

3-12-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: A Foretaste of What's to Come

Purpose: Provide my interpretation of current events and provoke people to seek the Lord because they love Him, to revive His church, save people 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: Acts 2:16-21

Topic: Revival, Worship, Last Days, Spiritual Awakening, Souls

A Foretaste of What's to Come

- I. Introduction (Interrupt my sermon series on relationships for a personal interpretation of what God seems to be doing in our day. Contextualize with a Biblical promise.)
 - A. Day of Pentecost; beginning of the last days, [Acts 2:16–21 (NLT)...what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: 17 ‘In the **last days**,’ God says, ‘**I will pour out my Spirit upon all people**. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.]
 1. Joel and Peter said the last days, beginning at Pentecost will continue until the Book of Revelation is complete. The last days will be marked by gifts and manifestations of the HS. There is no Biblical reason why the HS would cease spiritual gifts, visions, and dreams throughout the church age. The activity of the HS is essential to the harvest of souls around the world.
 - B. [Vs. 19 And I will cause **wonders in the heavens** above and **signs on the earth** below— blood and fire and clouds of smoke. 20 The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious **day of the Lord arrives**.]
 1. This could be partially fulfilled, Mt. 24, but the 2nd Coming of Jesus has definitely not happened yet.
 - C. [Vs. 21 But **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved**.’]
 1. Salvation of souls, populating heaven is the primary purpose of the last days.
 - D. So, what is God doing on the earth today? Asbury Screen. Are the current outbreaks of worship and prayer indicative of a coming revival and spiritual awakening or perhaps preparation for the 2nd coming of Christ. That's what we will talk about next 2 weeks. Today we'll look at current

events and history of revivals in America and the 1st of 4 reasons why believers are seeking the Lord in a special way.

E. Title: A Foretaste of What's to Come

II. Something spiritually significant is happening in America and the world. Some call it a revival and some call it a spiritual awakening.

A. Contrast: what's the world up to? Pic Rihanna, Super bowl halftime sexual obscenity: Grammy Awards, Pic² Sam Smith and Kim Petras won the award for best pop duo for song "Unholy," with demonic, satanic theme. God is up to something too. Revival Pics Christians are seeking the Lord.

B. What are these believers around the world doing?

1. (1) Worshipping God (2) Repenting or turning from their wicked ways and returning to God (3) Praying and calling out to God for the salvation of souls. Local result: Tu. night worship, People making steps to Christ 2 weeks ago: services 27, youth movie Jesus Revolution 20, Celebrate Recovery 18, Life group 3...68 people made a step to Jesus in 1 week.

III. Revivals or spiritual awakenings that reform the church and change the culture have happened throughout America's history.

A. Context: Constitution signed 1776. **The 1st Great Awakening**, 1734, Mass., Jonathan Edwards; 300 souls converted in six months in a town of 1,100 people! Similar revivals broke out in over 100 towns. 80 percent of America's 900,000 Colonists heard George Whitfield preach. **The Second Great Awakening**, 1800. A camp meeting revival in Ky. drew thousands. For the next 25 years not a single month passed without news of a revival somewhere. In 1824, Charles Finney saw 500,000 come to Christ. **The Businessmen's Revival**, 1857 in NYC, Jeremiah Lanphier opened the church at noon so businessmen could pray. Revivals broke out everywhere in 1857, spreading throughout the United States and world. An estimated 1,000,000 people were saved. **The Civil War Revival**, 1861, 300,000 soldiers were converted. **The Urban Revivals**, 1875 Businessman Dwight Moody participated in the Great Revival of 1857 as it swept Chicago. He started preaching and 100's of 1000's were converted. **The Revivals of 1905**, Word of the Welsh Revival spread to Pennsylvania and revival broke out there and across America. Billy Sunday preached to more than 100,000,000 people with an estimated 1,000,000 or more conversions. **The Azusa Street Revival**, 1906. Pastor William Seymour went to Los Angeles and began prayer meetings at Azusa for 3 years. The resulting Pentecostal Movement and the later Charismatic Movement, exploded worldwide in the

20th century, both trace their roots to this revival. **The Post-World War II Awakening**, 1947. Pentecostals experienced the Latter Rain Revival and the Healing Revival. Evangelicals...Bill Bright began Campus Crusade for Christ and reached millions. In 1949 Billy Graham preached live to 210,000,000 people, and millions more viewed on television. The prayer-based Wheaton College Revival of 1950 sparked other college revivals. **The Charismatic Renewal and Jesus Movement**, 1960s and 1970s. The Charismatic Renewal, spread to college campuses, the Catholic Church and mainline denominations. The Jesus Movement, emphasized turning from drugs, sex and radical politics to taking the Bible at face value and finding Jesus Christ as personal Savior. This revival spread to college campuses, most notably the 1970 Asbury College. **The Mid-1990s Revivals**. The Toronto Blessing, the Melbourne Revival, the Modesto Revival, and the Brownsville Revival recorded 100,000 conversions in two years.

B. Something is happening today in America and the world. Pic ⁴. CBN March 7. Asbury College, Texas A&M College Station, Baylor Waco, LSU. ³

C. World, "OneForIsrael" reports "More Muslims converted to faith in Jesus Christ over the past decade than at any other time in human history. A spiritual revolution is underway throughout North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia."⁵

IV. Why are believers seeking the Lord in a greater way? (today, part 1 of 4)

A. Christians love the Lord and want to say thank you. We're expressing our gratitude and love to Jesus through worship.

1. [Luke 17:12–16 (NIV)...ten men who had leprosy met him (*Jesus*). They...13 called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. 15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, **praising God in a loud voice**. 16 **He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him...**]

2. When we realize what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do we express our appreciation and love by worship. Our worship isn't because we want something personally or because we're in search of revival. It's because He is worthy!

V. Conclusion

- A. Next week we'll talk more about why believers are seeking the Lord in a greater way.
- B. What can we do to see personal revival and perhaps a spiritual awakening in Texarkana? Seek the Lord in a special way by: (1) Worship the Lord because we love Him and are grateful, (2) Repent of any sin, pursue personal holiness, and return to God, (3) Praying and calling out to God for the salvation of souls, (4) Tell people about Jesus and see what God will do.
- c. Response: Prayer, Altar, and Souls

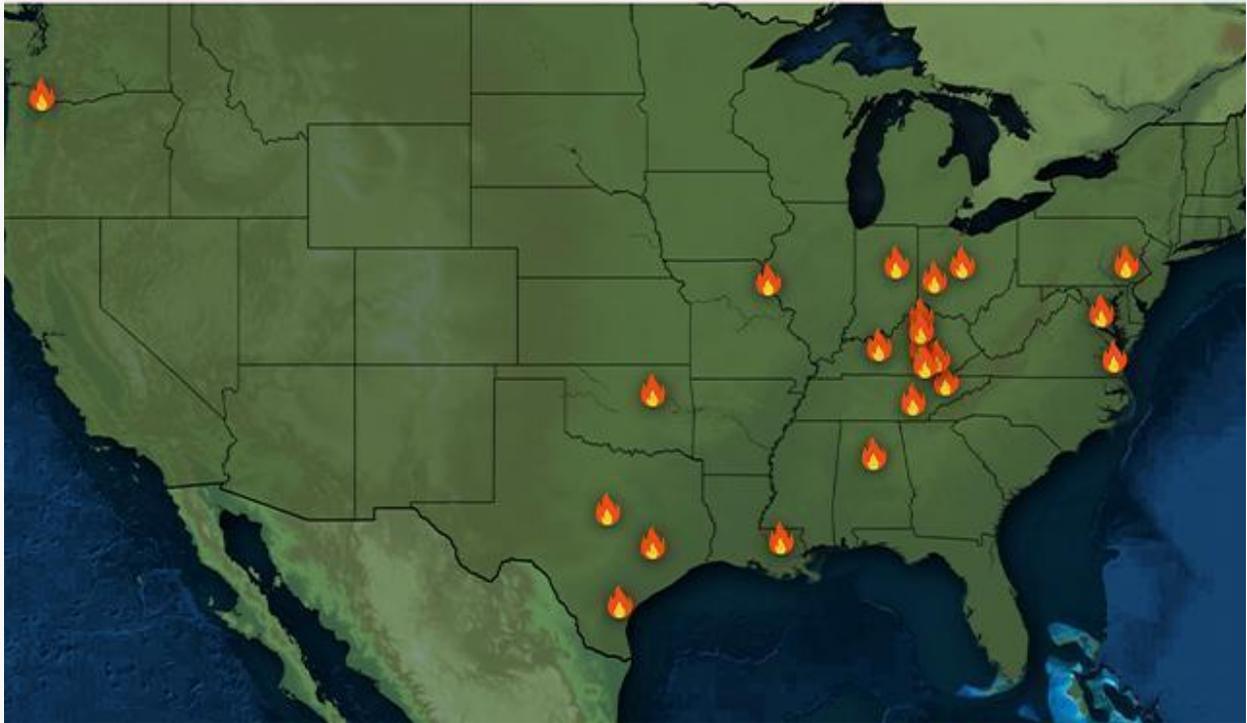
VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://www.bcwales.org/1904-welsh-revival>
2. <https://hannity.com/media-room/satanic-smith-watch-pop-singer-go-full-satan-during-grammy-performance/>
3. <https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-articles/257668-brief-history-spiritual-revival-awakening-america.html>
4. <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2023/march/revival-is-in-the-air-new-reports-of-spiritual-awakening-as-a-huge-fill-the-stadium-event-slated-for-april-29>
5. <https://www.oneforisrael.org/news/apocalyptic-events-bring-revival-around-the-world/>

VII. Supplemental Material

- A. [Rev. 5:11–14 (NLT)...I heard the voices of thousands and millions of angels around the throne.... 12 And they sang in a mighty chorus: “**Worthy is the Lamb (Jesus)**... 13 And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. **They sang: “Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.”** 14...And the twenty-four elders **fell down and worshiped** the Lamb.]
- B. Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV) You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
- C. Here's a list of known locations where outpourings have occurred already:

U.S. REVIVAL TRACKER



VIII.

Asbury University – Wilmore, KY
Rupp Arena – Lexington, KY
Western Kentucky University – Bowling Green, KY
Union College – Barbourville, KY
University of the Cumberlands – Williamsburg, KY
Eastern Kentucky University – Richmond, KY
Lee University – Cleveland, TN
Grace Christian Academy – Knoxville, TN
Samford University – Birmingham, AL
Cedarville University – Cedarville, OH
Ohio State – Columbus, OH
Indiana Wesleyan University – Marion, IN
Valley Forge College – Chester County, PA
Hannibal-LaGrange University – Hannibal, MO
Texas A&M Corpus Christi, TX
Texas A&M College Station, TX
Baylor University – Waco, TX
Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge, LA

Oral Roberts University – OK
Youth event in Portland, OR
Regent University – Virginia Beach, VA
Church event in Washington, DC

IX. A History of Revival in America³

- A. The 1st Great Awakening: 1734, observers said, “It pleased God ..to display his free and sovereign mercy in the conversion of a great multitude of souls in a short space of time, turning them from a formal, cold and careless profession of Christianity, to the lively exercise of every Christian grace, and the powerful practice of our holy religion.” [1] That’s about as clear a definition as we’ll ever get! During a spiritual [revival](#), God supernaturally transforms believers and nonbelievers in a church, locale, region, nation or the world through sudden, intense enthusiasm for Christianity.² People sense the presence of God powerfully; conviction, despair, contrition, repentance and prayer come easily; people thirst for God’s word; many authentic conversions occur and backsliders are renewed.
- B. **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
- C. **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

- D. **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
- E. **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}
- F. **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

- G. 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
- H. 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]
- I. 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
- J. 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.

K. 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

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