

40 Days of Prayer
Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church
Day 9

Praying For the Healing of America, Pt. 2
2 Chronicles 7:11-14

The worship of the Lord God has always been an international enterprise. God chose Abraham to be the father of the family from which the Messiah would emerge, not only to rule the people of God, but also to serve them by giving his life as the atoning sacrifice for their sins. But who are the people of God?

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Gen 12:1-3 NIV)

The people of God come from every tribe, every tongue, and every nation. All people on earth will be blessed by this descendent of Abraham. God's mission was to the family of Abraham, but equally to all the nations of the earth.

Yesterday, we referred to the prayer of Solomon as he dedicated the Temple. Notice what he prays in 2 Chronicles 6:32-3.

³² "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm--when they come and pray toward this temple, ³³ then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name. (2 Ch. 6:32-33 NIV)

Solomon knew that the Temple was the place where God showed his glory, and it was his glory that would reach out to all the people of the earth. Several generations later, Isaiah declares this same truth.

⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant-- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Isa 56:6-7 NIV)

No wonder Jesus was so incensed when he found the Temple Court of The Gentiles converted into a den of thieves (Mark 11:15-17). This was where the nations were invited to pray and give glory to God.

We are now ready to return to the promise from 2 Chronicles 7. God promised that he would hear the prayers of those who were "his people," those who were "called by his name." (Vs. 14) Certainly, the immediate context is the Israelites who were under the

leadership of the Davidic King, Solomon. But, it likewise includes all of us, who place our faith in the greater Davidic King, Messiah Jesus.

¹⁵ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (Eph. 2:14-16 NIV)

So, is it appropriate for 21ST Century Christians to claim the promise given to Solomon? Are we really God's people, those who are called by his name? Do we have the hope, that if we pray, God will hear from heaven and heal our land? Absolutely. Therefore, let us commence calling on God!!! America, and every nation for that matter, is not too far from God to receive his blessings.

1. Read Psalm 2:1-6. How does God view the cultures of the nations? How should we pray for America? (Notice Vs. 6) Is Jesus Lord of the nations? (See Phil. 2:9-11)
2. Read Proverbs 16:12, 25:4-5. How shall we pray for those in authority in America?
3. Read Proverbs 14:34. What is the attribute of a healthy culture? How does that influence our prayers for America?
4. Read Psalm 9. What indicates that God has the right to judge the nations? (Vs. 4-5, 7-8, 15-16, 19-20) What assurance is there for the people of God? (Vs. 9-10) Pray for God to bless America and use the people of God who live here for his glory.