



Rice Memorial MBC

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Seeking His Face

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 /1913 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **March 25, 2018**

2 Chronicles 7:12-22

Introduction: In this chapter we have God's answer to Solomon's prayer. **I.** His **public answer** by FIRE from heaven, which consumed the sacrifices (2 Chronicles 7:1), with which the priests and people were much affected (2 Chronicles 7:2, 2 Chronicles 7:3). By that token of God's acceptance they were encouraged to continue the solemnities of the feast for fourteen days, and Solomon was encouraged to pursue all his designs for the honour of God (2 Chronicles 7:4-11). **II.** His **private ANSWER** by word of mouth, in a **DREAM** or **VISION** of the **night** (2 Chronicles 7:12-22). Most of these things we had before, 1 Kings 8 and 9.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

2 Chronicles 7:12, And the LORD (Yahweh) **appeared to Solomon by night**, and **said** unto him, **I have heard thy prayer**, and have chosen this place to myself for an **house** of sacrifice.

NOTE: That God accepted Solomon's prayer appeared by the fire from heaven. But a prayer may be accepted and yet NOT answered in the letter of it; and therefore God appeared to him in the night, as he did once before (2 Chronicles 1:7), and after a day of sacrifice too, as then, and gave him a peculiar answer to his prayer. We had the substance of it before, 1 Kings 9:2-9.

I. He promised to own this house for *a house of sacrifice to Israel* and *a house of prayer for all people* (Isaiah 56:7): My name shall be there for ever (2 Chron. 7:12, 2 Chron. 7:16), that is, "There will I make myself known, and there will I be called upon."
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

2 Chronicles 1:7-12, In that **night did God APPEAR unto Solomon**, and said unto him, ASK WHAT I SHALL GIVE THEE. And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. **Give me now WISDOM** and **KNOWLEDGE**, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and **thou hast NOT asked riches, wealth, or honour**, nor the **life** of thine **enemies**, neither yet hast asked **long life**; but hast ASKED wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest **JUDGE MY PEOPLE**, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and **I will give thee RICHES**, and **WEALTH**, and **honour (GLORY)**, such as **none** of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

Thought 1. Under the New Covenant, God and Jesus still appear to people as they see fit.

Acts 18:9-11, Then spake the Lord to **Paul** in **the NIGHT by a vision**, Be NOT afraid, but speak, and hold NOT thy peace: For I AM WITH THEE, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a **year** and **six months**, **TEACHING** the **WORD of God** among them.

2 Chronicles 7:13-15, **IF** I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or **IF** I command the locusts to devour the land, or **IF** I send pestilence among my people; **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. Now **mine eyes** shall be open, and **mine ears** **attent** unto the **prayer** that is made in this place.

NOTE: He promised to answer the prayers of his people that should at any time be made in that place, 2 Chronicles 7:13-15. **National judgments** are here supposed (2 Chron. 7:13), famine, and pestilence, and perhaps war, for by the locusts devouring the land meant enemies as greedy as locusts, and laying all waste. 2. National repentance, prayer, and reformation, are required, 2 Chronicles 7:14. God expects that his people who are called by his name, **IF they** have dishonoured his name by their iniquity, should **honour it** by **accepting** the punishment of their iniquity. They must **be humble themselves** under his hand, must **pray** for the **removal** of the **judgment**, must **SEEK** the **FACE** and **FAVOUR** of God; and yet all this will NOT do **UNLESS** they **TURN FROM their wicked ways**, and **RETURN to the God** from whom they have revolted. 3. National mercy is **THEN PROMISED**, that God will **FORGIVE** their sin, which brought the **judgment** upon them, and then **heal their land**, **redress** (relieve) **all their grievances**.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

Thought 1. In ALL that God said in answer to Solomon's prayer, he was simply saying, "I'll **KEEP** my covenant with **MY PEOPLE**, which are called by name, and NOT break it! Remember, ALL the "JUDGMENTS" about which they spoke were **IN** the Covenant.

Psalms 89:34, My **COVENANT** I will **NOT break**, **NOR** alter the **WORD** that has gone out of my lips.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt **hearken diligently** unto the voice of the **LORD** thy God, to observe and to **DO** all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the **LORD** thy God will set thee **ON HIGH** above all nations of the earth: And all these **blessings** shall **come on** thee, and **overtake** thee..

Deuteronomy 28:15, 25, But it shall come to pass, **IF** thou wilt **NOT hearken** unto the voice of the **LORD** (Yahweh) thy God, to observe to **DO** all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these **curses** shall come upon thee, and **overtake thee...** ...The **LORD** (Yahweh) shall **cause thee to be smitten** before thine **ENEMIES**: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be **REMOVED into all the kingdoms** of the earth.

1 Samuel 7:3-4, And **Samuel** spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, **If ye DO RETURN unto the LORD with all your hearts**, **THEN put away** the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the **LORD**, and **SERVE HIM ONLY**: and **he will deliver you** out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel **DID** put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and **served the LORD only**.

Thought 2. Under the New Covenant with God, John wrote God's **COMMANDMENTS**.

1 John 3:22-23, And whatsoever we **ASK**, we receive of him (*Yahweh*), because we **KEEP** his commandments, and **DO** those things that are pleasing in **HIS** sight. And this is **his COMMANDMENT**, That we should **BELIEVE on the name (authority)** of his son Jesus Christ **AND LOVE** one another, **AS** he gave us commandment.

Thought 3. When we find the scriptures about promises under the New Covenant, under which EVERY Christian lives, there is NO MENTION of “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.”

That PROMISE was under Old Covenant ONLY, FOR Israel with whom he had a Covenant! Christians in the United States and other NATIONS around the world CANNOT claim this blessing because it's NOT a part of the New Covenant. We ARE “a HOLY NATION” who are citizens of Heaven. (Eph. 2:19) So, we are told to “Pray FOR the Leaders of the nations” in which we live on earth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4, I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, **PRAYERS**, intercessions, and giving of **THANKS**, be made for **ALL men; FOR kings** (Presidents), and **for ALL** that are **IN authority**; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is GOOD and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved...

1 Peter 2:9, But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal** (kingly) **priesthood**, an **HOLY NATION**, a **peculiar (purchased) people**; that ye should shew forth the **PRAISES** of HIM who hath called you out of **darkness** into HIS marvellous **light**...

Praises defined 703, manliness (the qualities of a **MAN**) (**valor** [strength of mind in regard to danger; that quality which enables a man to encounter danger with firmness]), **i.e. excellence** (state of possessing GOOD qualities in an eminent [high] degree)).

2 Chronicles 7:16-18, For now have I chosen and sanctified this **house (temple)**, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. 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; **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.

NOTE: If he hoped for the benefit of **God's covenant** with **David**, he must **IMITATE** the example of David.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)

2 Chronicles 7:19-22, 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**; **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**.

And this **house (temple)** 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? 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**.

NOTE: But he **SET** before him **DEATH** as well as **LIFE**, the **curse** as well as the **blessing**.

1. He supposed it possible that though they had this temple built to the honour of God, yet they might be drawn aside to worship other gods, 2 Chronicles 7:19. He knew their proneness to backslide into that SIN. 2. He threatened it as certain that, **IF they did so, it would certainly be** the **RUIN** of **BOTH church** (religious order) and **state** (NATION).

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/2-chronicles-7.html>)