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REVIVAL IN AMERICA

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2023-2024 – PART 5

Let's continue our *Revival* series by looking King Josiah – in particular, after Shaphan the scribe read from a copy of the Law discovered while restoring the Temple:

“And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD. And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us” (2 Kings 22:8-13).

Josiah was the second youngest king to ever reign in Jerusalem. He was eight years old when he began and reigned for 31 years. Josiah's name means: “whom Jehovah heals”

and comes from the same root word as “foundation”.

Knowing the meaning of Josiah's name we can now better understand how Jehovah would use him to not only repair the Temple and its foundations but Jehovah would ultimately use him to bring about revival and reformation. Regrettably, both revival and reformation would be short lived due to the impending judgment.

Josiah would die early, around the age of 40. Though Josiah would die in war, Jehovah promised him he would die in peace because he had fully obeyed the Lord concerning revival and reformation.

May times a Christian can be in the midst of a trial or spiritual battle and yet can have great peace in their heart and mind.

Josiah was about 26 years old when God began to fulfill the prophetic words given to this very young king. Jehovah was able to accomplish this great work through Josiah's absolute adherence to the Word of God.

Some 300 years before Josiah was born, it was prophesied he would be born and fulfill Gods will concerning revival and reformation: *“And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he (the man of God) cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense*

upon thee (the altar), and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee” (1 Kings 13:1-2).

The tragedy in all of this was after revival and reformation, Jehovah would ultimately send fierce judgment upon Israel through the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. Jehovah however promised Josiah he would not witness or experience His fierce anger because he willingly humbled himself.

It has been said Josiah brought about the greatest revival and reformation ever. At that particular time, both Israel and Judah were totally backslidden. For the most part, Israel had totally abandoned God and His most Holy Word.

Just like many churches today, Israel only had a form of godliness because they had forsaken the Word of God. America and the modern church today are in the same spiritual shape and, whether we realize it or not, America is on the precipice of divine judgment.

I don't ever want to be a purveyor of doom and gloom but my spiritual sense tells me the handwriting of God is on the wall and says it all! America has fallen so far from righteousness it begs description. Very few are crying aloud against sin and the many evils destroying our nation and the modern church.

I have been pleading for quite some time for everyone to rebuild their altar and call upon the name of the Lord and repent. America is in dire need of a revival. I am not here to address anyone's self-esteem, self-confidence, or lack thereof. I **am** saying the church needs a revival of God's most Holy Word and a full blown reformation.

Let it be noted, the life of all true believers will be filled with toil and suffering. Jesus said, ***“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”*** (Luke 9:23). Cross-bearing is very difficult and, if you are truly bearing your cross, you are certainly not watching others but seeking the face of God.

There was no more godly man than Job and today he would tell us life is filled with great difficulties: ***“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not”*** (Job 14:1-2). Needless to say Job was a man who understood the difficulties of life.

How closely do we desire to be associated with Christ and suffering? Let me share a portion of the apostle Paul’s testimony and how he desired to be totally dedicated to Christ and labor in His most holy service: ***“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship (partaking) of his sufferings (hardship or pain), being made conformable (fashionable or obedient) unto his death;”*** (Philippians 3:10).

After hearing the apostle Paul’s words, how close are we to Christ and how willing are we to share in His immeasurable sufferings? Many wrongly teach that when serving Christ, there is no such thing as conforming to suffering but, instead, Christianity, for the most part, is filled with bliss and blessings.

Apostle Paul warns: ***“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”*** (2 Timothy 3:12). Living a godly life will always bring persecution from so called Christians because of sheer dedication. Listen closely to the words of Christ: ***“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they***

will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also” (John 15:20).

Here in the last days many will come against the redeemed and persecute them because of their dedication to Christ and His word. Jesus went on to say: ***“These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended (scandalized or tripped up). They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service*** (or divine ministration from organized religion)” (John 16:1-2).

As true believers, we must be prepared for persecution. Those who are unwilling to compromise must prepare for the consequences.

Josiah was the grandson of Manasseh, and Josiah’s father was Amon, and they were both terribly wicked kings. They were the very ones who led Israel into this apostasy. However, Josiah was one of the godliest kings that ever lived.

You may have come from a broken home, like myself, or some other type of dysfunctionality. You must never allow that to keep you from fulfilling God’s divine plan and will for your life. The psalmist declared: ***“... forget also thine own people, and thy father’s house;...”*** (Psalm 45:10). In other words, quit allowing your past to dictate your future.

Josiah was raised in an atmosphere of corruptness; yet God set him aside for God’s own holy service and God will do no less for you, if you will obey Him. Anyone who wholeheartedly follows Christ can experience the same personal revival and reformation Josiah did.

Personally I live a life of revival because I chose to pray and remain steadfast in the Word of God. We read: ***“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”*** (1 John 5:4).

It will always take faith to overcome the world and the evils that lie herein.

Because Josiah did that which was right in the sight of God, Jehovah honored him.

Anyone who commits to the same biblical truths will always be honored by Christ. Christ will wholly commit to anyone who wholly commits to Him.

Hear the prophetic words given to Josiah from the prophetess Huldah: ***“Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again”*** (2 Kings 22:20). It is incumbent upon every Christian to repent and seek the Lord in this nefarious hour. Much evil can be stayed or delayed in the coming days but we must repent and return to Christ.

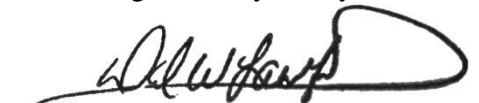
If America fails to repent and seek the face of God; He will have no recourse but to do what He did in the days of Josiah.

Please allow me say thank you for all your faithfulness to this ministry. You will never know how great a blessing you have been to us. You are the means by which our Lord helps us touch thousands. I am praying the Lord will help me touch America.

In conclusion, I am concerned about the direction we are going. However, God is eternally faithful and will only do that which is right.

NOTE: If we were to have a gathering late this fall would join us? Please write or email us your reply so we can plan appropriately.

Serving faithfully with you,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist