

REVIVE US O LORD!

Part 2: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Nehemiah 8 records Israel's historic experience of a genuine God-sent spiritual revival through the ministry of Ezra and Nehemiah. As we consider the four essential marks and manifestations of biblical revival, we will learn that biblical revival is a sovereign and supernatural work of God through His Word. This divine work causes God's people to experience a renewed sense of His holy presence and mighty power in such a way that believers are purified and empowered for a more vibrant walk with God and effective ministry.

1. When God revives His people, there is renewed enthusiasm for God's Word.

2. When God revives His people, there is reverent exaltation of the Lord.

3. When God revives His people, there is _____.

The third essential mark of biblical revival is the faithful and careful handling of God's Word through the teaching ministry of Ezra and the Levites (Nehemiah 8:7-8). Every genuine revival is characterized by a recovery of biblical preaching and responsible Scriptural instruction. Such Spirit-led biblical instruction provides us today with these mandates: (a) God's Word must be taught by consecrated and godly men (2 Chronicles 35:3; Titus 1:7-9; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 5:25-26; 6:4); (b) God's Word must be passionately read, clearly explained and properly applied in the lives of God's people (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Corinthians 2:3-5).

4. When God revives His people, there is _____.

The fourth essential manifestation of a God-sent revival is genuine repentance accompanied by the experience of divine joy (Nehemiah 8:9-12). All the people gathered in Jerusalem mourned and shed tears of godly repentance. God's Word convicted them of their sin and exposed their rebellion and disobedience to God. Real repentance involves a deep conviction of sin, a godly sorrow over sin, a decisive forsaking of sin and a renewed commitment to obey God's commands and live in righteousness. In other words, authentic repentance is the renunciation of sin and the renewal of our covenant love and loyalty to God (Hebrews 4:12; Nehemiah 9:33-34,38; 10:28-39; Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15-18; Ephesians 4:25,28; Colossians 3:8,12-14). Godly repentance leads to a genuine experience of divine joy which is the joy of the Lord in fulfilling His covenant promise to His people. This covenant promise is ultimately fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ through His atoning work on the Cross which provides complete forgiveness for our sins and eternal loving relationship with God (Hebrews 10:12-14; Psalm 32:1-2).

“Do not be grieved, beloved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!”