

Now that we're to the final promise made by God to the humble, submissive, obedient and repentant—the promise to heal and restore their land—let's read the entire passage to understand the context of the promise making special note of the highlighted phrases. (2 Chronicles 7:12-16, 19-22)

*I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a temple of sacrifice. **If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the grasshopper to consume the land, or if I send pestilence on My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land...** However, **if you turn away** and abandon My statues and My commands that I have set before you and **if you go** and serve other gods and worship them, the **I will uproot Israel from the soil that I gave them...** every passerby will be appalled and will say: *Why did the Lord do this to this land and this temple? Then they will say: **Because they abandoned the Lord God of their ancestors who brought them out of the land of Egypt. They clung to other gods and worshiped and served them. Because of this, he brought all this ruin on them.****

Do you understand that God is the One who promised to initiate destruction [a consequence] if His people turned away from Him [a choice]? Just as sure as God's promise to heal the land because of the humble and repentant, is God's promise to uproot His people from the soil (that is, the land) which He gave them.

In the beginning of time God placed Adam in the garden and gave him a command to "work it and watch over it". And even though Adam sinned, that stewardship to work and watch over the land didn't change. True, it was no longer the beautiful Garden that he was caring for, and the growth of thorns and thistles made it toil and labor (all consequences of his choice, by the way), but he was still to work and watch over the land. Just as cultivating the "land" was the work that God gave Adam, your "land" is the work that God gives you to do. My encouragement to you as you begin to make plans for your future is to find "the soil that God has given you." When you do find it, work it and protect it with all your might by living under the blessings of God. (Remember? God's blessings are for those who are humble, submissive, obedient and repentant.) Don't give up until you find it. Know that *every job, every experience* will greatly enhance your "property value." So don't be in a hurry to jump ahead, and don't avoid any open door. Persevere, in *seeking* the land, in *working* the land, and in *watching* over the land God wants to give you. When you do, you'll come to the end of your life satisfied with the fruit of your labors, and God will be honored by good fruit from healthy land.

Scriptures for further meditation: Genesis 12:1-4; Joshua 11:23; 2 Kings 25:21b; Psalm 37:11; Hebrews 11:8-9,16



And I recommend to them [the American people] that...they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, ...fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.

— President Abraham Lincoln, *Proclamation of Thanksgiving, Issued, October 3, 1863*