

A graphic of a rolled-up scroll with the word "MIS" in yellow and "UNDERSTOOD" in white. The scroll is dark blue with a white outline and a shadow underneath, suggesting it is a 3D object. The word "MIS" is in a bold, sans-serif font, and "UNDERSTOOD" is in a regular, sans-serif font.

**MIS** UNDERSTOOD

IF MY PEOPLE

2 Chronicles 7:14

# (MIS)UNDERSTOOD

“...and [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.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

(MIS)UNDERSTOOD

How is this passage usually interpreted?

“Mississippi has sought this elusive blessing as we struggled to become one state. Our people have endured the harshest of times and treatment, and still achieved greatness. This greatness, we pray, will exist in our time, and for all time, for Mississippi.

For as it was written long ago, 'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, pray and seek my face; then will I hear from heaven, and will heal their land.' May this promise always be our guide, and may God continue to bless Mississippi and the United States of America."

Governor Phil Bryant

“But we’ve had enough now. This is why you’re in Washington today. We’ve had enough. We’ve had enough distress, enough affliction. We’re ready to bow down now. If my people, who are called by my name, would just humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sins, heal their land.”

Louis Farrakhan

“For the first 160 years of our nation’s history, every school child who went to school heard about God...They memorized His laws...The New England Primer was a textbook used in many, if not most schools in this country. And that New England Primer had verses from Scripture about God that every student had to memorize in order to pass.

About 60 years ago we allowed the liberals, the secularists in this country, to engage in a social experiment. And the experiment was this: Let's expunge any mention of God from the public square, from the schools, from the government...Let's stop prayer, let's stop Bible reading...Let's remove all of those things and see if we can still have a good society, a moral society without God. Well guess what?...No nation can reject God and be blessed by God.



What is the cure for what is happening in the nation right now? It's the same solution that God gave more than 3,000 years ago to His people when He said in 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 iniquities, and then I will heal their land.'"

Robert Jeffress

IF MY PEOPLE

How is this passage usually understood?

If the citizens of the United States will pray and ask God for forgiveness, then He will restore our nation to material prosperity and spiritual health.

# (MIS)UNDERSTOOD

Before we go further:

- We will NOT be discussing whether specific policies are good or bad.
- We will NOT be discussing whether the USA is the best country in the world or not.

# (MIS)UNDERSTOOD

Before we go further:

- We **WILL** be discussing whether we can apply the **PROMISE** of 2 Chronicles 7:14 to the United States in 2019.

IF MY PEOPLE

Why is the usual interpretation wrong?

- This promise was given to Israel, not to America.

IF MY PEOPLE

Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.

2 Kings 5:10

IF MY PEOPLE

“If you...will not listen to me, I will continue striking you...And I will let loose the wild beasts against you.”

Leviticus 26:21-22

DO NOT JUDGE

If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase.

Leviticus 26:3



IF MY PEOPLE

Why is the usual interpretation wrong?

- This promise was given to Israel, not to America.
- The quote is incomplete.

IF MY PEOPLE

If only you would be altogether silent!  
For you, that would be wisdom.

Job 13:5



Rise up,  
TAKE  
courage  
AND DO IT

- EZRA 10:4 -



**MIS** UNDERSTOOD

# IF MY PEOPLE

Why is the usual interpretation wrong?

- This promise was given to Israel, not to America.
- The quote is incomplete.
- Our prayers do not obligate God to give us what we want.

IF MY PEOPLE

What does the passage mean?

Under the Law of Moses, the nation of Israel received material and spiritual blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience.

# IF MY PEOPLE

## Context:

- Dedication of Solomon's Temple
- God's response to Solomon's prayer (chapter 6)

# IF MY PEOPLE

If you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments...the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God...

IF MY PEOPLE

But...if you do not obey the Lord your God,  
to observe to do all His commandments and  
His statutes with which I charge you today,  
all these curses will come upon you and  
overtake you.

Deuteronomy 28:1,

15



# IF MY PEOPLE

When [Jesus] said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Hebrews 8:13

## IF MY PEOPLE

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son...so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us.

Romans 8:2-4

IF MY PEOPLE

What does this passage mean for us?

- God is gracious.

DO NOT JUDGE

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

# DO NOT JUDGE

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

IF MY PEOPLE

What does this passage mean for us?

- God is gracious.
- God listens to our prayers.

## IF MY PEOPLE

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life

IF MY PEOPLE

in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4



IF MY PEOPLE

What does this passage mean for us?

- God is gracious.
- God listens to our prayers.
- God rewards humility.

IF MY PEOPLE

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble”...Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

James 4:6, 10

IF MY PEOPLE

What does this passage mean for us?

- God is gracious.
- God listens to our prayers.
- God rewards humility.

## IF MY PEOPLE

- Pray humbly for our world, our nation, and God's people.
- Confess your sins to God and ask for His grace.
- Trust that God works in His own way and in His own timing.

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IF MY PEOPLE

2 Chronicles 7:14