

**Text: II Chronicles 6-7**

**Title: “Heal this Land”**

**ILLUSTRATION** – I don’t agree with Jay Leno on hardly anything, but it did say something earlier this year that I thought was insightful. He said that 2005 was a year in which nature demonstrated its fury. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and thunderstorms tore their way across the country from one end to the other. In the midst of that turbulence, Jay Leno asked: "Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

**Psalms 117:1-2 - Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. 2 For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD.**

**Proverbs 14:34 - Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.**

**Psalms 66:7 - He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations— let not the rebellious rise up against him. *Selah***

**“PRAYER OF GRATITUDE”**

**ILLUSTRATION** – I recently read the report of something that happened in China earlier this year. Chinese officials from the Public Security Bureau burst into a Sunday school room at a local church. They found 30 children inside and herded them into a van. Despite the scary situation, one child started to sing. In a few moments, the van was filled with song.

Upon arrival at the police station, the children marched bravely into the interrogation room, still singing to the Lord. The Chinese officers attempted to force the children to write, "I do not believe in Jesus," telling them that they had to write it 100 times before they would be released. Instead of obeying, the children wrote: "I believe in Jesus today. I will believe in Jesus tomorrow. I will believe in Jesus forever!"

Exasperated, the officials called the children's parents, some of whom did deny Christ. However, one widowed believer absolutely refused to deny Jesus when she came to pick up her twin sons. The officers threatened her, saying, "If you do not deny Jesus, we will not release your sons." The widow replied, "Well, I guess you will just have to keep them, because without Jesus, there would be no way for me to take care of them!" With no avenues left open to them, the officials said, "Take your sons and go!"

**“PRAYER FOR NATIONAL LEADERS”**

**“PRAYER FOR ARMED FORCES”**

**ILLUSTRATION** - Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, "The Rest of the Story," and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our

values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free Amen!"

I was startled as Dr. Charles Ryrie was talking about the end time matters and that there is apparently nothing of the US in the picture. Why? Have we been destroyed already, or have we self-destructed by that time?

**II Chronicles 6:12 NIV**

**II Chronicles 6:14 NIV**

**II Chronicles 6:21 NIV**

Note: We no longer pray "toward" this temple. As NT believers, we pray "from" this temple, because we have become the temple of God. God's presence in the OT was represented by the temple, though no building could ever contain Him. But today, the presence of God is real in His people, the Church, individually and corporately.

God takes it seriously when we pray. How often do we not pray because we're not really convinced that it would do any good? As a matter of fact, that is the real reason we don't pray more than we do. If we really believe that God moves and God answers in response to His people's prayer, why would we miss the opportunity?

In II Chron.6 Solomon goes on in his prayer from this point to ask God to intervene in some very specific situations:

- vv.22-23 – When His people seek justice and come to God ... bring justice.
- vv.24-25 – When His people have been defeated by their enemies because they have sinned, and repent ... forgive and restore them to the land.
- vv.26-27 – When there has been a severe drought because of sin, and they repent and pray ... forgive and bring rain.
- vv.28-31 – When there is famine or disease or any other kind of disaster, and the people pray out of their affliction ... forgive.
- vv.32-33 – Even when a foreigner (a non-Jew) comes and prays ... hear their prayer so that all the nations of the world will know and fear you.
- vv.34-35 – When the nation goes to war, and they pray ... uphold their cause.
- vv.36-39 – When the people sin, and are carried off in captivity, and then repent and turn back ... hear their prayer, uphold their cause and forgive their sin.

**And so we come to II Chronicles 7:13-15.** These well-known words are really an answer to prayer.

**“PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL HEALING”**