

# Election 2016: Where is the hope?



*by Bob Vander Plaats*

I've heard from many, many who are disappointed ... disappointed in the outcome of the election, disappointed in our choices, and discouraged about the future of our country. There is genuine trembling and fear over the consequences of our decisions for this and subsequent generations.

But I urge you to **think bigger!**

For our hope is not in the results of the 2016 elections. Our hope is in our Lord, the Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is sovereign, and He is faithful. He loves us. He loves us so much that he sent His one and only Son to die for us, to save and redeem us. And He begs for us to come home.

With a God so big ... **think bigger!**

Yes, elections are important. We are honored and blessed to have a vote and voice in who should have authority. Yet even if we were to elect the most righteous office holders at all levels of government, from the schoolhouse to the White House, we would still need to **think bigger.**

Electing the right people is no more than the proverbial “Dutch boy,” placing his finger in the dike to hold back the rushing waters. The “Dutch boy” serves a purpose with his quick and immediate action, *but the dike needs to be rebuilt for long-term safety.*

America is in that position today. Our cultural dike needs to be rebuilt. We need a cultural transformation. Like a third “great awakening,” we need a prayerful, unprecedented, spiritual revival.

This is why The FAMiLY LEADER and I have embraced the call and the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14: *“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sins and heal their land.”*

I believe more than ever that America needs to rebuild our dike by authentically applying the key components of this verse – humility, prayer, seeking, repenting – to our lives, marriages, churches and communities as we earnestly ask God to hear, forgive, and heal.

But the key word to making all of this happen is ... “If.” This two-letter word may be the most powerful and life-changing two-letter word in the English language. If you’re like me, you’ve probably heard 2 Chronicles 7:14 over and over, but have never really applied it to your life. But it’s time. Time to stop being hearers of this word only and start doing.

**Saying yes to the “If” call of our day is the one, resounding act of obedience and trust that gives us true hope in our bigger God.**

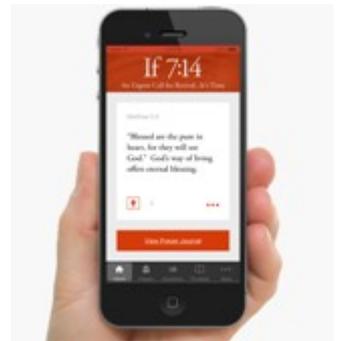
This verse allows us to look beyond the elections of 2016 and focus on God’s heart for authentic cultural transformation. It’s the first step in an America that truly repents and turns back to Him, His principles, precepts, and His design. This one “If” changes everything – for me, for you, our marriages,

our families, our churches, our communities, and our nation.

I encourage you to **think bigger** than the election and answer the “If” call of 2 Chronicles 7:14. I urge you to join our team at The FAMiLY LEADER along with the Newsboys, Focus on the Family, Family Policy Alliance, Liberty University, One Cry, the National Religious Broadcasters, United in Purpose, and many others in uniting with “If 7:14... An Urgent Call for Revival!”.

### **Are you ready to think bigger?**

I urge you to join me and Darla – my wife and If 7:14 director – and the thousands upon thousands of others who today are being prompted by Scripture and words of inspiration through the If 7:14 prayer app to unite in prayer for revival at 7:14 a.m. and 7:14 p.m. every day. It’s simple. All you have to do to get started is download the free Apple or Android App at [if714.com](http://if714.com).



You saw the title of this column. You read it because you were asking the same question, “Where is the hope?” Should you really be surprised that the answer is not in kings or men, but in the Lord?

The Bible answers your question in Psalm 121: *“I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”*

So lift your eyes from the discouragement of the 2016 election. Look higher. **Think bigger!** Your hope comes from the Lord! Join us in crying out not to the king, but to the King of Kings!

***Download the free, If 7:14 prayer app today!***

not written to the United States but to the nation of Israel. However, since our God is the same yesterday, today and forever, this verse gives us a glimpse into God's heart for His people's revival. 2) This verse is not aimed at "somebody else" repenting and humbling themselves. This verse is for God's people. He is calling the light to be light. And, 3) Revival is not an outside/in proposition, but rather an inside/out proposition. Revival begins with me, my marriage, family, church, and community ... and from there, a ripple effect for a culture-wide, Holy Spirit led revival!