

*“Biblical Response to a National Emergency”*

**2 Chronicles 7:11-14**

## **Numbers 11:33**

While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very severe plague.

## **Numbers 14:36,37**

As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land, even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the Lord.

## **2 Chronicles 7:14**

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

Then the Lord appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or *if I send pestilence among My people*, Vs. 14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

# I. Four-fold Response

## *A. Humble Themselves*

## **Micah 6:8**

He has told you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the Lord require of you  
But to do justice, to love kindness,  
And to walk humbly with your God?

## **Psalm 39:4,10,11**

LORD, make me to know my end  
And what is the extent of my days;  
Let me know how transient I am.

Remove Your plague from me;  
Because of the opposition of Your hand I am  
perishing.

With reproofs You chasten a man for iniquity;  
You consume as a moth what is precious to him;  
Surely every man is a mere breath.

“honestly assessing ourselves in light of God’s holiness and our sinfulness.” - C.J. Mahaney

“That’s the twin reality that all genuine humility is rooted in: God’s holiness and our sinfulness,”

“Without an honest awareness of both these realities . . . all self-evaluation will be skewed and we’ll fail to either understand or practice true humility.”

*"They that know God will be humble, and they that know themselves cannot be proud."*

*-John Flavel*

## Psalm 2:2,3

The kings of the earth take their stand  
And the rulers take counsel together  
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,  
“Let us tear their fetters apart  
And cast away their cords from us!”

*He who sits in the heavens laughs,  
The Lord scoffs at them.*

# I. Four-fold Response

*A. Humble Themselves*

*B. Pray*

## **2 Kings 21:2**

He did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord dispossessed before the sons of Israel.

## **2 Chronicles 33:12-13**

When he was in distress, he entreated the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. When he prayed to Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

# I. Four-fold Response

*A. Humble Themselves*

*B. Pray*

*C. Seek My Face*

*D. Turn From Wicked Ways*

## Deuteronomy 6:10-12

“Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, then watch yourself, *that you do not forget the Lord* who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

## **Isaiah 5:20**

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;  
Who substitute darkness for light and light for  
darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and  
sweet for bitter!

## **Jeremiah 5:9**

Shall I not punish these people,” declares the Lord, “And on a nation such as this Shall I not avenge Myself?”

## Jonah 3:5-9

Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes. He issued a proclamation and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.”

## Nehemiah 1:4-7

When I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. I said, “I beseech You, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, *confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father’s house have sinned.* We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

## **National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer**

"Whereas, the Senate of the United States devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation; and

Whereas, it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history:

that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord;

And, insomuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisement in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request and fully concurring in the view of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30TH DAY OF APRIL, 1863, as a Day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

