



# If My People Will

## 2 Chronicles 7:11-16

<sup>11</sup> When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace, <sup>12</sup> the LORD appeared to him at night and said: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. <sup>13</sup> "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, <sup>14</sup> 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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. <sup>16</sup> I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

## Lesson 4: Turn from their Wicked Ways

### Review those wicked ways

#### ▼ Insolent idolatry

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

#### ▼ Intentional insubordination

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

#### ▼ Increasing indifference

Revelation 2:21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

#### ▼ Impending implosion

Proverbs 29:1 A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.

### Recognize the results of those wicked ways

#### ▼ Blindness and bondage — remember Samson's haircut

Judges 16:21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison.

#### ▼ Division and dysfunction — remember David's adultery

2 Samuel 12:11 "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you.'

#### ▼ Vulnerability and violability — remember Achan's thievery

Joshua 7:11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. <sup>12</sup> That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction.

#### ▼ Shortage and suffering — remember 2 Chronicles 7:13

2 Chronicles 7:13 "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,

#### ▼ Excommunication and expulsion — remember the wicked man at Corinth

1 Corinthians 5:4 When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present, <sup>5</sup> hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord.

#### ▼ Worse than they were — listen to Peter's verdict

2 Peter 2:19 they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. <sup>20</sup> If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. <sup>21</sup> It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. <sup>22</sup> Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and, "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

#### ▼ Hell on the horizon — hear the warning from Hebrews

Hebrews 10:26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, <sup>27</sup> but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

### Repent from those wicked ways

#### ▼ Recognition isn't enough

Exodus 9:27 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he said to them.

Numbers 22:34 Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned.

Joshua 7:20 Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel.

1 Samuel 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned.

Matthew 27:4 "I have sinned," Judas said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

#### ▼ Repentance is essential

Ezekiel 14:6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!'

#### ▼ Return is embraced

Nehemiah 1:8 "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, <sup>9</sup> but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

#### ▼ Restoration is employed

2 Chronicles 7:14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Luke 15:22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.