

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 4-21-13 AM NOTES  
"WHAT DOES REVIVAL LOOK LIKE?"  
2 CHRONICLES 28:19-24; 29:1-36  
Non-Series Message

**Chayah**—To give life, to bring back to life, to be whole

**Psalms 85:6 (NASB)** "Will You not Yourself **revive** us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?"

**Habakkuk 3:2b (NKJV)** "...**revive** Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make *it* known; in wrath remember mercy."

**Chadash**—To become new, to restore, to repair or rejuvenate.

**Psalms 51:10 (NKJV)** "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew** a steadfast spirit within me."

**Anakainos**—To give life again.

**2 Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV)** "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being **renewed** day by day."

Definitions of Revival:

"...the work of the Holy Spirit in restoring the people of God to a more vital spiritual life, witness, and work by prayer and the word after repentance in crisis for their spiritual decline" (Earle Cairns).

"A community saturated with God" (Duncan Campbell).

"A quickening, divine visitation" (Martin Lloyd-Jones).

"Revival is a sovereign act of God upon the church whereby He intervenes to lift the situation completely out of human hands and works in extraordinary power" (Geoffrey King).

"It is God revealing Himself to man in awful holiness and irresistible power. It is such a manifest working of God that human personalities are overshadowed, and human programs abandoned. It is man retiring into the background because God has taken the field. It is the Lord making bare His holy arm, and working in extraordinary power on saint and sinner" (Arthur Wallis).

Revival is "the inrush of the Spirit into a body that threatens to become a corpse" (Dwight L. Moody).

"Revival is an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit producing extraordinary results" (Richard Owen Roberts).

"But not only can men not produce a revival, they cannot even explain it, and that again is important. If you can explain what is happening in a church, apart from this sovereign act of God, it is not revival" (Martyn Lloyd-Jones).

I. The Situation That Calls for Revival (28:19-24)

**2 Chronicles 28:3 (NKJV)** "He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel."

**Isaiah 1:4 (NKJV)** "Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward."

“How many thousands... never saw, much less read or even heard a chapter of the Bible! How many ten thousands who never were baptized or heard a sermon! And thrice ten thousand who were never baptized or heard of the name of Christ, save in curses...! Lamentable! Lamentable is the situation of these people.”

- A pastor describing the situation just before The Second Great Awakening

**2 Corinthians 10:12b (NKJV)** “...they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

II. The Start That Prepares for Revival (29:1-3)

**2 Chronicles 28:24 (NKJV)** “So Ahaz ... shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.”

**1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV)** “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is in you*...”

III. The Sanctification That Precedes Revival (29:4-15)

**1 Thessalonians 2:10 (ESV)** “You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers.”

IV. The Sacrifices That Accompany Revival (29:21-30)

“In my study and observations, a revival generally results in a sudden bestowment of a spirit of worship. This is not the result of engineering or manipulation. It is something God bestows on people hungering and thirsting for Him.”

—A. W. Tozer

V. The Stewardship That Results from Revival (29:31-35)

**2 Chronicles 31:6-10 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup> And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the Lord their God, and laid them in heaps. <sup>7</sup> In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. <sup>8</sup> When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps. <sup>10</sup> Azariah the chief priest, who was of the house of Zadok, answered him, ‘Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the Lord, we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left, for the Lord has blessed his people, so that we have this large amount left.’”

VI. The Suddenness That Characterizes Revival (29:36)

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As we prepare our hearts for the Life Action Revival Summit that begins next Sunday, I want to focus our minds on genuine, biblical, life, and church transforming revival. When we pray for the Lord to send a genuine revival, what are we praying for and what will it look like when God answers our prayer? I also

want to share the truths of this message with you as a means for God to put a deep, abiding desire in your heart for personal, church, and national revival. I want us to get rid of non-biblical concepts of revival and to pray earnestly for the real thing.

In my files, I have statistic after statistic and illustration after illustration about the sad state of our nation and the so called “evangelical” churches in our nation. I had gathered many of those illustrations together to share with you today, but began to sense the Lord guiding me to put most of them back in the files. I **do not** want us to focus on the need for revival in the nation today, though there certainly is that need. I **do not** want us to focus on the need for revival in the churches of America, though there certainly is that need. The focus this morning will be on the need for revival in **this church**. When we stop comparing this church with other churches and start comparing it with where God commands **US** to be we will come under deep conviction and in humility we will seek His face (His desire) and His hand (His power) to do a work that only He can do. My goal this morning, the thing that I am asking God to do in our lives is to let us leave this building with a clear picture in our mind of what the revival we need will look like and also that we leave with hearts aflame to pray with passion for God to send this revival to us. We will see that genuine revival cannot be worked up; real revival is prayed down. The kind of revival we need is not something a program or a series of meetings can bring; a real revival is something that only God can send. My desire is that we look only to Him, but I believe that this revival summit can be the instrument through which He may sovereignly choose to work.

By way of introduction, I want us to look at what we should mean when we pray for “revival”. There are several Hebrew words that refer to what we are calling “revival”:

> “Chayah” – This Hebrew word means to give life, to bring back to life, to be whole. It is the Hebrew word used in **Psalms 85:6 (NASB)** Will You not Yourself **revive** us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?” It is also the word used in **Habakkuk 3:2b (NKJV)** “...O Lord, **revive Your work** in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make *it* known; in wrath remember mercy.” Notice the emphasis on the fact that revival is something that God must bring to His people.

> “Chadash” – This Hebrew word means to become new, to renew, to restore, to repair, or rejuvenate. It is used in **Psalms 51:10 (NKJV)** “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew** a steadfast spirit within me.”

There is one primary Greek word for revival:

> “Anakainos” – Literally, it means to give life again. It is used in **2 Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV)** “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being **renewed** day by day.” To be “renewed” is what we mean by being “revived”.

Putting this all together, revival is to have new life poured into that which is languishing; it is restoring and rejuvenating that which has deteriorated. That is what we mean by revival, not just a series of meetings.

I love to collect definitions of revival by people who understand its Biblical meaning. Here are just a few:

“...the work of the Holy Spirit in restoring the people of God to a more vital spiritual life, witness, and work by prayer and the word after repentance in crisis for their spiritual decline” (Earle Cairns).

“A community saturated with God” (Duncan Campbell).

“A quickening, divine visitation” (Martin Lloyd-Jones)

“Revival is a sovereign act of God upon the church whereby He intervenes to lift the situation completely out of human hands and works in extraordinary power” (Geoffrey King).

“It is God revealing Himself to man in awful holiness and irresistible power. It is such a manifest working of God that human personalities are overshadowed, and human programs abandoned. It is man retiring into the background because God has taken the field. It is the Lord making bare His holy arm, and working in extraordinary power on saint and sinner” (Arthur Wallis).

Revival is “the inrush of the Spirit into a body that threatens to become a corpse” (Dwight L. Moody)

“Revival is an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit producing extraordinary results” (Richard Owen Roberts).

This last one is the definition that I like best. Let's analyze it for a moment. First, revival is a **work of the Spirit of God**. God is sovereign in **when** He sends a revival to a church or a community or a nation. Jonathan Edwards (who was a human instrument that God used in the First Great Awakening in the American colonies in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) used to say that we cannot cause a revival, but we can set our sails so that when the wind of God blows we will be ready. We "set our sails" primarily by prayer and repentance. Revival is also **an extraordinary work of the Spirit of God**. God is always at work, but in a revival, His work is extraordinary. Things happen that are way out of the ordinary. This extraordinary work of the Spirit **produces extraordinary results**. Lives are so radically changed that there is absolutely no explanation for it other than the power of God at work. Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones said it well: "But not only can men not produce a revival, they cannot even explain it, and that again is important. If you can explain what is happening in a church, apart from this sovereign act of God, it is not revival" [Martin Lloyd-Jones, "Revival", page 112].

For the remainder of the message, I want us to look at a revival in the Old Testament. Under the reign of the good king Hezekiah in the southern kingdom of Israel (Judah), the Spirit of God did an extraordinary work that had extraordinary results.

### I. The Situation That Calls for Revival (28:19-24)

What darkness covered the land of Judah! Ahaz was a wicked man! He shut up the doors of the temple and erected idols across the land. We're told in some other places that he even sacrificed some of his own sons by fire. **2 Chronicles 28:3 (NKJV)** "He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel." The nation was at a low point spiritually. There was little true worship of the living and true God. It was probably of this time that the prophet Isaiah spoke in **Isaiah 1:4 (NKJV)** "Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward." That's really bad, but what we find as we study the history of great awakenings is that times of revivals almost always come out of spiritually dark times. Listen to one American Pastor's description of the Carolinas just before the Second Great Awakening, "How many thousands ... never saw, much less read or even heard a chapter of the Bible! How many ten thousands who never were baptized or heard a sermon! And thrice ten thousand who were never baptized or heard of the name of Christ, save in curses ...! Lamentable! Lamentable is the situation of these people" ["Revival Commentary" Fall 1996, P5]. In books on the history of great spiritual awakenings, there is the documenting of times of spiritual apathy and moral declension that precede great moves of God. Well, if that is a requirement we have that one covered! We live in a land that is quickly and systematically becoming a totally secular culture. We are removing every reminder and symbol of God and His work. We have elevated a perverted view of tolerance to the supreme virtue and made biblical conviction a vice. The church in America has been powerless so long that we have started running it like a business with the Pastor acting like a CEO instead of a Shepherd. We have elevated entertainment over worship and the result is that there is no supernatural touch of God in the vast majority of churches. We go on with our organization and finely tuned programs and hardly anyone notices that God's glory has departed. The churches that grow numerically are typically the ones with the best musical entertainment and the preacher who is the most interesting to listen to. There is little doctrinal content and a lot of stories and clever props. As 2 Chronicles 28:24 says, the doors of the house of the Lord are shut – shut even to the Lord Himself! That is the condition that calls for awakening. But wait; I said that we were not going to focus on the problems of the nation or the problems of "the church in America" in general. We are going to focus on our church. If we compare ourselves with many churches in our land, we really come off looking good. The problem with that way of thinking is that God doesn't compare us with other churches. **2 Corinthians 10:12b (NKJV)** "...they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." We could focus on missions and numbers and things may sound pretty good, but let's look at some other things. Where is our passionate desire for prayer? You don't have to search for a seat in *Prayer Central*

on Wednesday nights. Where is the burning desire to see our neighbors, co-workers, and fellow students come to know Christ? It can start with just inviting them to church. I remember years ago when there would sometimes be lines with members waiting to introduce their friends they brought to the services. That wasn't a part of a special day or some campaign to invite people. It was done because of hearts that were burning with the love of Jesus for the lost! Where is that zealous love for Christ that compels us to bring others to him? Where is the deep conviction of sin that manifests itself in the altars being full and with audible sobs coming from hearts mourning over sin? I could go on, but I don't want to become complacent and self satisfied like the lukewarm church at Laodicea that we are told in Revelation 3:16 made God sick. Pray that God will send a revival that will start here and move out to other churches.

## II. The Start That Prepares for Revival (29:1-3)

Notice **2 Chronicles 28:24 (NKJV)** "So Ahaz ... shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem." Compare that to **2 Chronicles 29:3 (NKJV)** "In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord..." There is an interesting parallel in the Bible to the Old Testament temple and God's New Testament saints. Just as the temple consisted of three parts (outer court, inner court, and Holy of Holies where the manifest presence of God dwelt), even so we are three parts (body, soul, and spirit where God the Spirit dwells in believers). In the Old Testament, God had a temple for His people, but under the New Covenant He has a people for His temple. **1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV)** "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you..." Just as Ahaz shut the doors of the temple, many today have shut the doors of their life to the Lord's reviving work. When Hezekiah became the King, the first thing he did was simply to open the door. Revival starts with an openness to God – a total surrender to Him inviting Him to reveal and then take away anything that is displeasing to Him. Why is everyone not open? It is because revival can be (and almost always is) painful at first. Having the Holy Spirit shine the light of His holiness on us and reveal vile, wicked, un-Christ-like actions and attitudes is painful. We tend to worship comfort and so revival is often shunned because it is uncomfortable. Are you open to the Lord to allow Him to speak and to work in your life this day? You will never experience the supernatural touch of God in your life until you are.

## III. The Sanctification That Precedes Revival (29:4-15)

The wicked King Ahaz had trashed the temple and used it to store junk in. The word "sanctify" means to set apart in holiness for the Lord's use. Preparation for revival involves a ruthless examination of our lives and a carrying out of the rubbish. It may mean giving up clutter in your life like some hobby that has taken a priority that only God should have. It may be a relationship that is not pleasing to God. It may be some root of bitterness or some area where you have wronged another and never made restitution or asked their forgiveness. There is an opening of the door and then a cleansing out of the rubbish in our life. Notice that it started with the spiritual leaders. I want to speak here to the Elders, Ministry Directors, Deacons, Sunday School Teachers, Worship Leaders, and all who have a place of leadership in the church. It is likely that we will be the ones who determine how much the Lord does in this revival we are praying for. God generally works through the leaders to call the people back to Himself. Spiritual leaders must minister out of a pure life. We must as verse 5 says, "carry out the rubbish from the holy place". God was free to move mightily because verse 15 says that the leaders obeyed. Oh dear people, pray for our spiritual leaders. Pray that we will be clean and close. Pray that the rubbish will be carried out and that we would walk close to God and lead by example as well as words. **1 Thessalonians 2:10 (ESV)** "You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers." That ought to be our prayer for every spiritual leader.

## IV. The Sacrifices That Accompany Revival (29:21-30)

They offered the sacrifices and then they worshipped. After openness and cleansing and focusing on the sacrifice which pictured Christ's shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins, there was worship like these

spiritually starved people had never experienced. In verses 29 and 30 “they bowed their heads and worshipped”. When God touches a congregation, then the worship becomes real. People who have been touched by God can’t help but worship! A. W. Tozer said, “In my study and observations, a revival generally results in a sudden bestowment of a spirit of worship. This is not the result of engineering or manipulation. It is something God bestows on people hungering and thirsting for Him.” [A. W. Tozer quoted in *Spirit of Revival*, Page 14]. When God shows up, the worship isn’t dependent on the talent of the musicians or the choreography of the service; genuine worship bursts forth, both with and without music and singing. When God touches a people, we realize that worship isn’t a means to an end; worship is an end in itself. The supreme manifestation of glorifying God is our worship. The worship that comes when God shows up is not just emotion. It will certainly touch the emotions, but it will involve a delight in the excellence of God and focus on His attributes. These people in Hezekiah’s day couldn’t stop worshipping.

#### V. The Stewardship That Results from Revival (29:31-35)

Now that revival had come, there was a generosity that manifested itself among the people. During the years of spiritual decline in Jerusalem, the giving for the priests and the maintenance of the temple had virtually disappeared. After all, Ahaz had shut the doors. The Levites gave up the service in God’s house and had to earn a living from working the land. Now the offerings came pouring in. I am convinced that a giving problem in an individual or in a church is a symptom of a deeper spiritual problem. Look at **2 Chronicles 31:6-10 (ESV)** “<sup>6</sup> And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the Lord their God, and laid them in heaps. <sup>7</sup> In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month. <sup>8</sup> When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. <sup>9</sup> And Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps. <sup>10</sup> Azariah the chief priest, who was of the house of Zadok, answered him, “Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the Lord, we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left, for the Lord has blessed his people, so that we have this large amount left.” Wow! That’s what happens when God touches a people. Our priorities are put in order. The things of God are moved to the front of the line. There is no more putting of self and luxuries and toys and prestige symbols above the things of God. People will begin downsizing and selling off playthings to give the bare minimum of a tithe (one tenth of our income) to the Lord through His church. People will leave generous portions to the Lord’s work in their wills. People will hear of the needs of individuals and begin to quietly meet those needs. People will joyfully give wherever God directs them. A genuine revival will always affect our giving. Giving problems are a symptom of a need for revival in our lives.

#### VI. The Suddenness That Characterizes Revival (29:36)

We’re not talking years or even months. When God sends a revival among His people, it comes suddenly. Oh, the prayer and agonizing, and pleading for revival may go on for years, but when God answers, there is a suddenness in its arrival. This gives evidence that it is a work of God and not man. The history of revivals shows a period of seeking, pleading and even desperation and then, SUDDENLY God shows up and there is no explanation for what happens next other than God did it. That is what I long for; that is what I am praying will happen.