

II Chronicles 7:11-16 (NIV) ¹¹When Solomon had finished the temple of the LORD and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the LORD and in his own palace,

¹²the LORD appeared to him at night and said: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. ¹³“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name, will 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. ¹⁵Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. ¹⁶I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.

The concept of the Lord’s temple certainly has changed with the advent of the new covenant. It is we in whom God’s Spirit lives now. The Lord is not so much spatially with us, but spiritually in us.

I quit years ago trying to do God’s work by suggesting who might be in and who might be out. The Church, I am sure, is larger than most of us would admit. If **verse 14** is going to come true for us as Americans, we have responsibilities as God’s people. Allow me to pray for all our churches.

Father, Help us to humble *ourselves*. Guard us against thinking too highly of ourselves. May we, the churches who identify with your Name, start to be like Jesus who humbled himself and became a servant for the good and love of others.

Lord, may we come to you in prayer, not just at special times, but in every conscious moment, to enlist your help for the many things we cannot do. May we be always seeking your presence to direct our steps and strengthen our walk.

Most of all, Lord, forgive us our sins, and help us to be more like You. America has problems in part because many of America’s churches are dysfunctional. I pray that our witnesses might be united and one with your will. Help us to understand who the true enemy of a righteous land is. We need to quit blaming the devil and start taking responsibility for our own shortcomings. Our problems are not just the fault of others. Help those of us who know You to work together entirely for Your glory. May we be a moral and ethical people. And when our country improves as a result of our mutual commitment, may You receive all praise and honor. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.