

~ Our Spiritual Safari spent considerable time and space in verse fourteen of chapter seven in our previous report; and we did that because it is the one verse of Scripture that has been lifted out of context and mistranslated more than any other; and misapplied to situations I am sure it does not fit into in any capacity. If you want to take the five conditions that God gave to Israel and apply them to your life as a believer — okay; but only in light of the New Testament. If you haven't read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so before reading this report. Also, read all three chapters — seven, eight and nine — after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment; and this study will be so much more meaningful to you.

God has promised to hear the prayers of the righteous — and He does hear the prayers of His children in Christ. God has promised to forgive the sins of His people — and He does that today *only* in the Name of Jesus and *only* when we confess our sins. It's a very definite condition. The problem with verse fourteen of chapter seven of second Chronicles is that I cannot find anywhere in the New Testament where God promises to heal a piece of real estate today. If you are a landowner raising cattle or corn, and God has blessed your business, then you can count that as *surplus* — because God didn't promise anything you. We, as the church body, are promised *ONLY* spiritual blessings in this day in which we live.

Interestingly, those who grab verse fourteen of chapter seven in second Chronicles never seem to continue reading the rest of the chapter. I know why they don't read it, too; because verse fifteen gives them some real problems. See, this is the dedication of the temple at Jerusalem and, specifically, verse fourteen was God's answer to the prayer Solomon made. Now, if you really want to take verse fourteen and stand alone with it, then you had better catch the next plane to Jerusalem and, since there is no

temple there anymore, you'll need to get on over to the Mosque of Omar. This verse was never intended to be applied to any land other than Israel; and it does not fit any other time period than the time in which we are studying in this historical period of the nation Israel in this section of Scripture....

VII

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place.

16 For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

17 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments;

18 Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel.

~ See, we are considering a particular geographical place and a particular period of time in this section of Scripture. God loves that physical land, friends. The land and His chosen people are what God is referring to. Remember, God had promised there would never come a time in the line of David in which there was not a ruler of the nation from the family of Jesse. Well, *NO ONE* on earth today could possibly claim to be in the line of David. However, there is one sitting at God's right hand right now from the line of David Who can and does make that claim – and His Name is Jesus Christ....

19 But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

20 Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations.

~ A proverb and a byword is *EXACTLY* what Israel became — and is to this very day. Israel is *NOT* sacred ground; and it definitely isn't some kind of holy land – not by any stretch of an imagination. The Mosque of Omar stands on the Temple Mount because Israel rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as the True and Living God wholesale, friends. Make a note. We are going to need to understand how the nation Israel and how the body of Christ differ; or there is absolutely *NO HOPE* of ever understanding the Word of God. If you stand and look over the temple area today, you see an Islamic building designed for Satanic worship. You must ask yourself why heathenism, paganism and secularism – not to mention war and strife in abundance – permeate the lives of the people in the land.

Well, the thing that has happened in Israel is exactly what God said would happen in verse twenty-two as we continue to read. It simply cannot be made any clearer that Israel has no peace today because they have forsaken the True and Living God — the Lord Jesus Christ. They worship other gods – specifically science and education. Well, if education were the answer to the world's problems, then we wouldn't have any problems! Science isn't the answer because each new scientific discovery only compounds the myriad problems we already have. Anyone who disagrees with that statement is simply not credible; because they say God is a liar....

21 And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house?

22 And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.

VIII

1 And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the house of the LORD, and his own house,

2 That the cities which Hiram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there.

3 And Solomon went to Hamathzobah, and prevailed against it.

4 And he built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the store cities, which he built in Hamath.

5 Also he built Bethhoron the upper, and Bethhoron the nether, fenced cities, with walls, gates, and bars;

~ So, at this time, the temple is complete; and Solomon has become a very ambitious and energetic ruler with a rural development plan. This was an extensive project that occupied more than half of his reign. The books of Chronicles present *God's viewpoint* of this historical period in the nation Israel; whereas, the books of Kings and Samuel were *man's point of view* during this same historical period. So, this section of Scripture contains those things that are important to God. This very brief period of warfare

records the only wars in Solomon's entire rule and reign, by the way. The wars don't seem significant at all....

⁶ And Baalath, and all the store cities that Solomon had, and all the chariot cities, and the cities of the horsemen, and all that Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, and in Lebanon, and throughout all the land of his dominion.

⁷ As for all the people that were left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which were not of Israel,

⁸ But of their children, who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel consumed not, them did Solomon make to pay tribute until this day.

⁹ But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no servants for his work; but they were men of war, and chief of his captains, and captains of his chariots and horsemen.

¹⁰ And these were the chief of King Solomon's officers, even two hundred and fifty, that bare rule over the people.

¹¹ And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come.

~ Apparently, the palace built for the daughter of Pharaoh was somewhat important to the Lord. Interestingly, the interpretation we get from the Israelite today is that Solomon married all of these different women from different countries because a father-in-law isn't apt to attack you. That was one of the ways Solomon brought and maintained peace throughout the

land. We know Solomon was wise in a worldly way – and this certainly seems smart – but it was direct disobedience to God’s commands.

What a tremendous spiritual lesson. We can do things our own way – and they may work out for us on some level – but we remain totally and completely out of the will of God and His laws and precepts, which means we aren’t receiving the best He has for us! I hope everyone who reads this report will think about this long and carefully. This is one reason why the line of Christ did *NOT* come through Solomon – but came through Nathan – David’s other, not very famous, son. What an incredible picture we have here....

12 Then Solomon offered burnt offerings unto the LORD on the altar of the LORD, which he had built before the porch,

13 Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts, three times in the year, even in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles.

14 And he appointed, according to the order of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their charges, to praise and minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required: the porters also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded.

15 And they departed not from the commandment of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures.

16 Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was perfected.

17 Then went Solomon to Eziongeber, and to Eloth, at the sea side in the land of Edom.

18 And Hiram sent him by the hands of his servants ships, and servants that had knowledge of the sea; and they went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and took thence four hundred and fifty talents of gold, and brought them to king Solomon.

IX

1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, with a very great company, and camels that bare spices, and gold in abundance, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

2 And Solomon told her all her questions: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not.

3 And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built,

4 And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her.

5 And she said to the king, It was a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom:

6 Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: for thou exceedest the fame that I heard.

7 Happy are thy men, and happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom.

8 Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, to be king for the LORD thy God: because thy God loved Israel, to establish them for ever, therefore made he thee king over them, to do judgment and justice.

9 And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices great abundance, and precious stones: neither was there any such spice as the queen of Sheba gave king Solomon.

10 And the servants also of Hiram, and the servants of Solomon, which brought gold from Ophir, brought algum trees and precious stones.

11 And the king made of the algum trees terraces to the house of the LORD, and to the king's palace, and harps and psalteries for singers: and there were none such seen before in the land of Judah.

12 And king Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king. So she turned, and went away to her own land, she and her servants.

13 Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and threescore and six talents of gold;

14 Beside that which chapmen and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

15 And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of beaten gold went to one target.

16 And three hundred shields made he of beaten gold: three hundred shekels of gold went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

17 Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

18 And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays:

19 And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom.

20 And all the drinking vessels of king Solomon were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold: none were of silver; it was not any thing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

21 For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

22 And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.

24 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, harness, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

25 And Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen; whom he bestowed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.

26 And he reigned over all the kings from the river even unto the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt.

27 And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the low plains in abundance.

28 And they brought unto Solomon horses out of Egypt, and out of all lands.

29 Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

30 And Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

31 And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

~ We have previously considered many of these accounts from the life of Solomon in the Book of Kings. This is the final chapter concerning King Solomon in the double historical books. The ninth chapter is what God would lift out above everything else: that Solomon succeeded in doing His will as a witness to the entire world. Those of you who know me and who know my situation in life can easily imagine this chapter is *VERY* dear to my heart. Israel becoming a witness to the world was accomplished; but the way Israel was to witness is totally different from the way the church is to witness today. Let's put it like this: Israel faced *IN* – the church faces *OUT*! Israel was to go *up to* Jerusalem and invite the world to go with them. The

church is instructed to begin in Jerusalem and *go out* to the ends of the earth. The church is to take the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ out to the world today. In the day in which we are studying, the only revelation the world could receive from God was in this temple — in Jerusalem.

Israel was to bare witness of the True and Living God to other nations in a world of polytheism – a world of *MANY* gods. The church is to bare witness of a living Savior to individuals in all the nations in a world of atheism – an absolutely godless world. That is one remarkable realization, too, by the way. Israel fulfilled her God-given purpose at this time, to a certain extent; and we have that evidenced by the number of Gentiles who came to Jerusalem to worship and to know God through the service in the temple. The church today is the measuring rod of the number of tribes and nations to whom we carry the Gospel.

The natural inclination of the modern church is to disparage the efforts of Israel while simultaneously magnifying the success of the church. We *CONSTANTLY* hear about the failure of Israel – and they did ultimately fail – but at the same time, a shamefully exaggerated report is typically turned in regarding the success of the church in giving the Gospel away in faraway places. The bottom line is: we're in one awful apostasy today. The days are getting darker, too. Thank God we have a few wonderful churches and pastors left - but there aren't many - and thank God they fully understand the darkness of the hour in which we are living. They are never popular. On the other hand, I know there are myriad peripatetic preachers and many teachers who are sheltered by various institutions who seem to live in a bubble as they view the world through rose colored glasses. What a shame.

Alright, Israel succeeded in a far greater measure than we will likely ever realize. Of course, we today measure their success based on their own final apostasy, which led to the downfall of the nation, and ultimately captivity. However, there was a period of time when they did *not* fail God. Their

witness went forth around a world whose nations were drawn to Jerusalem like a magnet is to steel. What we have just read is the crest, pinnacle and high-water mark all rolled into one of this historical time period for Israel. From here forward in this safari, all we will see is deterioration and decline of honor and respect towards Israel.

Two Scriptural examples – Hiram, King of Tyre and the Queen of Sheba – are but two of many examples of surrounding nations that came to know God at this time. Both made lavish gifts and Hiram furnished most of the material and labor for the construction of the temple. Hiram was a son of Japheth, by the way. The Queen of Sheba was a daughter of Ham, and she came from the ends of the earth to find God. We have now read both of their stories in our Spiritual Safari. We have also seen the Ethiopian Eunuch, who was a son of Ham; and we saw Cornelius, another son of Japheth, in our examination of the Book of Acts where we also met Saul of Tarsus, a son of Shem. With that – all of Noah’s children are accounted for. The preceding account of the Queen of Sheba is given to us to affirm that Israel reached the ends of the earth with their witness for God. Again, I will never be able to express to you dear readers what all that really means to my heart. I suppose it would take a million and a half reports to even begin an explanation.

Solomon told the Queen of Sheba all of her secrets; and the “*ascent*” by which he “*went up*” in verse four was the burnt offerings! As we now know, those burnt offerings speak of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why Israel was successful in witnessing to the world. No other nation had anything even close in comparison of the offering for *S-I-N*! This was as amazing to Sheba as it is to us today, too, by the way. She literally could not believe what she was seeing and hearing. Either way, *BY FAITH* she made that long, arduous trip – and, believe me, it was exactly that. She didn’t jump in her Lear Jet and land in Jerusalem in a few hours. This meant a trip across the burning hot, dry and dusty desert — likely with a duration of several months. Well, Sheba went all the way to learn how to approach the

True and Living God. The wise men never made as great an impression as she made. She was likely from modern day Yemen, and she is called the Queen of the south. She came with an entourage of wealth and great pomp and ceremony; very befitting an oriental monarch. She didn't believe when she left home, but she believed before the end of this account.

So, we conclude this leg of our expedition with Solomon in the grave and the Queen of Sheba praising the True and Living God as the result of what Solomon did during his lifetime! That complete and perfect picture of the Lord Jesus Christ in the burnt offering was the one thing that stuck in her mind. Remember, the Lord Jesus said to the woman at the well, "*...the hour is coming when you will not worship God in this mountain nor in Jerusalem...*" Well, the hour sure did come.

Solomon passed *ALL* the kings of the earth in riches *AND* wisdom. *ALL* the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon. God had personally placed that wisdom in the heart of Solomon, friends – that is *VERY – VERY – VERY* important to understand. Unless God places wisdom in *YOUR* heart, you aren't going to witness to this world – I promise you that. Solomon had a defect in his character with all of those horses and wives, to be sure – and Solomon directly disobeyed the Mosaic Law in that connection – but God used him anyways. God used Solomon because Solomon believed Him! Unfortunately, that disobedience is going to bring about the division of the kingdom. In our next report, we'll see a terrible succession by Rehoboam to the throne; but we'll also see God's emphasis on five great periods of revival in subsequent reports from Chronicles! I hope you can continue to travel along with us in this amazing section of the Word of God ~

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A Proverb and a By-Word >>>
<<< 2 Chronicles 7:15 – 9:31