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We continue our "Revival in America" series with Scripture from 2 Kings 23:1-3: "And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem. And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by a pillar (column), and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform (adhere to, fulfill) the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant."

The events we see taking place in our Scripture text need to happen throughout the entire church world, especially in America. A holy convocation needs to be called – with a message of repentance along with a holy cry to be washed in the precious blood of the Lamb – and it should proceed immediately.

There needs to be a holy gathering of all purported spiritual leaders and elders throughout America. These spiritual leaders must plead with all of our citizens for a revival of repentance!

It would be a blessing if America had a president who was a Godfearing man who would make such a mighty declaration concerning revival and reformation as did Josiah.

REVIVAL IN AMERICA 2023-2024 – PART 11

Does anyone actually believe this administration would make such a plea for a holy convocation and for a solemn assembly? With all of the bribery, and lately having found cocaine in the White House, I doubt that will ever happen. We are warned a time is coming when "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries (drugs), nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (Revelation 9:21).

The Greek word for "sorceries" is *pharmakeia* (#5331, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). This is where we get our English word **pharmacy** meaning: *drugs* or *medication*. The Book of Revelation declares they will not repent of their habitual drug use.

After Josiah received his prophetic word from the prophetess Huldah, he went directly to the Temple of God to meet with all the people he had summoned. The fact that Josiah met with even the least in society demonstrates he had a burden for everyone concerning their salvation and deliverance.

Some might ask: What did Josiah do that was so great? He read from the Word of Almighty God, which had recently been found in the Temple of God. Josiah made a divine proclamation unto the people with Jehovah as his witness. Josiah did not hesitate to embrace the Word of God.

What a blessing it would be if today's church and our nation would rediscover the Word of God.

It was customary for the king to stand by a pillar of the Temple when making a declaration or a covenant:

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"When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the LORD. And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets..." (2 Kings 11:13-14).

Standing by a pillar in the Temple speaks of authority and could symbolize both the Word of God and the presence of God, just like the pillar or column of fire during the Exodus.

The Word of God promises all who overcome will be made pillars in the Temple of God: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Revelation 3:11-12).

Josiah made three commitments.

First, Josiah committed to walk after the Lord. Every born-again believer should have a godly desire to pursue the Lord in a dedicated, consecrated manner.

There is too much flippancy in the church today and, sadly, far too many people demonstrate a spirit of casualness in their walk with the Lord. I must say, walking with the Lord is a holy and fearful thing. We are warned: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

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Tragically, few Christians possess a fear of the Lord. The principal part of knowing who God is means to fear Him in a reverent manner. The Bible says: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

Notice how David followed after the Lord: "My soul followeth hard (clings) after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me" (Psalm 63:8). Do you cling to the Lord, walking close enough wherein sin cannot have dominion, authority, or lordship over your life? We read: "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion (lordship) over me" (Psalm 119: 133).

Second, Josiah committed to keep the Lord's Commandments, testimonies, and statutes with all of his heart and soul. This second commitment is summed up nicely in Deuteronomy 6:5, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Third, Josiah committed to perform or execute the words of the Pentateuch covenant. The word "perform" in our Scripture text means: to take immediate action. Josiah did not hesitate in taking immediate action, knowing the Lord would delay His judgment until he passed away. How imperative it is for America and the modern church to take immediate action!

Lastly the people stood in agreement and pledged to keep the covenant or proclamation Josiah made unto the Lord. No doubt many of those who stood in agreement and pledged to keep covenant with Jehovah were mere "professors and not possessors". No doubt many fell back into sin which ultimately assured the judgment of God through Nebuchadnezzar.

Regrettably, the church in America has become cowardly, full of sin, and most are unwilling to take a stand for the Lord and His Most

Holy Word. Compromise is a terrible thing and, sadly, it is running rampant in every segment of our society. Most politicians in the government and leaders in the church will tell you "compromise" is a good word. But, in reality, compromise is a very dangerous word.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "compromise" as: a concession to something derogatory or prejudicial of principles: to expose to suspicion, discredit, or mischief, to cause the impairment of one's reputation. Here is a great example of compromise: "If you keep running around with that individual, you are going to compromise your reputation!"

Tragically, the church has embraced, coddled, catered to, and toyed with sin until most have become compromised and impaired. Many today are unwilling to covenant with Jehovah and stand for that which is just and holy.

The psalmist rightly questions: "Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?" (Psalm 94:16) This woke generation and its perverted mentality is destroying the moral fabric of our nation and most are too cowardly to stand against it.

There was a time when men were men and women were women and they stood for that which was right, just, and holy. However, today a man can be a woman and a woman can be a man and many children are being destroyed through the perversion of so called *transgenderism*: a newly created word to disguise all the immorality, perversity, and debauchery of this evil and wicked generation.

It is time for the people of God to arise and wave the bloodstained banner of Jesus Christ and declare war against the powers of sin and the rulers of the darkness of this world. If we don't soon take a stand on a national level, our nation will be razed by the hand of God Almighty.

Some say praying for America will be to no avail, however, I still believe God is the God of all flesh and can do anything if we will only turn and seek His face.

God gave Abraham an opportunity to intercede for Sodom and Gomorrah and I believe the Lord is affording the church an opportunity to do the same in this hour. I humbly ask those of you reading this newsletter to pray and call upon your friends and family to do the same.

The God we serve is not a hard taskmaster, but rather is tender, loving, kind, and compassionate if we would turn to Him in this hour.

As Jeremiah sat in the ashes and ruin of Jerusalem after its destructtion, he still had hope in the Lord: "My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:20-23). This is a turn of Jeremiah's heart since previously he had noted the prevailing thought, saying "Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?" (Lamentations 2:15) In the end Jerusalem was nothing more than a ruinous heap of rubble.

Let us all humbly seek the face of God so this does not become the future of America.

We thank you so very much for your love, prayers, and support for this ministry. I am strengthened by every letter, e-mail, and phone call. I am also humbled by your faithful support for this work of God. I know the Lord will honor you because you took the time to honor Him.

Serving faithfully with you,

David W. Lankford Pastor / Evangelist