

HEAL OUR LAND

November 4, 2012 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 by Bob Branch

2 Samuel 21:1, 14

MAIN IDEA: What is happening now in our country (recession, poverty, violence, moral decay, increasing division, greed...) cannot be fixed with an election. Something more than a political solution is needed, and God has given it to us in His Word.

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, 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 I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:13-14**

1. God's **JUSTICE** is still active in this world's realm. (13)

Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me. But Jonah ran away... (whale) ... Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." **Jonah 1:2-3, 3:4**

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. **Isaiah 5:20**

(2 Kings 17:13-20; Ps. 52:3; Jer. 3:2-3; 5:30-31; Mt. 24:11-12; 1 Pet. 3:12)

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. **Judges 21:25** ESV

God's promises that He will be responsive!

This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life. **Psalm 119:50** ESV (Ps. 145:13; 106:12; 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Pet 1:4)

2. God's people's **RESPOND** by seeking Him. (14)

...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways... **2 Chronicles 7:14**

The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust... Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. **Jonah 3:5-6, 8-9** (See also Ahab, 1 Kings 21:17-29)

¹HUMBLE OURSELVES (Micah 6:6-7; Luke 18:13-14)

²PRAY (Matt. 7:7-8; 1 Thes. 5:17; Rom. 12:12)

³SEEK HIS FACE (Micah 3:4; Psalm 27:8; Hos. 5:15; Is. 59:2; Rev. 22:4)

⁴TURN FROM OUR WICKED WAYS (Acts 3:19; 26:20)

...you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. **Exodus 19:6** ESV (Isa 61:6; See 1 Pet. 2:5)

3. God responds to His people's **TURNING**.

...then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7:14**

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. **Jonah 3:10**

Hear us...

Forgive our sin...

Heal our land...