

Nehemiah 8-9 –23 February 2023

“Revival Has Come”

Introduction

- *Under the leadership of Nehemiah, Israel has just completed the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem
- *They’ve now protected themselves from their enemies & put themselves into a position to flourish
- *It’s not until we come to the Lord in soberness, ready to embrace the true state of things, that the stage is set for the Holy Spirit to be poured out in REVIVAL
- *Let me tell you what revival is not:
 - *Not based on emotionalism – Emotions are part of experience but they’re not method or destination
 - *Not based on selfish gain – There is a gaining of joy, unity and knowledge of Jesus, but it’s not for us
- *Revival: Webster’s 1828: *To return, recall or recover to life from death, apparent death or state of neglect*
- *So let’s look at 5 signs that revival has come**

1st sign that revival has come: Attention & belief in the Word of God (Chap 8)

Read Chap 8:1

1. In chap 3 we spoke of how the water gate speaks of the Word of God in the believer's life
2. There's great desire to hear from God Himself

Read Vs 2

1. All that were old enough could understand the Word – no sexism, racism – God loves all
2. 7th month 1st day is the Feast of Trumpets or the celebration of the New Year

Read Vs 3

1. Morning light til noon is 6 hours
2. Now this is a holiday and not a regular day
3. But they spent their holiday in the WORD

Read Vs 4-5

1. So there is reverence given to the reading and hearing of the Word of God
2. Elevating speaker = allowing them to hear well

Read Vs 6

1. Reading the Word is an act of worship
2. Come to the Word w/ heart are open to receive

Read Vs 7-8

1. After speaking the Word sharply, then give the meaning (interpretation) & application of it
2. Simply teaching God's Word simply

Read Vs 9-12

1. Read Ecc 3:4 – there's a time to weep and the Feast of Trumpets isn't it
2. When Word goes out, the Holy Spirit does His work: convicting of sin, righteousness & judgement
 - a. It's good that they're convicted
 - b. It's also good to recognize God's grace & let that joy be your strength

Read Vs 13

1. They wanted to go deeper in the Word
 - a. They worshipped: but they wanted the Word
 - b. They fellowshiped: but they wanted the Word

Read Vs 14-15

1. They discovered a ritual in the Bible that none of them had ever done

Read Vs 16-17

1. They obeyed to perform the ritual
2. Doesn't matter that it took time & resources

Read Vs 18

1. Their whole revival was geared around reading the Word, believing & obeying it

2nd sign that revival has come: Brokenness of heart (Chap 9:1-5a)

Read Chap 9:1

1. Now that the joyful festivals are behind, they **STILL** sense the need to confess & repent

Read Vs 2-3

1. 3 hours of hearing & learning & 3 hours of responding to what they've heard w/ worship

Read Vs 4 -5a

1. The leaders lead the people is deep communication w/ & worship of the Lord
2. Bring your brokenness to Jesus, for He cares for you

3rd sign that revival has come: Reflection on the goodness of God (Chap 9:5b-15)

Read Chap 9:5b-6

1. 'God for ever and ever' means from ever in the past to ever in the future
2. God is the master & controller of all things
 - a. He's proven He's powerful

Read Vs 7-8

1. He gave Abraham a new identity & purpose
 - a. He's proven He's righteous

Read Vs 9-10

2. He showed miracles in Egypt to Pharaoh
 - a. He's proven He's compassionate

Read Vs 11

1. He's divided the sea
 - a. He's proven He's a redeemer

Read Vs 12-14

1. He led by the cloud & fire, then gave the Law
 - a. He's proved He's a guide & counsellor

Read Vs 15

1. He gave them food & focus
 - a. He's proven He's a provider

4th sign that revival has come: Recognition & confession of our own sin (Chap 9:16-31)

Read Chap 9:16-17

1. We have been self-willed
 - a. But God is forgiving and gracious

Read Vs 18-19

1. We have been idolatrous
 - a. But God is long-suffering & continue to guide & counsel

Read Vs 20-21

1. We are overwhelmed with the need for understanding & judgement
 - a. But God never ceases to provide for us physical and spiritual food

Read Vs 22-26

1. Even though you graced w/ cities & sustenance
 - a. We forsook Your principles and prophets

Read Vs 27-31

1. Time of the judges God drew them back w/ discipline & deliverance
 - a. Yet they continually rejected a walk in God's goodness and love
2. All He does for us is motivated by His love

5th sign that revival has come: Declaration of commitment to God (Chap 9:32-38)

Read Chap 9:32-35

1. Asking for compassion upon them for their affliction even though, they admit, God rightly brought all this on them
2. God provides us so many blessings and we STILL crave, in the flesh, more things that are harmful

Read Vs 36-37

1. Commit to live for Jesus, in His ways
2. It's not committing to an experience in their life, but it's committing to a life of experience w/ Jesus

Read Vs 38

1. Wanting to make their obedience sure, they even write it down publicly
2. There's value in public declaration to commitment to Jesus

Conclusion

So we can identify revival, we can seek revival!

1. **Is there attention/belief in the Word of God?**
 - a. Not about person, place or church, but Jesus
2. **Is there brokenness of heart?**
 - a. Not religious practice or ritual, but sincerity
3. **Is there reflection on the goodness of God?**
 - a. Not motivated by fear or selfishness, but motivated by God's love for sinful people
4. **Is there recognition/confession of our sin?**
 - a. Not self-promotion, but promotion of God
5. **Is there declaration of commitment to God?**
 - a. Not wishy-washy, but a new path of gratitude

We'll close with reading Psm 85 - I want to invite us to respond to what God may be doing in our hearts today by standing (after the Psm & one at a time) & telling God, "I commit my life to Jesus &...*one more thing that God's impressing on your heart today*"