

2 Chronicles 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.

Analysis

This verse contains one of Scripture's most beloved promises: 'If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.' The four conditions (humble, pray, seek, turn) outline repentance's components. Humbling acknowledges sin's gravity; prayer expresses dependence; seeking God's face prioritizes relationship over benefits; turning from wickedness demonstrates genuine change. God's threefold response (hear, forgive, heal) addresses the spiritual (forgiveness) and physical (healing land) consequences of sin. While contextually about Israel and the land, the principle applies to all covenant people facing judgment.

Historical Context

God spoke this at night following the temple dedication (c. 960 BCE), anticipating future apostasy. This conditional promise governed Israel's history - when they repented, God restored; when they persisted in sin, judgment came. Post-exilic Israel clung to this hope.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Which aspect of repentance - humbling, praying, seeking, or turning - do you most need to practice?
2. How does corporate repentance by 'God's people' differ from individual repentance, and where is it needed today?

Interlinear Text

עַלְיָה מְשֻׁמְדָּרָא אֲשֶׁר עַמְּנָא וְיִכְתָּעֵן
shall humble If my people which are called by my name H5921
H3665 H5971 H834 H7121 H8034

מִדְרָכֵיכֶם וְיִשְׁבְּנָה וְיִבְקַשׁ וְיִתְפְּלַלְוּ
themselves and pray and seek my face and turn ways
H6419 H1245 H6440 H7725 H1870

וְאָסַלְחֵה בְּשָׁמְךָ מִן קָרְבָּעַ יְמִינֵי
from their wicked then will I hear from heaven and will forgive
H7451 H589 H8085 H4480 H8064 H5545

אֶת אֶרְצָם לְמַטְאָת מְ
their sin and will heal their land
H2403 H7495 H853 H776

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 28:13 (Sin): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Jeremiah 33:6 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

Ezekiel 33:11 (Evil): Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

2 Chronicles 6:27 (Sin): Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.

Jeremiah 8:22 (Parallel theme): Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

Isaiah 63:19 (Parallel theme): We are thine: thou never barest rule over them; they were not called by thy name.

Isaiah 59:20 (Sin): And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

2 Chronicles 6:30 (Parallel theme): Then hear thou from heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men:)

Isaiah 45:19 (Parallel theme): I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Acts 9:11 (Prayer): And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,