

3-19-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: A Foretaste of What's to Come, pt-2

Purpose: Provide my interpretation of current events and provoke people to seek the Lord because they love Him, to revive His church, save people who are away from God, and prepare our hearts for His return.

Truth for Today: God is moving across the earth. Let's be a part of it.

Text: Psalm 80:18

Topic: Revival, Worship, Last Days, Spiritual Awakening

A Foretaste of What's to Come, pt-2

- I. Introduction (Birthday/ anniversary gift, Pic geese poop)
 - A. [Psalm 80:18 (NIV)...**revive us, and we will call on your name.**] Illus. hands
 - B. Review: Last week we talked about a revival or spiritual awakening that is happening across America, especially among college age. Video revival looks like church, it's more. A revival happens to believers, i.e., re-vive, (// wilted plant) Some common expressions in revival outbreaks seem to be a greater intensity in worship, travailing prayer, repentance from individual sin, a renewed sense of personal holiness and a consuming desire to see lost people saved. The result of revival is a transformation of culture when people who are away from God turn their hearts to Him., e.g., when a drug dealer gets saved he stops selling drugs; when a violent husband encounters God he gets help and changes, when Hollywood actors gets saved movie content changes.
 1. Last week we began in the Book of Acts and Joel's prophecy of Pentecost. We then surveyed current outbreaks of revival in America and around the world and looked at a history of revival in America. We concluded by beginning to answer the question, Why are believers seeking the Lord in a greater way? (1) Christians are expressing their gratitude and love for Jesus through worship.
 - C. Today we'll talk about 3 more reasons why believers are seeking the Lord in a greater way: (2) Repentance and personal holiness, (3) Salvation for the lost, (4) Preparing for the 2nd Coming of Christ.
 - D. Title: A Foretaste of What's to Come, pt-2 screen Asbury college in Ky.
- II. Christians are seeking the Lord by personal and corporate repentance.
 - A. Def. repent: To be sorry or remorseful for sin and turn around to follow God's ways. A change of mind which results in a change of lifestyle. [2

Cor. 7:10 (NIV) **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation...**] Repentance means changing from our ways to God's.

Personal revival happens when the HS convicts us of our sin and we repent in pursuit of personal holiness.

B. Christians need to repent if: (1) We become worldly, (2) Sin gets a foothold in our life, (3) Our hearts grow cold to God, (4) We have grieved the Holy Spirit, (5) We get busy with life and drift away from God. Revival changes this. We get back on track with God. Our priorities align with His will. The fire for God burns again in our heart.

C. Churches of Revelation: (1) Ephesus: [Rev. 2:4–5 (ESV) But I have this against you, that **you have abandoned the love you had at first (NKJV your 1st love) (NLT you don't love me or each other as you did at first).** 5 Remember...from where you have **fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first...**(2) Sardis: [Rev. 3:1–3 (NCV)... **I know what you do. People say that you are alive, but really you are dead. 2 Wake up! Strengthen** what you have left before it **dies completely.** I have found that **what you are doing is less than what my God wants.** 3 So do not forget what you have...heard. Obey it, and **change your hearts and lives (NKJV repent)...**] (3) Laodicea: [Rev. 3:16–19 (NLT)...**you are like lukewarm water,** neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17 **You say,** 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And **you don't realize** that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. 19 I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and **turn from your indifference (lack of interest).** (ESV) **repent.**]

1. Jesus wants all these believers to turn their hearts back to God. Is the HS saying anything to you? Prayer: HS convict us when we do wrong. Help us change.

III. Christians are seeking the Lord for lost people to turn to God and for a spiritual awakening to come to America.

A. Lost souls matter to God. Context: [Jonah 3:3–10 (NLT)...Jonah obeyed the Lord's command and went to Nineveh... 4 ...he shouted to the crowds (4:11, 120k people): "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!" 5 The people of Nineveh **believed God's message...**they declared a fast and put on (ESV *sackcloth*) to show their **sorrow.** 6 When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he...7...sent this decree throughout the city...8...**everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence.** 9...Perhaps...God will...hold

back his fierce anger from destroying us.” 10 When God saw...how they had put a **stop to their evil ways**, he...did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

1. What happened? A reluctant believer, Jonah, spoke God’s Word to the unbelieving world and conviction of the HS produced repentance which prevented judgment and brought a spiritual awakening.

B. A spiritual awakening can change the culture. Testimony Wales Revival 1904, largest Christian revival in the 20th century: All over the country, testimonies of hardened souls receiving salvation and lives being changed were the talk of the town. Stories of profanity silenced, theaters deserted, courts abandoned due to a lack of crime, and bars shutting down were commonplace. Entertainment such as football matches simply could not compete with the presence of His glorious visitation. Sales of... alcohol declined steeply while pocket testaments were snapped up as people hunger for the Bread of Life and true living waters. A story was told of how the horses in the mines were confused because once they were driven by men with use of obscenity and kicks but now there weren’t any.¹

C. Context: [Hosea 6:1–2 (NIV) “Come, **let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us...2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.**]

IV. Christians are seeking the Lord in preparation for the 2nd Coming of Christ.

A. [Acts 1:9–11 (NLT)...he (*Jesus*) was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10...two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11...they said...Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but **someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!**”] What should we do?

B. Parable master at a wedding, [Luke 12:35–40 (NLT) “**Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning**, 36 as though you were **waiting for your master to return...Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives...38 He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready...40 You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.**”]

1. God is stirring our hearts for Him. He is preparing us to be ready when Christ returns to the earth. How? Live for Jesus 24/7. Example...

V. Conclusion

A. Response: Let's commit to seek the Lord in a greater way in hopes revival will impact us, our city, our nation, and the world. Let's seek Him by: (1) Expressing our gratitude and love to Jesus through worship, (2) Repentance and personal holiness, (3) Praying and sharing our faith so the lost will turn to God, (4) Preparing for the 2nd Coming of Christ.

VI. Response

A. Prayer: (1) HS help us worship/ thank God every day. (2) Help us repent when we do wrong. (3) Help us help lost people find God. (4) Help us be ready for the 2nd coming.

B. Souls

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://www.bcwales.org/1904-welsh-revival>
2. <https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/257668-brief-history-spiritual-revival-awakening-america.html>

VIII. Supplemental Material

A. Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

B. II C (4) Pergamum: [Rev. 2:14–16 (NLT)... You **tolerate** some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam... He taught them to sin by eating food offered to idols and by **committing sexual sin**... 16 **Repent** of your sin...]

C. III B The Revival so seized the nation that the Western Mail in Cardiff published “Revival Editions”². How often does one see religious news take front page in a national and secular newspaper? In these editions, revival news superseded current affairs, and testimonies replaced tabloid, telling of how the Welsh were more interested in God and His kingdom than the affairs of this world. The back of the paper even contained a hymn and a summary of the number of conversions to-date.¹

D. History of revivals in America:

1. **The Great Awakening, 1734-43**. In December 1734, the first revival of historic significance broke out in Northampton, Mass., where a young **Jonathan Edwards** was pastor. After months of fruitless labor, he reported five or six people converted—one a young woman. He wrote, “[She] had been one of the greatest company-keepers in the whole town.”³ He feared her conversion would douse the flame, but quite the opposite took place. Three hundred souls converted in six

months—in a town of only 1,100 people!⁴ The news spread like wildfire, and similar revivals broke out in over 100 towns.⁵ Starting in Philadelphia in 1739, [George Whitfield's](#) dramatic preaching was like striking a match to the already-underway awakening. An estimated 80 percent of America's 900,000 Colonists personally heard Whitfield preach.^{6,7} He became America's first celebrity.⁸

2. **The Second Great Awakening, 1800-1840.** In 1800, only one in 15 of America's population of 5,300,000 belonged to an evangelical church.⁹ Presbyterian minister **James McGready** presided over strange spiritual manifestations in Logan County, Ky. The resulting camp meeting revivals drew thousands from as far away as Ohio.^{10,11} Rev. Gardiner Spring reported that for the next 25 years not a single month passed without news of a revival somewhere.¹² In 1824, **Charles Finney** began a career that would eventually convert 500,000 to Christ. An unparalleled 100,000 were converted in Rochester, N.Y., in 1831 alone—causing the revival to spread to 1,500 towns.¹³ By 1850 the nation's population exploded fourfold to 23,000,000 people, but those connected to evangelical churches grew nearly tenfold from 7 percent to 13 percent of the population—from 350,000 to 3,000,000 church members!¹⁴
3. **The Businessmen's Revival of 1857-1858.** In 1857, the North Dutch Church in New York City hired a businessman, **Jeremiah Lanphier**, to be a lay missionary. He prayed, "Lord, what would you have me do?" Concerned by the anxious faces of businessmen on the streets of New York City, Lanphier decided to open the church at noon so businessmen could pray. The first meeting was set for September 23—three weeks before the Bank Panic of 1857. Six attended the first week, 20 the next, then 40, then they switched to daily meetings. Before long all the space was taken, and other churches also began to open up for businessmen's prayer meetings.¹⁵ Revivals broke out everywhere in 1857, spreading throughout the United States and world. Sometimes called **The Great Prayer Meeting Revival**, an estimated 1,000,000 people were added to America's church rolls, and as many as 1,000,000 of the 4,000,000 existing church members also converted.¹⁶
4. **The Civil War Revival, 1861-1865.** The bitter dispute over [slavery](#) thrust our nation into the deadliest war we've ever experienced. By the end, 620,000 Americans lay dead—one out of every

50 of the 31,000,000 people counted in the 1860 census. At the start of the Civil War in 1861, it seemed as though the soldiers for both sides had left their Christianity at home and gone morally berserk. By 1862, the tide turned, first among the Confederate forces. An estimated 300,000 soldiers were converted, evenly divided between the Southern and Northern Armies. 17,18

5. **The Urban Revivals, 1875-1885.** Young businessman [Dwight L. Moody](#) participated in the Great Revival of 1857 as it swept Chicago.¹⁹ Moody later conducted revivals throughout the British Isles where he spoke to more than 2,500,000 people. In 1875, Moody returned home and began revivals in America's biggest cities. Hundreds of thousands were converted and millions were inspired by the greatest soul winner of his generation.²⁰ At this time, the general [worldview](#) of Americans was shifting away from a Christian consensus. Darwinism and higher criticism were gaining traction, and Moody became the first evangelist to come under attack—accused of making religion the opiate of the masses.²¹
6. The Revivals of 1905-1906. Word of the Welsh Revival of 1904-1905 spread to Welsh-speaking settlers in Pennsylvania in late 1904 and revival broke out. By 1905, local revivals blazed in places like Brooklyn, Michigan, Denver, Schenectady, Nebraska, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Taylor University, Yale University, and Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.²⁵ Billy Sunday, who became a key figure about this time, preached to more than 100,000,000 people with an estimated 1,000,000 or more conversions.²⁶
7. The Azusa Street Revival, 1906. In 1906, William J. Seymour, an African-American Holiness pastor blind in one eye, went to Los Angeles to candidate for a pastoral job. But after he preached, he was locked out of the second service! He began prayer meetings in a nearby home and the Spirit of God, which they called “the second blessing,” fell after many months of concerted prayer. Eventually, the interracial crowds became so large they acquired a dilapidated Methodist church at 312 Azusa Street where daily meetings continued for three years. The resulting Pentecostal Movement and the later Charismatic Movement, which both exploded worldwide in the 20th century, both trace their roots to this revival. [27,28,29]

8. The Post-World War II Awakening. After World War II, in 1947 and 1948, Pentecostals experienced two strands of an awakening, one the Latter Rain Revival and the other the Healing Revival. Large numbers of evangelicals also experienced revival resulting in many conversions. It was at this time that a great generation of Christian leaders emerged. Bill Bright began Campus Crusade for Christ. In 1949, Billy Graham's distinguished career, which popularized evangelical Christianity for a new generation, exploded on the scene during his Los Angeles crusade sponsored by the Christian Businessmen's Committee.^{30,31} An estimated 180,000,000 people attended his nearly 400 crusades, and millions more viewed on television.³² College Revivals started as early as 1946, but when the prayer-based Wheaton College Revival of 1950 achieved national publicity, it sparked other college revivals throughout America.³³
9. The Charismatic Renewal and Jesus Movement. During the late 1960s and early 1970s more revivals of national scope developed. The first strand was the Charismatic Renewal, which spread far beyond Pentecostal and Holiness churches to college campuses, the Catholic Church and mainline denominations.³⁴ The second strand, the widely publicized Jesus Movement, emphasized turning from drugs, sex and radical politics to taking the Bible at face value and finding Jesus Christ as personal Savior.³⁵ Not surprisingly, this revival spread to college campuses, most notably the 1970 Asbury College Revival in Wilmore, Ky. Within a week the revival had spread throughout the entire country.³⁶ In 1976 America elected a born-again president, and evangelicalism has continued to prosper from then to now.
10. The Mid-1990s Revivals. Despite the widespread secularization of society since the Cultural Revolution that began in the late 1960s, in the mid-1990s God once again brought a series of revivals, mostly to Charismatic and Pentecostal groups. In 1994 it was The Toronto Blessing, and 1995 ushered in the Melbourne Revival on Florida's Space Coast, the Modesto Revival, and the Brownsville Revival in Pensacola, Fla., which recorded 100,000 conversions in two years.³⁷ College Revivals swept across America, starting at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, under the preaching of Henry Blackaby, a Southern Baptist.³⁸ ²