

“I Will Hear From Heaven”

2 Chronicles 7:12-15

Patriotic Service 2020

During another era when our nation was divided, the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator, said about the Scriptures: “In regard for this Great Book, I have this to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the Good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book.”

Ronald Reagan, our 40th president, said: “Inside the Bible’s pages lie all the answers to all of the problems man has ever known...It is my firm belief that the enduring values presented in its pages have a great meaning for each of us and for our nation. The Bible can touch our hearts, order our minds, and refresh our souls.”

This Fourth of July, we celebrate 244 years of Independence. I am grateful that our Founding Fathers, though not perfect, believed in the God of Israel, and in the Scriptures that He gave through His people. They formed our government on the Judeo-Christian principles of the Bible. Today, in the chaos of the pandemic and racial divide, let us look to God and His Word for help and healing.

After King Solomon dedicated the Temple, the Lord appeared to him, responding to his prayer of dedication. Let us look back at this passage of scripture, and apply what God said to our lives today.

- 1. “I have heard your prayer...” (7:12a). Solomon prayed to God a heartfelt prayer of faith and humility, asking that He would hear their prayers of repentance and restoration. God responded to Solomon’s prayer of dedication and commitment. He said, *“I have heard your prayer...”* He said: *“...I will hear from heaven...”* (v. 14b), and *“My ears attentive to prayer...”* (v. 15b). God hears your prayer when you pray to Him in humility and brokenness. David said, *“I call on You in the day of my distress, for You will answer me”* (Psalm 86:7), and: *“I waited patiently for the Lord, and He turned to me and heard my cry for help”* (Psalm 40:1). Call on God for help—He will hear your prayer, and respond to you where you are.**
- 2. “My people who are called by My name...” (7:14a). Are you God’s child? Are you a follower of Christ? God told Solomon that He would respond to *“My people,”* *“called by My name...”* If God is your Father, and you call to Him, He will hear your prayer. This promise is only for believers; for God’s children who call Him Father. God gives compassion to His children. The psalmist said: *“I encountered trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the Lord: ‘O Lord, save me!’ The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is compassionate”* (Psalm 116:3c-5). God responds to His children.**
- 3. “Humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways...” (7:14b). When you**

humble yourself before God, it means that you know your absolute need for Him and His help. *Pride* says, "I don't need God; I don't need help." *Humility* says: "I need You, God. I need Your help." God told Solomon that if His people would "*humble themselves,*" meaning that they turned to Him in repentance, and pray, seeking His help, He would respond to their prayer. Whatever is going on in your life, humble yourself before your God and Savior, turn away from your sinful actions, and pray to Him, seeking His help. God will respond to you. He loves you, and wants to help you. Paul, quoting from the Book of Joel, said: "*For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*" (Romans 10:13). Don't turn away from God, turn to Him.

4. "*...I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land*" (7:14c). God promises to hear your prayer of repentance and brokenness. He promises to forgive you, and bring healing. Do you need to be forgiven? Do you need healing? Turn to God where you are and as you are, and seek His help and healing. As citizens of the United States, let us turn to God in brokenness and repentance, and seek His help and healing. God's eyes will be on you, and His ears will be attentive to your cry for help. The Apostle Peter said: "*The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and His ears are open to their prayers*" (1 Peter 3:12). Our Founding Fathers prayed to God for help in founding our nation, and

God heard their prayers. He will hear your prayers, too, when you turn to Him in brokenness and repentance. He can heal you and our nation.

As you celebrate our nation's Independence, say a prayer for our nation and our healing. Let no one keep you from turning to God for help and healing personally or nationally.