

Adult Christian LIFE

- Unit I– God's Promises
- Unit II– God's Call and Its Responsibilities
- Unit III– Called from the Margins of Society

1Q23 (JAN–MARCH)

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GOD'S PROMISES

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Adult Christian LIFE

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INSIDE

ADULT CHRISTIAN LIFE

The *Adult Christian Life* quarterly has many features that appeal to adult students.

Printed Scripture Passage: The *King James Version* and the *New Revised Standard Version* are listed side by side so learners can compare traditional and contemporary translations of God's Word. The main thought verse is highlighted in bold text.

Suggested Opening Exercises: This feature, standard to all R.H. Boyd Publishing Corporation Sunday school quarterlies, remains popular among learners and leaders alike.

Quarterly Overview: This gives a general description of the lessons to be studied during the quarter.

Know It: Contextualizes the lesson and expands on its truths to stimulate additional questions, interest, or action on the part of the learners.

Remember It: Summary section that emphasizes the most relevant points of the lesson and highlights how the lesson applies to learners.

Hear It: An opportunity to listen to the relevant message of the lesson through music.

Live It: Suggestions for learners to take specific action to make the lesson a personal opportunity for spiritual enlightenment.

Share It: Suggestions for learners to spread the Bible truth learned through various mediums, such as social media or one-on-one talks.

Daily Devotional Readings: Daily Bible readings to prepare learners for the Sunday lesson experience.

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1. **Usual Signal for Beginning**
2. **Prayer (Closing with the Lord's Prayer)**
3. **Singing (Song To Be Selected)**
4. **Scripture Reading:**
Psalm 1 (KJV)

Director: Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

School: But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Director: And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

School: The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Director: Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

All: For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Recitation in Concert:

John 3:1–8 (KJV)

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he

enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

CLOSING WORK

1. Singing

2. Sentences:

Acts 1:4–8 (KJV)

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

3. Dismissal with Prayer

PROMISES AND CONSEQUENCES

BACKGROUND PASSAGE: 2 CHRONICLES 7:1–22

PRINT PASSAGE: 2 CHRONICLES 7:12–22

RESOURCES: *New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition*,
Boyd's Commentary for the Sunday School

KEY VERSE: 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, KJV

Intro

COVID-19 has really changed the way we look at life and how our life is governed. Especially with the number of cases and death steadily rising, many filing for unemployment, and family structure and socialization interrupted—folks are really scared. Just what are we to do and how are we to do it? What is the role of the Church and believers amidst these times? You often hear people say that “we are praying,” but just how much do we believe in the power of prayer and the One to whom we are praying? Frankin Segler says that “Prayer is the ‘Soul of Worship.’”

Prayer is communication between God and His people; which may be one of the reasons James 5:16 states, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.”

Are we really praying and trusting in our hearts what we are saying and Who we are praying to? James 4:2 says that we have not because we ask not. Are we really praying and trusting? This is a great question, in light of the fact that we are “right smack” in the middle of this pandemic, with political divide and national unrest. According to our lesson today, God promises that if His leader(s) would be faithful, it really does not matter the extent of the calamities or chaos His people are facing. Just as He promised King Solomon, He will deliver us if we are faithful to Him and His Word. But if we are disobedient, then we will face utter destruction as God unleashes His divine judgment upon His own.

Think About It

God appeared to Solomon after he had raised a prayer to the Almighty. Has God ever come to you as an answer to one of your prayers?

1. The LORD Promises Deliverance (2 Chronicles 7:12–16)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

AND the LORD 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.

13 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;

14 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.

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent 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.

THEN the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.

13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,

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

15 Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

16 For now I have chosen and consecrated this house so that my name may be there forever; my eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

Know It

This is the first of five lessons from our unit, "God's Promises," and the only one from the book of 2 Chronicles. The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles have been titled, "The missing events." The author writes this book in order that the Israelites may reflect, recall, and remember who they are as a people. This lesson gives us four prerequisites if we desire that God hears our prayer, forgives us of our sins, and heals our land. If God's people will do these four things, then God will do His three, and we will once again be on good terms with God. If we call upon the Lord with a humble and sincere heart, voice our concerns with fervent prayers, God will hear us and deliver us.

Verse 12 is a part of God's response to Solomon and the people's effort; the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said, "I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice." It is a blessing to know that the Lord's presence is with you and that He has heard your prayers of supplication. This text says that when we make proper preparation, pray, and praise the Lord with consistency, God shows up with His presence as our holy God.

NOTES:

God told Solomon, here are the first prerequisites if you want your prayer to be heard and your land healed. The requirement for a healed land rests on God’s people acknowledging God as their Lord, resigning to be humble, therefore praying and vowing to turn from their present ways of wickedness. The next requirement is that God’s people humble ourselves to the right perspective of self and God. The word *humble* means having a low and modest estimate of one’s self, especially in relation to the Lord.

We are to seek the Lord for His provisions, for His protection, and for the presence of His Spirit in our life. This is why the Lord says, “Seek my Face.” And finally, the Lord says, turn from your wicked ways. There must be a complete 180 degree turn to repent from those morally bad practices and principles and your mischievous ways.

Finally, the Lord tells them that He will be personally attentive to their needs. What a blessing it is to know that the One who created and controls the entire world has agreed to give His total attention to the needs of His people.

2. The LORD Promises Success (2 Chronicles 7:17–18)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

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.

AS for you, if you walk before me, as your father David walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my ordinances,

18 then I will establish your royal throne, as I made covenant with your father David saying, ‘You shall never lack a successor to rule over Israel.’

Walking in faithful obedience with the Lord with a heart that desires to be truthful to Him and His Word guarantees us God’s divine and favorable presence. This is found in Solomon’s first petition and dedicatory prayer found in 2 Chronicles 6:15–17. It must be a welcome feeling to know that your father (David), despite his mistakes, found favor with God. Especially, when God outlines the requirements in verses 17 and 18. “Walk” speaks to a way of life, a desire to live each day in accordance with God’s personal commands for your life. It entails keeping God’s statutes and judgments.

If by chance, Solomon has the desire to attend to God’s demand, then the Lord promises Solomon that there will never be a time when someone from His

lineage will not sit on the throne of Israel. Verse 18 states, “Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom.” I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with David your father. There may be some question as to the validity of this promise. After Solomon died, the kingdom was divided between the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, was destroyed by the Sennacherib and the Assyrians in 722 BC and the Southern Kingdom fell to Babylon in 587 BC. Even still, throughout the history of the Southern Kingdom all of the kings were of Davidic lineage. Furthermore, God kept His promise because Jesus Christ is a part of David and Solomon’s lineage. This is the fulfillment of the “Davidic Covenant.”

3. The LORD Promises Destruction (2 Chronicles 7:19–22)

King James Version

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.

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.

New Revised Standard Version

“BUT if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,

20 then I will pluck you up from the land that I have given you; and this house, which I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

21 And regarding this house, now exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished, and say, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this land and to this house?’

22 Then they will say, ‘Because they abandoned the LORD the God of their ancestors who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they adopted other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore he has brought all this calamity upon them.’”

NOTES:

Just as we can rely on God's faithfulness and blessings when we are obedient to His Word, we can also be assured of God's righteous judgment and punishment when we are disobedient. We hope that it will be tendered with God's compassion and mercy in such a way we do not become a visible disgrace and embarrassment for the world to see. Thus far, God has responded to Solomon's dedicatory prayer by promising to deliver them from any form of pandemic or disease; He has promised to heal their land if they would submit to God, and finally, the Lord has promised Solomon that if he is faithful as his father David, God would have someone to remain on Israel/Judah's royal throne.

Verse 19 begins with a "but if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands" (NIV), and go off and serve other gods, and worship them, then God's promise is to "uproot Israel from my land." To turn away from God speaks of God's leaders and Israel's denouncement of God's law in a careless and unconcerned manner. It would lead to the nation being "utterly" uprooted, removed from their present land, and their temple would be destroyed.

God reminds Solomon that just as He has the power to control nature, calamities, and foreign rulers, God has both the power and authority to unload havoc on His people. Words like "uproot," "pluck," and "cast out" are not pleasant acts, showing God's love; instead, they are words that remind Israel of God's disgust and displeasure with His people. It is noteworthy that just because there is a turning away and a forsaking on Israel's part does not mean that God's covenant agreement with David and his lineage is null and void. God remains faithful, even when we are not.

Verse 20 speaks to the insult and slander of the surrounding nation because of Israel's unfaithfulness. Literally, as the NIV remarks, you and your nation will be "ridicule among all peoples." The response of the surrounding nation will say, "because they have forsaken the Lord... who brought them out of Egypt." This suggests that God's action taken against Israel is just. In a way, you might say, "Israel brought this on themselves." This is a lesson in life for every believer. We must be grateful to God for all of His manifold blessings. We show our appreciation not just by the words we say, the songs we sing, the lessons we teach, or the sermons we preach; it is through our actions and obedience we show the Lord the degree of our love for Him.

Remember It

This lesson reminds us of the awesome power of God, and the care, and concern God has for His people. It also says that we must not take that love and care for granted and forsake God by placing something or someone else before Him. The Scriptures remind us that our God is a jealous God, and He does not take it lightly when we seek others more than we seek Him. To seek the LORD for His presence, for His provisions, for His protection, and for the presence of His Spirit in our lives should be our daily tasks.



Share It • Live It • Hear It

As you read this lesson, think about the song, “Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary.” What can you do this week to let the Lord know that you are grateful for Him leading you?



As you go through this week, think about what it would mean for you to have power and to have your land healed; then meditate on 2 Chronicles 7:14. If the people who the Lord has made a covenant with will humble themselves, then we can expect God to not only heal our land, but we can be blessed beyond measure. This axiom is valid for any nation, community, church, or family.



This word *seek* has the sense of one who is searching; not just searching, but they are searching for something or someone because their life depends on it. Jesus says in Luke 19:10, that He came to seek and to save those who are lost. In a similar manner, we should search out God because we are lost, and we need His help daily. We must rely on God to see us through, as our present help in times of trouble.

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Devotional Readings for January 2–8, 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
God Will Make a Way	Dry Bones Shall Live	Israel Will Be God's People	God's Restoring Love	Stand Firm in the Spirit	The Lord Is a Faithful Protector	God Restores God's People
Isaiah 43:14–28	Ezekiel 37:1–14	Ezekiel 37:15–28	Hosea 11	2 Thessalonians 2:3–15	2 Thessalonians 3:1–5, 13–17	Isaiah 43:1–13



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