

“REVIVE US AGAIN – TODAY”

HABAKKUK 3:1,2

INTRO: *REVIVAL! WHAT IS IT? DO YOU WANT IT? WHAT DOES IT DO? WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO HAVE IT?* These are very practical questions for us all to consider in the time in which we live. The Bible is filled with teaching about REVIVAL in both the Old and the New Testaments and yet it is rare to SEE A TRUE REVIVAL. So, let's consider this great subject and see what the Lord has us to learn.

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BACKGROUND OF HABAKKUK:

- 1) Habakkuk was both a priest and a prophet. Thus he had a two-fold responsibility before God.
 - a) To minister about the Temple and do the work of the Lord.
 - b) To preach righteousness to the Judah
- 2) Habakkuk was a contemporary of Nahum, Jeremiah and Zephaniah during the reigns of Josiah and Jehoiakim.
- 3) Habakkuk was being told by God that the Babylonians were going to destroy Jerusalem and Judah because of their sins. Their sins listed in chapter 2 were:
 - a) Selfish Ambition: 2:6-8
 - b) Covetousness: 2:9-11
 - c) Exploitation of People: 2:12-14
 - d) Drunkenness and Violence: 2:15-17
 - e) Idolatry: 2:18-20
- 4) Habakkuk was fearful when he heard how God was going to judge Judah and ask God to **REVIVE THE WORK OF GOD IN THE MIDST OF THE YEARS.**
- 5) Habakkuk's prayer was answered by God Who gave him hope: 3:17-19.

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LESSON: *What Habakkuk faced in Judah in 626 BC we face in America today. We can pray for REVIVAL and SHOULD INDEED DO SO and perhaps God will hear our prayer and send revival.*

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I. THE REALITY OF REVIVAL

A. The Confusion

1. Many people are confused about what REVIVAL is all about.
 - a. Some confuse Revival with meetings at the church.
 - b. Some confuse Revival with evangelism.
 - c. Some think that Revival is old fashioned and out of style.
 - d. Some think that Revival is not in God's plan.
2. The confusion about revival must be corrected.

B. The Correction

1. Revival is that which God desires among His people.
2. Revival has been defined various ways by great men of God.
 - a. Charles G. Finney: **“Revival is a new beginning of obedience to God.”**
 - b. G.J. Morgan: **“Revival is reviving humanity to the sense of God.”**
 - c. Aurthor Wallis: **“Revival is God revealing Himself in awful holiness and irresistible power.”**
 - d. J. Edwin Orr: **“Revival is times of refreshing from the Lord.”**
 - e. Geoffrey R. King: **“Revival is a sovereign act of God upon the church whereby He intervenes to life the situation completely out of human hands and works in extraordinary power.”**

3. Revival, simply speaking is: **WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE GET RIGHT WITH GOD.** The KEY PASSAGE for REVIVAL in scripture is 2 Chronicles 7:14. Note the significant components:

- a. Revival involves God's People.
- b. Revival involves Humility before God.
- c. Revival involves Prayer to God.
- d. Revival involves Seeking God's Will.
- e. Revival involves Repentance toward God.
- f. Revival involves the Working of God.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE REALISM OF REVIVAL

-For revival to be real there are certain necessary components to consider.-

A. A Proper View of Sin

1. Sin is too often tolerated and promoted today.
2. Sin is **THAT WHICH VIOLATES THE LAW OF GOD. 1 John 3:4**
3. Sin that is uncontrolled will destroy the individual, the church and the nation.

ILLUSTRATION:

B. A Proper View of God

1. There are so many improper views of God in the world.
 - a. Atheism – There is no God.
 - b. Deism – There is a God who does not care and is not in control.
 - c. Pantheism – That all reality is God who is in everything.
2. There are so many improper views of God in the church.
 - a. He is our Celestial Santa Claus.
 - b. He is our Divine Co-pilot.
 - c. He is our Heavenly Repair Man.
 - d. He is our Galactic Grandfather.
 - e. He is a Godly Magician.
3. God is **THE INFINITE, AND PERFECT SPIRIT IN WHOM ALL THINGS HAVE THEIR SOURCE, SUPPORT AND END WHO POSSESSES LOVE, GRACE, WRATH, MERCY AND JUSTICE.**

ILLUSTRATION:

C. A Proper View of the Bible

1. The Bible is attacked by both the world and the church today in various ways:
 - a. The Bible is not relevant.
 - b. The Bible is not authoritative.
 - c. The Bible is man-made.
 - d. The Bible is filled with errors and contradictions.
2. The Bible is **GOD'S INSPIRED WORD TO THE WORLD**
-2 Timothy 3:16,17

ILLUSTRATION:

D. A Proper View of the Cross

1. The Cross of Christ is diminished an/or neglected by many today.
2. The Cross of Christ is not just the instrument upon which Christ was hung outside of Jerusalem. It is **THAT DEFINITE CONCEPT IN WHICH JESUS SUFFERED, BLED, DIED AND BORE THE SIN OF THE WHOLE WORLD IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SALVATION OF ALL OF MANKIND.**
3. The Cross of Christ is to be focused upon daily by all believers that will result in perpetual revival.

ILLUSTRATION:

E. A Proper of the Church

1. The Church is not just a man-made entity or organization.
2. The Church is not the building in which Christians meet.
3. The Church is the **MANIFESTATION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST ON THE EARTH AND IS TO BE RESPECTED, SUPPORTED, PRAYED FOR, HONORED, EDIFIED AND COMMITTED TO BY EVERY BELIEVER.**

ILLUSTRATION:

F. A Proper View of the Family

1. The Family is under great attack today in so many ways.

2. The Family is **GOD'S FIRST INSTITUTION ON EARTH, MADE UP OF A MOTHER, A FATHER, AND CHILDREN DESIGNED TO POPULATE THE WORLD AND ILLUSTRATE THE UNION BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.**

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE RESULT OF REVIVAL

REAL REVIVAL HAS LASTING RESULTS THAT HONOR GOD

A. True Reconciliation to God.

B. True Joy of the Lord.

C. True Power of the Holy Spirit.

D. True Confession of Sin.

E. True Salvation of Sinners.

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION/CONCLUSION:

True Revival begins when the true Christian allows the Holy Spirit to work in his life without any restrictions. **ARE YOU WILLING TO DO THAT?**