls, plus it sat upon twelve bulls in four sets, three facing each direction.

Inside the temple proper, he made 10 gold lampstands, five on each side of the holy place, and 10 tables of showbread, five for each side. With the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies, this was the grandest, most beautiful temple ever made for God.

People from all over the world came to visit Solomon and see this great temple he made for God. Even the Egyptians came to see the wonder.

When Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord, God said it would be a place where God would receive repentance and restoration for his people, Israel. However, they would have to continue to abide in the covenant. If they forsook the covenant, God said He would destroy the nation, and he would destroy this great temple.

Solomon reigned 960 – 922 BC. The temple was destroyed in 587 BC by the Babylonians, and the people hauled off to exile. God has warned the people that if they turned their back on Him he would destroy the nation and the temple. When the people came back from exile they rebuilt the temple, but it was never as glorious as Solomon's temple. Even under King Herod, who made the temple larger, it was never as elegant as Solomon's.

God didn't spare the nation, nor did He spare His temple. The people ignored God's laws and decrees. They served the false gods of other nations, committed immorality and were unloving toward one another, so God allowed them to be destroyed.

It was not an act of God which destroyed the nation. It was God removing His hand of support for them that led to their demise. The people became weak by their own behavior and God allowed the enemies to overcome them.

## **II. Turning away from God leaves the nation with no support in the day of danger.**

If God would not spare His own people when they went astray, do you think He will spare our nation? Our nation is not Israel. God founded Israel on two covenants: The Covenant of Abraham (Gen. 15), and the Covenant of Sinai (Ex. 19). The Covenant of Abraham was unconditional, much like grace for salvation. The Covenant of Sinai (Law) was based on the condition of the people keeping God's laws. There at Sinai, and later in Deuteronomy (the second giving of the Law) prior to entry to the land, God warned the people to keep His laws. If they kept the laws, God would bring blessings. If they forsook the laws, it would bring curses.

In the history of Israel, God was very patient with Israel. During the time of the judges, the people would forsake God and then cry out when they got in trouble. God would send a judge to free them from their oppressors. This happened time and time again. Then the people wanted a king, so God gave them Saul, David and Solomon. Yet, even at the end of Solomon's life, he allowed his foreign wives to lead him astray worshiping foreign idols.

After Solomon, the history of Israel is one of a divided nation, led mostly by kings who kept going astray and worshiping false gods. Immorality became so prevalent that they even had male prostitutes in the temple, along with pagan idols.

God sent prophets to tell the kings to repent, but they and the people refused to listen. God then allowed the Assyrians to destroy Israel to the north. Then later, he allowed the Babylonians to destroy Judah.

It's okay to be on a precipice if you have the proper support. Rock climbers climb the faces of dangerous cliffs. Most of them climb with safety gear, ropes, spikes and safety equipment used to keep them safe. Those who climb up rock walls and rope courses use safety harnesses and ropes to give them support for safety. The support is there for you so you can live another day. Without the support, your life would be in danger of a fall.

The history of Israel is a lesson for us. God has warned all nations that if they forsake Him, they are left in peril. They will face the uncertainties of danger without His hand of protection.

Atheistic socialism has caused great harm in the world. It is believed that social regimes such as the Soviet Union, Communist China, Communist Cambodia have caused the largest death toll of any political party, including Hitler. At the heart of socialism is the idea that the State, not God, is supreme. Religion and individual rights are removed so the people become completely dependent on the State. The state it is hoped will bring on the ideal society. However, the reality is that the people are placed under tyranny. Just look at Venezuela. Yet the media and many wealthy individuals are trying to drive us to a socialistic state under the name of progressivism. Progressivism is a new name for socialism.

We are in a spiritual and cultural war in our nation, to which many seem to be indifferent. At least half of the nation seems to want to go the way of the progressives. We are in danger of standing on the precipice without any life support from God. What alarms me most is the lack of real interest from those who say they believe in the Lord to seek a spiritual response to this social, religious, and moral crisis of our day. We are still doing life as normal.

### III. God is ready to hear, if His people are ready to pray.

**<sup>14</sup> 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.**

We love this great Scripture because it is the promise of God that He will hear our prayers for the nation, if we will pray. God has given us a promise. It is a promise which requires action on our part. We must humble ourselves in repentance from our own personal sin. We must seek God's face and we must pray, if we want to see God bring a return from the precipice for our nation.

In the history of revivals in our nation, most of them have grown out of prayer meetings and prayer movements. Revival meetings have come out of the spiritual awakenings brought about by revival prayer. Yet, revival prayer is not the kind of prayer you pray at the dinner table. Revival prayer is a prolonged prayer activity which takes place over a greater period of time than a single prayer effort. It takes time to draw near to heaven, and for heaven to draw near to earth.

The great revival in the 1850's came out of a series of prayer meetings held at a business in New York City. What eventually became the Youth Revival Movement in Texas began over a course of years of a prayer movement at Baylor campus during WWII. It was a student prayer movement that led to spiritual renewal and salvation for many others as the revival meetings spread.

If you say you are patriotic, that is great. Wave the flag and sing the songs which ask God's blessings on the nation. If you love the

nation, then spend some good time praying for the nation. The greatest need we have is for a spiritual revival in the land which will come only from God above. He alone has the power to shift the hearts of the people from falsehood to truth. He alone can place His Holy Spirit into hearts to lead them back to God. He alone can reveal to them His purpose for the human condition.

God is ready to hear us if we humble ourselves and seek His face in prayer. He has told us He is ready. Are you ready? Are you ready to pray? Are you ready to take more interest in prayer for our nation?

There was a time when I was struggling over my call to ministry. I had finished my second year of college. I was studying engineering. Yet I had at one time committed myself to be a minister. There was a Saturday night that I was out praying on my back porch trying to seek God. I wanted to know if God still wanted me to be a minister. I wasn't getting any answer from God. I asked God to give me a way to know if He still wanted me to be a minister. I said I was willing to do anything He desired if he would just give me a clear indication of what he wanted. That night I humbled myself and surrendered myself to know God's will.

I went inside the house and sat down on the couch. My father was up studying his Sunday School lesson, as he always did on Saturday nights. Sitting next to him, I told him about my struggle. He gave me an answer, which was in my mind God's answer to my prayer. He said, "You mother and I have always believed God has called you to be a minister." I knew immediately that I had God's answer. My heavenly Father heard my prayer, as my earthly father heard my request for clarity. From there, I returned to school and changed my major so I could begin preparation for entering ministry.

God is ready to hear, when we are ready to ask of Him in prayer.

Our nation is on the precipice of great spiritual and moral harm. It is time for God's people to ask in prayer that God would bring revival. The problem is that the kind of praying we must do will require more of us than the nominal praying and Christian service we are used to. God will not allow us to pray for spiritual awakening and be unchanged in ourselves. We will have to submit our lives to God.

God is ready to hear, when we are ready to surrender our lives to do God's will and pray in real prayer for spiritual change.

**Are you ready to pray?**