

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE GREATEST NEED FOR GOD'S PEOPLE
ZECHARIAH 1:3-6

Introduction

In our text, we see nation of Israel at the end of 70 years of captivity. Because of their disobedience, the LORD had not been very pleased with HIS PEOPLE! So, the LORD allowed them to be invaded by and taken captive by the Babylonians!

They have now been allowed to go back to their homeland in Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. What was their greatest need? You probably could have gotten a wide range of opinions from God's people on what their greatest needs were. But in reality, what was their greatest need?

Their greatest need was REVIVAL—A Return Back To God's Ways, God's Worship, God's Will, and God's Word!

What is the greatest need in the Church today?

1. Some might say it is for more and better ministries.
2. Some might say it is for more money to do the work of God.
3. Some might say it is for Churches to cater to what the members want. (Burger King Church...i.e. Have it YOUR WAY)
4. Some might say it is for more people to get saved.
5. I believe the greatest need in our Churches is for our Churches to return to God (Revival).
 - a. **When God's people get right, we can have more and better ministries.**
 - b. **When God's people get right, we will have more money to do the work of God.**
 - c. **When God's people get right, they will come to Church and get what they want, because God will change their wants—they'll want what God wants.**
 - d. **When God's people get right, we will have more people getting saved.**

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Revival is not only the greatest need in the Church today, but I believe it is the greatest need for:

1. Our world!
2. Our country!
3. Our community!
4. Our families!
5. Our own personal lives!

I. REVIVAL IS NEEDED WHEN WE TURN FROM GOD!

A. Revival Is Needed When We Turn From His Ways!

Jeremiah 6:16—“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”

Jeremiah 7:23-24—“But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. 24But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.”

B. Revival Is Needed When We Turn From His Worship!

When our worship becomes a matter of going through the motions rather than from the heart, we need Revival.

1 Samuel 15:22—And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.”

Isaiah 1:11—“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? Saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.”

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John 4:23-24—“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

C. Revival Is Needed When We Turn From His Will!

Have you told God “No!” lately?

Ephesians 5:17—“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

D. Revival Is Needed When We Turn From His Word!

Where is our faith? Many say they believe God's Word to be true but then live their lives as if God's Word is not true.

The Word of God is what will change our lives!

Isaiah 55:11—“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Jeremiah 23:29—“Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”

John 8:31-32—“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

E. Revival Is Needed When We Turn From His Warnings!

Does “Thus saith the Lord” mean anything to us anymore?

Some folks reject the messenger so they reject the message too. Wrong move!

That's like “*throwing out the baby with the bath water.*”

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By the way when the messenger is rejected, it is usually because someone doesn't like the message! (Moses; Jeremiah)

Jeremiah 6:17—“Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.”

*SO, REVIVAL IS NEEDED WHEN WE TURN FROM GOD!
His Ways, His Worship, His Will, His Word, His Warnings!*

II. REVIVAL IS NEEDED WHEN GOD TURNS FROM US!

Don't get me wrong. We can't lose our salvation! God is never going to leave us or forsake us! But as we turn from God we leave the path of His blessings!

A. He Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions.

1. God Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Perverseness And Pollution!

Isaiah 59:1-2—“Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

2. God Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Pride And Prominence!

We refuse to get broken over sin or even admit that we have a sin problem.

a. Take The Matter Of Pride.

I've not found one positive thing that God has to say about pride!

Proverbs 11:2—“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”

Proverbs 29:23—“A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

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Proverbs 16:18--“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 13:10--“Only by pride cometh contention:”

Luke 14:11--“For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

b. Take The Matter Of Prominence.

Some folks want to be lifted up as being somebody.

Some are seeking for the glory of men.

Some do what they do to be seen of men.

Some do what they do for appearance sake.

1 Peter 5:5-6--“God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”

3. God Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Principles And Priorities!

When we have the world's principles and our own priorities, we need Revival! God wants us to have HIS PRINCIPLES and HIS PRIORITIES!

4. God Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Pomp And Programs!

When we put on a pious outward show when deep inside we know things aren't what they should be, we need Revival!

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When we try to replace the power of God with our programs, it shows!

5. God Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions Because Of Our Presumptions And Plans!

We presume upon God's goodness and longsuffering and grace and put off getting right with Him!

We go with our own plans and ask for God's blessings!

He Turns From Our Prayers And Petitions...

B. He Turns From Our Protection And Provision!

1. We Live Outside Of The Hedge Of God's Protection And Wonder Why Our Lives Are A Mess.

God leaves us to suffer the consequences of our sin.

2. We Put Our Money Into Bags With Holes In It And Wonder Why We Can't Get Ahead.

Instead of confession and repentance, we add another job, or rob God or take some other avenue to alleviate our condition--none of which are anything but a temporary fix because the problem is spiritual.

Conclusion

Look at what God says again in Zechariah 1:3.

“Turn ye unto me. . .and I will turn unto you.”

The first move is ours. We need Revival. Lets not be like the Church at Laodecia--Not hot, not cold, just lukewarm. **(Revelation 3:17-20)**

The question is, do we want Revival? Do you want Revival? God won't send it if we don't first turn to Him!