

Christian Seeking Identity

A Ministry of Alpha & Omega International Ministries

April 2020

Greetings Family & Friends,

As we look around us, we see the pandemic state that the entire world is in. Fear lies lurking at our doorsteps. We have historically approached trying times like this with a familiar scripture from 2 Chronicles: If my people, which are called by my name....

In this month's newsletter Suzan shares an interesting take on what God is really calling His people to do.

We trust that it will be an inspiration and a blessing to you for your everyday walk with the Lord.

We want you to know that we are praying Psalms 91 over you and your families. We love and appreciate each and every one of you.

God Bless you!

Your friends.

Mickey & Suzan



Let God Be God

Last year (2019) as I was going for a walk, I began to think about all of the things that I had been listening to on the news and it was very disheartening. I began to think about the ever-increasing division between Christians and non-Christians and the widening gap between the philosophies on the right and the left! I began to imagine what the future was going to be like for my grandchildren, and it was grim to say the least. I began to think about the upcoming 2020 election in the United States; how ugly it was going to be and I found myself saying, 2020 is going to be a terrible year and I am not looking forward to it. Then I heard the voice of the Spirit say, '2020 is going to be a great

year because my church is going to come to the end of itself!' No longer will my people be able to depend upon their wisdom. They will find out that they can't approach the world the way that they have in the past because it is not going to produce the result that they have been looking for.

Wow! I did not know the half of it! What a disrupting year this is turning out to be when we add the corona virus to the mix! What are we to do?

"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." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

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We have quoted this verse for years, especially in times of trouble. We tend to interpret it with the ten commandments in mind; what have we done wrong, what is everyone else doing wrong, and how do we fix it! I don't think that this is what God was trying to address even in the days of Moses when those commandments were first given to the people. The real problem was they didn't trust God's ways. When things got tough, they blamed God and Moses and they took things into their own hands and created a golden calf! If you go back a chapter (2 Chronicles 6) and put this verse into the context of where it was written, you will find that King Solomon had just completed the temple and was dedicating it to God. His dedication was all centered around the covenant that God had made with Moses during the Exodus when Moses had a face to face conversation with God.

Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation *is* thy people. And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and I will give thee rest. And he said unto him, If thy presence go not *with me*, carry us not up hence. For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? *is it* not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that *are* upon the face of the earth. (Exodus 33:13-16)

Solomon had his own conversation with God that was much like the conversation that Moses had. He said, I have built this house for you to dwell in as per your instructions and I have placed the arc of the covenant in the midst of it. Now I need to be assured that your presence will take up residence there. How else will the people of this nation respect you, or how will strangers know that you are our God. Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for; that all people of the earth may know thy name, and fear thee, as doth thy people Israel, and may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name. (2 Chronicles 6:33)

Solomon presented God with a series of possible situations that the people might need help with: If we sin against you, if we are overtaken by our enemies, if a famine comes our way, if a plague comes upon us; if any of these things happen and we confess your name (if we look to you for the answer) will you hear our prayer and have mercy on us? Will you give us rest? Arise into your resting place. Can the people rejoice in your salvation and goodness? 2 Chronicles 6:41

When Solomon finished his conversation with God, the glory of the Lord filled the temple and the people worshipped God saying God is good and His mercy endures forever. 2 Chronicles 7:1-3)

God responded to Solomon's questions by saying, I will do exactly as you asked: If my people will seek my face, and turn from the works of their own hands, I will heal their land.

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer *that is made* in this place. 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. (2 Chronicles 7:15-16)

God no longer dwells in a temple made with hands. He dwells in our hearts and he made a perpetual promise to be there for us when we call on him. His presence goes with us. Our temple is filled with His glory and His name and mercy will manifest itself to the world through us when we confess His name; when we look to Him for deliverance in the midst of what is going on in this world, including the plague which has come upon us.

He knows we are weak. He knows we need help. He knows the world needs help. God simply wants us to let Him be God to us!