

The New Testament Church  
 Revival #8: Revival under Josiah: A model for Revival and Awakening  
 Pastor Paul Jehle – February 20, 2022  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 34:1-19; (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 22-23)

I What is Revival and when does it Come?

- A. Revival means to come alive again – meaning we have grown cold and withered
- B. God uses dry hearts and a dark culture to produce desperation for hunger and thirst
  1. The revival of Enos – first in the Bible – *calling on the name of the Lord*
  2. The revival of Jacob – *calling on God from a place of brokenness*
  3. The revival of Joseph – *God prepared him to preserve life and impact Egypt*
  4. The revival of Samuel – *There is always hope for revival begins in the heart and family!*
  5. The revival of Asa and Jehoshaphat – *Awakening and Reformation: Stand Still!*
  6. The revival of Elijah and Elisha – *Passing the torch in humility*
  7. The revival of Jonah – *embracing a heart of mercy for the lost*

II The Revival under Josiah – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 34:1-19

- A. Josiah – a King at 8 years old! (his father and grandfather were wicked rulers)
  1. In the 8<sup>th</sup> year of his reign – 16 years old – he sought God – where to stand on everything
  2. 12<sup>th</sup> year – 20 – tore down high places – today; civil government as sovereign  
 (broke altar to Baals - a stand; dust of idols on graves – sinful things; burned bones – sinful people)
  3. 18<sup>th</sup> year – 26 – he wanted to repair the house of the Lord – restore its priority
    - a. Restored the tithe, the building, the Levites (worship), officers (deacons and elders) scribes (records), gatekeepers (safety)...
    - b. Hilkiyah the priest found Book of the Law – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 34:15 (ignored for 70 years!)
    - c. Shaphan read it to King - “when the king heard the... Law, he tore his clothes” – v. 19
- B. Why Josiah? His heart was humbled and he wept – v. 27 – “tremble at the Word” (Isaiah 66:1-2)
  1. The Law (including Kings and Chronicles) was read – 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 13:1-5 (320 yrs before)
  2. A no name “man of God” (prophet) prophesied “to the altar” that *a child, Josiah by name... shall sacrifice the priests... and men’s bones shall be burned on you.*” (v. 2)
    - a. Josiah heard his name read “in the book of the Lord” – our names are in God’s Book!
    - b. The prophet lacked discernment, lured into disobedience (be friendly, but *not* all trusting)
- C. Jeremiah (at 13) may have been inspired by Josiah’s reforms and wrote Jeremiah 1:1-10ff
  1. Jeremiah would have been inspired at 18 when Josiah restored the covenant (v. 20)
  2. Josiah would eventually restore the Passover (not since the time of the Judges!)
  3. Jeremiah would greatly impact Daniel (at 13) as well, who would impact three empires!
  4. Daniel 1 records his purpose to not defile himself – he kept the Law, yet captive for 70 yrs!
  5. Jeremiah 29 is the letter written to the captives (and Daniel) – revival during captivity!
    - a. It was written to the believers *as well as Nebuchadnezzar* himself – God is in control
    - b. Build houses, plant gardens, have children, increase your influence in every way
    - c. Seek the peace of the city – pray for it, bless it, in spite of its cruelty and tyranny
    - d. Don’t fall prey to false prophets who merely prophesy peace – for God will visit in time...
    - e. God’s purpose is peace, a future, a hope – call upon Him and He will listen...
- D. Today, let’s apply these truths – the church is a remnant in captivity...
  1. Seek the Lord and His Word (Law) as your priority – know God’s standard!
  2. Prepare to stand (our name is in the Book) – predetermine where your line will be drawn!
  3. Restore covenant; don’t divide over the vaccine, but defend the right to choose
  4. Don’t be distracted by international struggles but pray for the persecuted
  5. Pray that believers would lead the way in lawful, peaceful, resistance in the face of tyranny!