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**REVIVAL IN AMERICA
2023-2024 – PART 13**

MARCH 2024

Today, we continue our “*Revival in America*” series with our 13th newsletter. We read: *“And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people. And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove. And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city. Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren. And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech” (2 Kings 23:6-10).*

We see Josiah brought out from the Temple of Jehovah the Asherah idol. The Asherah was set upright or erect in the ground like a totem pole. It was either a living tree with the top cut off and the trunk fashioned into a certain shape, or a log fashioned into an idol and set erect in the ground. Originally, the idol was worshipped as a symbol of the tree of life, but later perverted to mean the origin of life and was pictured

with the male organ of procreation. God rejects this sinful gross act of man’s creativity: *“Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images (resemblance) of men, and didst commit whoredom with them” (Ezekiel 16:17).*

During the days of Josiah, sin abounded as never before. The same can be said about America today. As a nation, America has become enamored with sexualization. Perversity has exploded throughout every aspect and segment of our nation.

Just recently, two congressional staffers were found to have been in a Senate chamber and posted themselves online having gay sex. With all the sodomy, transgenderism, child mutilation, and woke ideology, our nation is truly bound for hell. In spite of all the perversion, there seems to be very few who are crying aloud against the sins of America. If men do not soon stand and cry aloud against the sins of this nation, we will become as Sodom and Gomorrah, and God will have no recourse but to destroy this nation with a fiery holocaust. Regarding America, we should agree with the prophet Isaiah: *“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of [America] their sins” (Isaiah 58:1).*

Preaching against sin has never been popular and never will be; however, most pulpiteers today seek notoriety and they wilt, droop, and crumble at the first sign of peer pressure. For the most part, these

pulpiteers pursue a more friendly, acceptable, and palatable message so as to offend no one, all the while shunning the Word of God.

Josiah burned these pagan idols, ground the ashes to powder, and strewed the ashes over the graves of the people. In my humble opinion, when Josiah cast the ashes of these idols upon the graves of the children, that means those children were cursed and eternally lost because they died worshipping these false gods. What else could this mean when he desecrated their graves?

Sadly, our up and coming generation of young people will die lost if we don’t preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We cannot be afraid of offending them; their lost souls are too precious, and their blood will be required of someone’s hands.

Humanity’s memory is short and it only took one generation to not know Jehovah after Israel entered into the promise land: *“... and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10).*

This verse shows when the apostasy in Israel actually began. It was the generation after the elders who outlived Joshua, among those who knew not the Lord.

I feel I am pretty much the last generation that was afforded to witness a true move of God through the Holy Ghost. While pastoring, my children witnessed the power of God on Sunday mornings because I would accept nothing less! When the convicting power of the Holy Ghost would fall, young people would come to the altar with hot tears

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streaming down their faces in sorrow, grief, and brokenness because of their sinful life styles. When the Holy Ghost shows up in the houses of God, everyone will know they have been in His most holy presence.

Sadly, the church today is so removed from Holy Ghost conviction we no longer make altar calls. You know God's Spirit is moving when young people come to an altar even though an altar call has not been made. That's the move of God America so desperately needs today.

Josiah was not looking to be popular with the people but, rather, he was looking to be obedient to Jehovah. It is impossible to walk with God and have idols within our hearts. The God we serve is a holy God, and He will not accept faulty worship or soiled love. Jesus was very clear: ***"If ye love me, keep my commandments"*** (John 14:15).

This is exactly what has happened within the modern church today: we have lost our first love for the Christ of God. Again, Jesus Christ is explicit: ***"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else (otherwise) I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent"*** (Revelation 2:4-5).

I remember when I came back to the Lord on June 6, 1978. I was a backslider, away from God, but the Holy Ghost touched my heart while sitting in a bar and spoke these words to my heart: ***"If you do not repent tonight and give me your heart, I will never deal with you again."***

I had known that voice since I was 12 years old. The truth was, I was tired of running from the Lord. He knew this, and extended His grace in this moment to overcome this ultimatum. The most miserable

person in the world is a backslider; because they have tasted of the goodness of God, they will never again be the same! O how convicting His presence and power were even in that night club. At about midnight, I got into my car and drove to my grandparents' home. Back then, they didn't lock the back door. When I came through the back door, my grandma was up and in the kitchen. She turned to me and said: "What are you doing here at this time of night?" Before I could answer, she said: "You're here to pray." I replied, "Yes, I am." She woke my grandpa up, and they prayed me through. That night, I was restored and made whole again.

What America needs is an old-fashioned Holy Ghost revival amongst Christians, which then leads to an American awakening amongst unbelievers. God Almighty, through the Holy Ghost, can change America, but without that change, we are on the precipice of judgment. Today, America has too many false gods and too many idols.

There is but one Lord and one God, and He is the Lamb of God who was slain from the foundation of the world: ***"For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth (as there be gods many, and lords many), But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him"*** (1 Corinthians 8:5-6).

The truth is, there are many gods and idols in America today, but there is only one true and living God, and that is Christ Jesus. Simply put, there is but one God, and He is Lord of all!

Josiah physically tore down all the living quarters of the male and female shrine prostitutes inside the Temple of the Lord, where the women had woven coverings for the Asherah pole. You may not realize it, but that type of perversity is in

many houses of God today. Many have forsaken the Lord, and Satan has filled that void with his evilness. There is far too much filth and sin in many churches today. It astounds me when I read just how far Israel has fallen from Jehovah, and yet the same can be said about America.

Josiah brought the entire Levitical priesthood, who had officiated at the various high places, back to Jerusalem so as to monitor their behavior. What a sad commentary when the purported men of God can no longer be trusted to do the service of our Lord. If men fail to pray, their hearts will become calloused. Slowly, but surely, they waft away from the presence of His holiness.

This reformation by Josiah was based upon him rediscovering the Word of God. It was the power of God's Word that caused Josiah to make all of these godly decisions and changes.

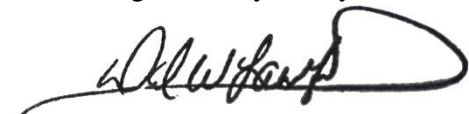
I am convinced, if today's church did rediscover God's Word, then the change we so desperately need could come to fruition. However, if we do not rediscover and preach His Word without compromise, there will be no lasting fruit in the coming days.

I humbly beseech you; please find the time to pray and fellowship with our Redeemer.

We thank you so very much for your prayers, love, and support. By His grace, we will cry aloud and spare not in the days to come. Pray for our nation because it is broken.

Please remember our
"Revival in America"
meeting September 20-22, 2024.
We anticipate a genuine move of
God at this meeting!

Serving faithfully with you,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist