

THE GREATEST AWAKENING IS YET TO COME

By: Phillip Hayes

Since the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost there have been many great awakenings or revivals in many parts of the world.

Revival is defined as "God pouring Himself out on His people". Modern theologians have identified ten of the greatest revivals. They are: (1) The 1904 Revival, Beginning in Wales Evan Roberts, Korea, Moravian, Azusa Street.

(2) The First Great Awakening, 1727-1750 Zinzendorf, Wesley, Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards.

(3) The Second Great Awakening 1780-1810 Cane Ridge.

(4) The General Awakening 1830-1840 Charles Finney, Hawaii, Jamaica.

(5) The Layman's Revival 1857-1861 Phoebe Palmer, Lanphier, D. L. Moody.

(6) The World War II Revival 1935-1950 Billy Graham, Duncan Campbell, New Zealand.

(7) The Baby Boomer Revival 1965-1970 The Jesus People, The Prairie Revival, Asbury.

(8) The Reformation, 1517 Martin Luther, John Calvin, Zwingli, Knox.

(9) The Pre-Reformation Revival 1300-1500 Lollards, Wycliffe, Hus, Savonarola.

(10) the revival that birthed the Christian Church at Pentecost 30 A.D.

The ten listed are not isolated events but eras of outpourings that cannot be contested. These revivals or awakenings could also be described as *a refreshing from the Lord* turned cities and nations upside down. They were accompanied by miracles signs and wonders. Cultures were re-defined as whole nations were converted to Christianity! Bars and houses of prostitution were closed and churches were built and filled to capacity.

Several years ago the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and said, "Stop praying for revival." This startled me and as I began questioning what the Spirit was speaking, He spoke again and said, "You are the revival".

I had never heard anyone else say such a thing! Although the Lord gave me many scriptures to verify what He was telling me; these two verses summed it all up for me, "*He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified) [John 7:38-39].*" These "Living waters" we have is the Holy Ghost, or the very life of God! You see, the church is the revival or perhaps I should say, "Has the potential for revival" within it.

I recently found this comment by Elmer Towns who saw a sign in a restaurant that said, Pray for revival in America: "I said, "AMEN!" in my spirit, but wondered if they knew what they were praying for. When most people pray for revival, they are probably asking for a wonderful experience during their next 3 day church revival. But revival is more than a Sunday morning experience, or 3 day programed event. When you pray for revival, you're asking God for life-shaking experiences that will cost you plenty. It's agonizing because in revival you become

terrorized over your sin and you repent deeply. It's consuming because in revival you have no time for hobbies . . . for chores around the house . . . for work . . . for sleep. Revival crashes your Daytimer . . . interrupts TV times . . . demands your full attention . . . and wears you out. Usually when we pray for revival, we're telling God "sic 'em" on the bad guys. Little do we realize that revival begins with us, the people of God. As a matter of fact, we've got a suggestion for you who want revival. Don't pray for revival, just repent of all known sin, do everything you're supposed to do, give God all—not part—but all your time, and you'll experience revival."

I know most people hear about the great Pentecostal revivals such as the Azusa Street Revival. However, revival has also been manifested in other Christian faiths such as the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches.

When revival came to Liberty University and Thomas Road Baptist Church in the fall of 1973, glory flooded the church auditorium . . . it was atmospheric revival. All normal activities in our lives shut down. Students and business people didn't want to leave the sanctuary because when they left the building, they were leaving the presence of God. They didn't want to miss anything that God was doing. Revival began on Wednesday evening about 10:30 p.m. an hour after prayer meeting was over. It came when students and church members were milling around the front of the sanctuary. Most of the ushers and pastors had gone home. One student went to the pulpit—weeping—to confess sins. The microphone and pulpit lights were off, but God was there. The student's passionate repentance captured those who were still in the auditorium. Someone began singing. A pianist ran to play the piano. People

dropped to their knees beside the altar and front pews. The piano was playing softly, not interrupting the sacred sound of tears. Shortly, another broken person approached the pulpit to confess sins. After two hours, frantic phone calls went out to the pastor and deacons, "Revival's hit the church!" Church members were awakened in the middle of the night, hurriedly dressed, and drove through the dark streets of Lynchburg. All came back to the church building expecting to experience God. No ties . . . no Sunday morning dresses . . . just believers eager for the touch of God.

Yes, there is no question, God has refreshed people with revival many times over since the beginning of the church. However, I believe the greatest revival is yet to come. We stand on the threshold of the beginning of the last revival before Jesus returns. It will be world-wide!

Now, I want to share with you from the scriptures why I believe this.

A real revival will bring men and women to their knees in true repentance. This is why I listed what happened at Liberty University in 1973.

The stage for revival is presently being set by God. It is ordained. We are approaching the end of the last days. Jesus spoke of the time we are living in and called it a time of sorrows. *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But*

he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" [Matthew 24:8-13].

Very soon we shall experience what Jesus called, "A Time Of Sorrows"! Earthquakes, pestilence, famine and great persecution against all Christians such as the world as never seen! Hatred, betrayal and unrestrained sin on a level not seen since the horrible days of Noah.

But during this horrible dark time in the history of the world, Jesus said this in the very next verse: *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" [Matthew 24:14].*

Jesus confined these extraordinary events to a single generation! *"Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled" [Matthew 24:34].* Thank God, the end will not come until the Gospel of the Kingdom is preached throughout the world. The entire world will be impacted with the greatest manifestation of God's power ever given! Mankind will be awakened once again! This last day revival will sweep multiplied millions into the kingdom of God. The number of people saved will be impossible to number! I will soon give you scripture for this statement.

Before this great end time outpouring the church itself will experience a supernatural awakening that will empower it to minister this revival to the world. Jesus spoke of this is the parable of the ten virgins.

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a

cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" [Matthew 25:1-6].

These ten virgins represent the church in the last days. Notice, they were all asleep; *"They all slumbered and slept"*. But something woke them up! A Voice! A sound from heaven! Suddenly, at midnight (the darkest time of night) the church was awakened out of its slumber with a cry, *"The Bridegroom cometh!"*

This awakening (revival) is just prior to the return of Jesus Christ. It happens in the darkest time of history. The very time Jesus spoke of in Matthew, chapter twenty-four!

There is much to be said concerning these ten virgins and the oil in their vessels and we will discuss this in a later article. My point in these few verses is further proof that this awakening or revival is at the time of the end and it begins with the church. Judgment will first begin at the house of God. (See 1Peter 4:17).

Jesus spoke the parable of the sower in Matthew chapter thirteen. He also explained this parable in detail.

Every farmer knows there is seed sowing time and then comes the harvest. In between these times weeds are removed, fertilizer is applied and hopes and prayers for just the right amount of rain are given. Jesus referred to this natural growth many times and likened it to the church or kingdom of God.

The seed is the Word of God. The Seed-Word has produced what Jesus said was the Wheat. The wheat is the true church. This true Seed-Word began to be sown in the earth at Pentecost. Throughout the years, there have been many rains to help the seed produce its fruit. These rains have been the awakenings or revivals we have all read about.

Also during these many years, weeds have grown up in the same field. Jesus called them tares. The tares are seeds also and they are sown by an enemy Jesus called the devil. So we have two seeds in the same field; (the field is the world). Within the world there are two seeds that have been sown. These two seeds have been maturing; growing into the image their respective seeds will produce.

There is coming a harvest in which the fruit of these two seeds will be gathered. Jesus said the Harvest would take place in the end of the world. Remember, Harvest is at the end!

Let's look at a few more references in scripture about the harvest: *"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest"* [Luke 10:2]. *"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest"* [John 4:34-35]. This is prophetic for the seed wasn't sown in the world at this time!

Jesus said, "the harvest truly is great"! This speaks volumes to me! There would be a great harvest in the end time!

Any farmer will tell you they hope and pray for a rain to mature their crops for harvest. This is exactly what will happen in the world just before the harvest of the world! A great latter day rain will come!

I have heard people refer to a religious movement in the forties and fifties called the "latter rain revival". The real latter rain hasn't come yet! But it is coming! It's

not going to be a movement to form another religious organization or denomination, but in fact, will be the very last outpouring of the Holy Ghost in the world, and then, THE END WILL COME!

Please remember, this article is intended to prove by the scriptures there will be a last day awakening or revival before the second coming of Christ. I could write books on each of the scriptures I have given, but my desire is to alert you to what will soon transpire in the church and also in the world. There are many that focus entirely on the judgment and wrath of God that is truly coming. However, I want the church to focus on and prepare for the Glory that is also coming!

I don't believe anyone would argue that the church needs to wake up! Churches are losing membership. Worldliness and materialism has weakened the church and we no longer see the power of God manifested. God's people are sick and diseased and the "prayer of faith" that once brought deliverance seems ineffective. We need a revival! An awakening! Surely, you can acknowledge this!

But, the world needs the church! It cannot be awakened until the church is awakened!

I truly believe we are on the verge of such an awakening that the entire world will be shaken by it.

Remember, Jesus said this gospel of the kingdom would be preached into all the world, and then the end would come. Look at this is the Book of Revelation: *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" [Revelation 14:6-7].*

Please notice, this angel or messenger preached the everlasting gospel to *"every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people"*. Jesus said the gospel of the kingdom would be preached into all the world before the end comes. We know angels are not ordained to preach the gospel. I am sure you will remember how an angel appeared to Peter and also to Philip the evangelist and gave them direction to men that needed to hear the gospel. You can read about both instances in Acts chapters eight and ten. This angel in Revelation fourteen represents the gospel being preached into all the world and the results are startling!

The fruit of this end time revival are found in Revelation chapter seven. Remember now, this preaching of the gospel is in the midst of the greatest tribulation the world has ever known! Here is the results! *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb"* [Revelation 7:9-10].

There it is! A revival in the midst of great tribulation and persecution! A revival so powerful it birthed multi millions of people into the kingdom of God. The number of those saved could not be numbered! They came out of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues! This is world-wide my friends!

How can I know the time frame of such a move of God is during great tribulation? I found it a couple of verses down! Look and verses 13 and 14: *"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came*

they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” [Revelation 7:13-14]. Where did all these people come from? Out of great tribulation! Wow!

I hope you can see that the end of the last days is going to be glorious for a great multitude of people! Yes, there will be tribulation and persecution. As a matter of fact the Bible is clear that many will be beheaded for their witness for Christ during the rise of the anti-christ and the mark of the beast. Many will have heart attacks because of the things they will be witnessing during these awful times. But the church of Jesus Christ will prevail! Overcomers will be spiritually born during this time and they will perform some of the greatest miracles ever performed. The ministry of “Greater Works” will be unveiled and the “Prophetic Word of Faith” will be spoken with confidence as never before.

Creative miracles will be an everyday occurrence and the greatest of all miracles (the miracle of salvation) will bring deliverance to multitudes!

Are you ready for such a time? Probably not! This is why the Lamb’s wife must prepare herself. What will the bride do during this time? She will be saying to the world, “Come, come to the fountain of Living Waters”!

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” [Revelation 22:7].

This is revival my friends! A final great awakening for the church and the world.

