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**REVIVAL IN AMERICA
2023-2024 – PART 18**

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Our ongoing series, “*Revival in America*,” continues: “*And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him. Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations (anger) that Manasseh had provoked him withal. And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there*” (2 Kings 23:25-27).

What a profound statement about this mortal king of Israel, namely Josiah. There was no king, before or after, like Josiah. He turned to the Lord with all his heart, soul, and might and he did everything according to the Law of Moses. Think of how profound that statement is and it was the Holy Ghost who spoke those profundities.

In **verse 25**, “*like unto*” is how the verse begins and ends; there were none *like him*, before or after. In both phrases, the Holy Ghost used nearly the identical revelation and inspiration. The emphasis is not so much about the man as it relates to the man’s obedience.

If there’s ever been a time for the church – the body of Christ – to become obedient and seek the face and counsel of Jehovah, it is today.

Josiah exemplifies someone who fears the Lord, embraces His Word,

and seeks to obey Jehovah. Josiah turned to the Lord with all of his heart to do God’s will. Too often we fail to realize the power and significance of obedience when it comes to Christ and His most holy Word.

Josiah’s obedience to the Word of God not only blessed him but allowed a temporary stay of divine judgment and punishment to Judah.

Suffer me to be very pointed here; I have great consternation about America and the church. Other than Israel no other nation on earth has been so greatly blessed as America. Apathy, complacency, and lethargy have wholly engulfed our nation and its leadership. For decades sin has been tolerated within the church, the body of Christ. Judgment is coming both to America and the church. I have no joy in being so direct, but I must obey the Lord.

We are told: “*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach (disgrace) to any people*” (Proverbs 14:34). If righteousness exalts a nation, then unrighteousness debases and destroys it. Because God will neither exalt nor tolerate wickedness, He must destroy it. Evil will eventually destroy and consume itself because of its godless makeup. This is the very reason James said: “*... sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death*” (James 1:15). America is terminally ill and on the precipice of death.

When Jehovah is the God of any nation, He blesses that nation. Israel was a supernaturally blessed nation because of God’s divine covenant with Abraham. The city of Jerusalem was blessed because that is

where Jehovah placed His name. Even then, He was forced to destroy it. Though Israel was a chosen nation – even with the city of Jerusalem, its splendor, opulence, and ornate Temple – it would all be brought to ruin and destruction.

I am very disturbed by the pompous, proud, and arrogant attitude concerning those who say nothing will ever happen to America. When judgment comes to America, I will not say, “I told you so!” Anyone who reads the Scriptures with a discerning heart knows we’re on the threshold of a very disturbing event. King David, declared: “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance*” (Psalm 33:12).

In spite of all the sin and wickedness, Christ will present to Himself a glorious church without spot, wrinkle, or blemish. In **verse 26**, we witness as the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath. In spite of Josiah’s august “Reformation”, and while being the embodiment of clean hands and a pure heart, that did not extinguish Jehovah’s anger. It was Manasseh, Josiah’s grandfather who had brought Asherah poles and placed them in the Temple of God. We read: “*And he (Manasseh) set a graven image (Asherah pole) of the grove that he had made in the house (Temple), of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever*” (2 Kings 21:7).

Sadly there is too much leader-

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ship in the modern church that resembles Manasseh. The God we serve is a holy God and He can only do that which is right. I hear so many prophecy teachers declaring Israel must go through the Great Tribulation, but on the other hand the church could be raptured at any moment. **Hear me clearly**; there will be no rapture of the church until there is judgment first in His house. Let me reiterate that statement again: there will be no rapture of the church until judgment comes first. We read: **“For the time is come that judgment (condemnation of wrong) must begin at the house of God (among God’s people): and if it first begin at us, what shall the end (outcome) be of them that obey not (disobey) the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely (with difficulty) be saved, where shall the ungodly (irreverent of God) and the sinner (those devoted to sin) appear?” (1 Peter 4:17-18)**

In the coming months you will witness the judgment of God throughout many ministries in America. Shame and disgrace will be seen on many faces. Christ cannot excuse a sinful church and judge the world in righteousness until He judges the church first. Thus the warning of the Apostle Peter that *judgment must first begin at the house of God or with the people of God*. God is going to expose the charlatans and those who are in ministry for all the wrong reasons.

Christ came and died to save sinners, yet there seems to be a reckless abandonment of caring, loving, and reaching out to the multitude who are so terribly lost. Every day sinners are going out into eternity lost without God! As a believer and follower of Christ are you doing everything within your strength to reach them before they go into eternity?

Christ may not have called you into the physical, mission field, but every saint can pray and support those who are reaching the lost!

It has been said there were 43 elements to Josiah’s “Reformation”. Nevertheless, Jehovah did not see fit to turn away His wrath, for He knew it would only last during the days of Josiah. Jehovah knew all too well that Judah would soon return to their old path of sin that the previous wicked kings of Judah had invoked and implemented. However, if there had been a deep rooted, lasting reformation of the people’s hearts, then Jehovah could have changed His mind concerning Jerusalem’s destruction.

Too often the modern church is guilty of praying away Holy Ghost conviction and then returning to their evil ways. Just like Israel, America and the modern church are subject to stiff necks and calloused hearts.

Remember the prophetic words of the lawgiver, Moses: **“For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck (stubbornness of heart): behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?” (Deuteronomy 31:27)** What a discerning and prophetic spirit Moses possessed and how he accurately foretold Israel’s future behavior. Moses could discern the rebellion and stubbornness of their hearts and he realized after his passing their rebellion would only grow exponentially.

This is why we need an old fashion revival at this time.

Because of Josiah’s obedience, he was able to stay the judgment of God in his life time. However, after his passing, God would use King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon to punish and ultimately destroy Israel! Hear the words of the prophet Jeremiah: **“Set up the standard toward Zion: retire (flee), stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction. The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place**

to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste (fall in ruins), without an inhabitant. For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us. And it shall come to pass at that day, saith the LORD, that the heart of the king shall perish (go astray, be destroyed), and the heart of the princes; and the priests shall be astonished (stunned, appalled), and the prophets shall wonder (be in consternation)” (Jeremiah 4:6-9).

I am confident there will be absolute unbelief, numbness, and consternation throughout America and the nominal church when God’s judgment falls. It rains upon the just and the unjust and so will it be here in the time of the end. Nevertheless Jehovah is merciful and long suffering unto those who fear Him. Jeremiah is a gracious example of God’s mercy. The Israelites persecuted him and put him in a pit but God saved him, gave him his life, and gave him favor with Captain Nebuzaradan. We read: **“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 (certainty)” (Lamentations 3:22).**

As always, we humbly thank you for your love of, and support for, this ministry.

Please remember our meeting,
“Revival in America”
September 20-22, 2024,
at the Hickory Metro
Convention Center,
Hickory, North Carolina.

We are eager to see you there!

Until next time, serving with you,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist