

"Is it Really a Revival?"

2 Kings 22-23

Introduction: If you have any connection with social media then you most likely have heard of the "Ashbury Revival" that started on February 8 after a morning chapel service and it is claimed to still be going. There are people driving to Ashbury Kentucky from many different states and even from Canada and Florida. Some people have flown in from different countries. If you look on social media, there have been many Christians who have placed their stamp of approval on this and they are proclaiming it as a movement of God.

All of this made me decide to look deeper into what was happening because I was rather skeptical. So the question arises, "Is it wrong to question what is going on?" The answer is, "NO!" Every time there is some new "movement" that comes along it is our responsibility to examine it against the Scriptures. The fool would jump on the band wagon without stepping back and looking at it through the lens of Scripture.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

²¹ Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Let us start by asking a question.

What does God's Word say about the last days?

2 Timothy 3:1-8

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

God does not say that in the last days revival will come. It could, but based upon the Word of God, the last days which are the days in which we live in are going to be marked by sin within the church by those who profess to be believers.

2 Timothy 4:3-5

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Looking at the Word of God we can understand that as our world moves closer to the Tribulation period that there will be many departing from the faith.

I want to go back to the Old Testament now to look at a revival that took place and there we will see what a TRUE revival looks like.

I. How it all Started

Notice 2 Kings 22:1-2

Here we are introduced to a boy by the name of Josiah. He began to reign after his father was murdered. Josiah is a breath of fresh air compared to his father and his grandfather.

Notice 2 Kings 22:3-7

Here we see that there was money given to repair the Temple. What happened to the temple? Manasseh had built pagan altars in the temple.

2 Kings 21:4-7

⁴ *And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.*

⁵ *And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.*

⁶ *And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.*

⁷ *And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, 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:*

Josiah was set on repairing the temple and cleaning it up.

Notice 2 Kings 22:8

As they were going through the rubble in the temple and in among the altars to the false gods, they found the Book of the Law. What was this? It is the Word of God. It was probably the Pentateuch which is the first 5 books of the Bible. The fact that we are told it was FOUND tells us it had been lost. It was lost in the debris of the false worship.

Application:

This will be the start of the revival! It will start with the Word of God. Before we get to this, I want to ask a question, "Where is the Word of God in your life?" Is it lost under the rubble of the sin in your life? Is it lost among the worldliness that you have in your life?

So many believers are just like Judah was at this time in that the Word of God has been lost. It is covered with rubble from this life, and you have no time for it. If that is you let me just make it very clear that you need the Bible if you are going to face the storms of this life. Without the Bible you are weak.

Psalms 1:1-4

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

³ *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

⁴ *The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

Joshua 1:7-8

⁷ *Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.*

⁸ *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

Now let us get to the revival.

Notice 2 Kings 22:8-11

When the king heard the Word of God read to him he rent his clothing. This was a sign of sorrow and repentance.

Notice 2 Kings 22:19

Josiah was broken because as the Word of God was read he realized how far Judah had strayed from the will of God.

So here we see two points that are of necessity for a revival.

- 1. The Word of God**
- 2. Repentance and brokenness**

Application:

I went on YouTube and watched the Ashbury "revival" and I never once heard the proclamation of the Word of God. It was just singing and music. That is not a revival. Neither was there any mention of repentance. Here with Josiah there were tears of

sorrow but at Ashbury there is "joy". My question is, "Where is the sorrow over the sin that has been committed?"

Jonah 1-6

And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

² *Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and **preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.***

³ *So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.*

⁴ *And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*

⁵ *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and **put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.***

⁶ *For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.*

Here in Nineveh Jonah preached the Word of God and the result was repentance which brought about a great awakening.

If you listen to the Ashbury livestream you will not hear anyone standing up reading or teaching the Bible. As a matter of fact I came across some information of what took place on February 15 at the auditorium which seemed rather odd.

"Asbury Seminary's regularly scheduled chapel services overflow. Hughes Auditorium is closed by Asbury students to all people 26 and over, a decision made to prioritize the voices of Generation Z."

If this was truly a revival, then why shut out anyone. Why only allow Generation Z to attend?

Let us get back to Josiah again.

Notice 2 Kings 22:12-20

The judgment of the Babylonian Captivity was not stoppable. But it would be stayed while Josiah was alive.

Application:

When I read these verses I can clearly see that Judah had crossed the line. Even if there was repentance under Josiah it would not change the coming judgment.

This makes me think about our nation today. Are we passed the point of return? I believe we are. I think this nation will be judged for the sins that have been committed. There may be short reprieves but eventually this nation will experience the judgment of God.

Now as we go on in 2 Kings we will see the sins of today were no different that the sins of Judah.

II. The Results

1. Commitment

Notice 2 Kings 23:1-3

Here again we see the Word of God had top priority in this revival. It was read to all the people and all the people were committed to walking in obedience.

This is exactly what a revival is. It is not staying inside an auditorium singing for days. It is God people repenting and then walking in obedience to the Bible.

2. Change

There were many changes that were made, and we will only consider a few of them.

Notice 2 Kings 23:4-6

The "grove" here was a pole made to the astrological gods. The point we need to see is that there were major changes made. The temple was thoroughly cleaned.

Notice 2 Kings 23:7

Notice here that the sodomites moved right beside the temple. Josiah had their houses completely destroyed.

Notice 2 Kings 23:10-15

The sacrificed their children to the false gods and Josiah defiled these places. In verse 15 he placed dead man's bones in certain places so that they were forever defiled.

Notice 2 Kings 23:20, 24

He had the priests put to death.

Application:

The point I want you to see is that when a true revival breaks out there are going to be changes that are going to shock many people. As far as what is happening at Ashbury I have not read of anything said about sinful practices that need to be terminated. I have not read of any changes.

Conclusion:

God can cause a revival in His church, but it must start with us personally.

1. Get back into the Word of God. Rediscover the Bible.
2. Repent of your sin.
3. Cast the sinful practices from the temple which is your body. In other words forsake any sinful practices that are in your life.
4. Be committed to walk in the will of God.