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REVIVAL IN AMERICA
2023-2024 – PART 17

JULY 2024

We continue our series “*Revival in America*” with our Scripture text: *“Surely there was not holden (not observed) such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah; But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem. Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD” (2 Kings 23:22-24).*

This godly reformation led by Josiah would also bring about the restoration and implementation of the feasts of Jehovah. Of course, the proper and correct protocol would be to begin with the first feast, which would be Passover. This gives the reader insight as to what time of the year Josiah would begin this reformation. The implementation of this Passover feast in which they would celebrate was in the spring of the year which was March or April.

The Scriptures declare up to this point in time this was the greatest Passover ever celebrated at Jerusalem. There had never been a Passover of this magnitude since the days of the judges of Israel. It is truly fitting that this reformation would begin at Passover, which made this reformation based upon repentance, justification, and redemption, coupled with the shedding

of innocent blood.

Once men have fallen into the clutches of sin, the only way they can be cleansed and justified is by Holy Ghost, Spirit-led repentance. The apostle Paul declared: *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Corinthians 7:10).*

Only godly sorrow works genuine repentance in our lives and leads us away from sin and produces lasting spiritual results. Worldly sorrow always lacks godly repentance and will only result in spiritual death!

Presently, two problems face America and the church. There is unwillingness to proclaim the Word of God and demand genuine heartfelt repentance. So many today are too proud to admit they are sinners and need a Savior. The truth is all have sinned and come short of God’s glory. Therefore everyone must repent and confess all the sins we have committed against a holy God. This is why there is such a great need for Holy Ghost conviction to permeate our churches.

Unfortunately, it has been years since I have gone to a church on a Sunday morning and witnessed powerful Holy Ghost conviction in the houses of God with ministers pleading for old fashion repentance. There will be no repentance unless the Holy Ghost convicts men and convinces them they are lost and out of fellowship with their Redeemer!

Furthermore, if the Holy Ghost does not deal with men, then merely saying a few words does not produce real repentance. True repentance al-

ways produces forgiveness and justification. The Holy Ghost smites the hearts of men and makes them aware that they are out of fellowship with Christ. Jesus declared: *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw (to drag) him: and I will raise him up (in the first resurrection) at the last day” (John 6:44).*

Jesus reiterated that truth when He said: *“Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given (granted) unto him of my Father” (John 6:65).*

Men must have a divine invitation from the Father above to be born again. For this reason men must respond correctly to the leadership of the Holy Ghost when He constrains them to come to an altar and repent of their sins.

Many times, when I kneel in prayer, I am humbled by the Spirit of God when remembering how He smote my heart and dealt heavily with me while in my backslidden condition. His holy plea demanded I return to Him and repent of my sins and be restored to my rightful place of fellowship.

Don't ever think you cannot fall out of fellowship with the Lord because of your sins. It will always be sin that separates us from the Father. We are warned by the prophet of God in how that sin always separates us from the Father: *“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy (dull), that it cannot hear: But your iniquities (sins, mischief) have separated (severed) between you and your God, and your sins have hid*

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(concealed) *his face from you, that he will not hear*" (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Anyone who lives a life of sin, and believes they are still in a right relationship with God, is terribly misguided. Sin will always separate man from a holy God, whether they believe it or not. Isaiah said emphatically it would be sin that would disjoin us or cause broken fellowship with our Maker.

Therefore, it would be at Passover when this reformation would initiate repentance, justification, and redemption. We cannot overly state the magnificence of this particular Passover and how glorious it was in the sight of God.

Israel had celebrated many Passovers but sadly many of those feasts were celebrated while in a broken relationship with Jehovah. Therefore those feasts Israel had kept were unacceptable to God. To be truthful, Israel was merely having a form of godliness when celebrating those feast days!

Many churches are in the same deplorable state today. The apostle Paul foretold these days: *"Having a form (appearance) of godliness, but denying the power (Holy Ghost power) thereof: from such turn away (shun, avoid)"* (2 Timothy 3:5).

There are many today who offer up spiritual sacrifices but Christ does not accept those sacrifices because it is faulty worship. Their hands are not clean and neither are their hearts pure.

Sadly, Israel would fall back into sin in the very near future after having celebrated this great Passover feast. Jehovah would have no recourse but to ultimately bring judgment and destruction through Babylon.

Christ will not accept just any worship or sacrifices no matter what men might say. *"Bring no more vain (worthless) oblations (donations); incense (a type of worship) is an abomination unto me; the new*

moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth (God personally hates): they are a trouble (burden) unto me; I am weary (disgusted) to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands (lift your hands in prayer), I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make (offer) many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings (sins) from before mine eyes; cease to do evil" (Isaiah 1:13-16).

The measure of sin found in the nominal church today is exceedingly tragic. Like many reading this newsletter, over the past 40 plus years I have witnessed great deterioration within the church. Holiness, wholeness, purity, and a host of other godly characteristics have waned and all but disappeared from the modern church. Knowing that God does not change, the burden falls squarely upon each of us.

The good news is godly repentance will always bring forgiveness, redemption, and reformation. It is my prayer that the Holy Ghost will lead our nation into a time of deep contrition, confession, and repentance. If that happens, revival will break forth throughout America! America can be spared from divine judgment!

In 2 Kings 23:24 we witness as Josiah destroyed the public places of idolatry; thereafter he continued with the destruction of all household gods and persons who had traffic with demonic spirits. Josiah had faithfully turned to the Pentateuch – the Word of God – for guidance and direction concerning the destruction and demolition of all pagan idols and the sort.

For both the church and America to get back on the right track, we must rediscover the Word of God.

After having the Law read to him,

Josiah knew exactly what he must do concerning idolatry, which he did without reservation or hesitation.

If God was to be so gracious to America and grant us a great deluge and outpouring of the Holy Ghost, would today's ministers stand up and do the right thing in tearing down every element of sin and idolatry; or would many remain afraid, cowardly, and fail to heed to the Word of God?

I humbly ask you to find time to pray, seek His hallowed face, and make sure your hands are clean and your heart pure. Only the pure in heart shall see God and partake of His divine glory at His Second Advent! *"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God"* (Matthew 5:8).

In closing, I want to humbly thank you for supporting this ministry. We value you, your support, and your friendship.

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we are diligently seeking the Lord about starting and building a third church. I need your prayers and support for such an endeavor. We don't even have a store front building this time around; nevertheless, we are pressing in to find the will of God!

I am certain the will of God is perfect and that is all I want in my life. His will is more important to me than anything else in this world.

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

Until next time, serving with you,



David W. Lankford
Pastor / Evangelist