

"MY PEOPLE"

By: PHILLIP HAYES

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"

[2Chronicles 7:14].

With all that is going on in our nation and throughout the world, you have probably heard verse fourteen quoted many times over.

At the time of this writing we are in a pandemic. Coronavirus 19 has the world in a grip of death. Our nation, as well as most nations of the world are almost completely shut down. The economies of the world have crashed to the lowest point ever. Most businesses are closed. Food is beginning to be in short supply. Restaurants are only open for carry out service. Churches are closed and millions of people are sitting at home pondering when (or if) they will be able to go back to work. People are beginning to be desperate! People are praying.

All over the world people are praying. We hear people that never mention God now asking for prayer. From Hollywood actors and actresses to sports figures the call for prayer is on their lips.

We have seen this before but not on this scale. During "Desert Storm" churches filled up with people because they feared the end time was upon them. Terrible storms and earthquakes bring people to their knees that have been effected by them. They weep, they pray for deliverance; then when deliverance is granted, what do they do? Usually they return to their wicked sinful ways!

I want you to take a close look at our scripture that is quoted often in troubled times. Look at how it begins. This is God speaking and He starts by saying, "If my people"! If My people! Beloved, there is a difference between God's people and the people of the world! God is not asking people that are not His to pray, He is asking His people to pray.

His people are called by His name. They are called Christians because they are supposed to be Christ like! He is asking them to humble themselves and then pray. The word humble means to, *bend the knee; to bring down, into subjection*. God is saying, rid yourself of pride; get on your knees, humble yourself before me!

But there is another command God is making. He is commanding His people to turn from their wicked ways!

Yes. People are praying! I see them on the internet all over the world crying out to God. Our President and our Governors are asking people to pray. However, I never heard the rest of the command God has given, "*Turn from your wicked ways*".

The people of the world need God, but this verse of scripture is for God's people. I am not saying God doesn't hear the prayers of worldly sinners that have no relationship with God. He does, if their prayers are filled with sorrowful repentance. But God is not mocked or fooled by people who pray for deliverance insincerely.

Sin will always separate you from God! Isaiah the prophet said, "*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear*" [Isaiah 59:2]. "The prophet Jeremiah said, "*Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you*" [Jeremiah 5:25].

God has made a clear difference in His people and the

people of the world! There are 291 times in the Bible God said, "MY PEOPLE"!

In the beginning God divided the darkness from the light. The apostles warned in their writings that light has no fellowship with darkness. John said, *"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth"* [1John 1:5-6]. Paul warned the Corinthian church, *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"* [2Corinthians 6:14].

Paul commands the church to be a separated people! *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"* [2Corinthians 6:17-18].

Peter called God's people out by saying, *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light"* [1Peter 2:9]. The very word "church" is defined as the *called out!*

We are "called out" of darkness and commanded to walk in the light. Darkness is sin! God is calling His people to separate themselves from sin and be the people of Light that He has ordained us to be.

Second Corinthians 6:16 says, *"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

Second Chronicles 7:14 is talking to God's people, not

the people of the world! God is looking to His people to make up the hedge and stand in the gap! Abraham, Moses and Daniel were great men of God. Their greatness could be applauded in many ways but there is one thing they had in common that I admired. They all stood between God and the people and asked God to spare them. Abraham asked God to spare Lot from the destruction of Sodom. Moses asked God to spare the people when God would have destroyed them all. Daniel prayed diligently for God to forgive the people of their sins. These holy men loved God and they loved God's people. God wants His people to pray!

I believe God's people are the intercessors the world needs! But to be effective we have to obey all of 2Chronicles 7:14. We must turn from sin!

Look at these two verses. *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" [1Peter 4:18].*

I think most of you reading this article understand there is a Judgment coming. *"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" [Romans 14:10].* And there will be an accounting of how we lived our lives! *"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" [Romans 14:12].*

Judgment begins with God's people. What will you say? What account will you give? Don't wait until the judgment to turn from sin my friend! It will be too late! Today is the day of salvation. Now is the appointed time! *"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" [2Corinthians 6:2].*

I'm writing this message to God's people for I know they will understand what I am saying. Jesus said, *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me"* [John 10:27]. You know Him and He knows you! He knows all about you! Everything!

It's time to take inventory folks! What does God think about you? Is He pleased with you? Where do you stand with the Lord? I believe it is time we ask the Holy Spirit to search our hearts. *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"* [Psalms 139:23-24].

Yes, people are praying but are they searching and questioning if God is pleased with them. Are they turning from their wicked ways? Are they coming out of darkness?

God is crying out to His people! He is saying, "My people, hear my voice!"

He called His people out of Egypt by the hand of Moses who cried before Pharaoh, "Let My People Go"!

God always made a difference between His people and the people of the world. In the book of Revelation, the seventh chapter, we find the seal of God being administered to the servants of God. They were sealed in their foreheads. This seal was the seal of divine protection!

We also find God commanding His people to come out of Babylon which most people agree is false religion. *"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues"* [Revelation 18:4].

Here again, it is "My People" God is speaking to. God is speaking to our generation and He is saying to His people, "Come Out"! Come out of sin! Come out of false worship!

The Bible speaks of a time when many will be tried in the fire. When one searches what will happen in the end

time before Jesus returns they find persecution and trouble such as the world has never seen. Jesus described the time before He returned as so horrible that no flesh would be saved if the days were not shortened.

Are we now approaching this horrible time of tribulation and the rise of the Antichrist? I believe so. No one knows the day nor the hour but God has been gracious to give us many signs so we would be prepared.

Are we witnessing one of the signs that God is given? Is this plague from God? Is God saying, "Wake up My people and seek My Face?"

There should be no doubt, the Coronavirus pandemic is certainly getting the attention of multiplied millions of people on planet earth.

I believe what is happening now is a "wake up call from God". A time to search and consider our ways. A time to repent and make things right with a Holy God.

"And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God" [Zechariah 13:9].

Perhaps the fire has just begun? If this is the beginning of the end of days, I can guarantee you the fire that's coming will be seven times hotter than what we have experienced. The hour of His judgment may be upon us!

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" [Revelation 14:6-7].

Prepare To Meet Thy God!