

A Great Awakening

“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him.” ~ Psalm 22:27

It is time for another great revival in our country. How do we know? The world goes through cycles of sinning and repentance every few decades. When sin gets so bad that most people have turned away from God, it becomes time for a course correction.

The people of Israel went through many times. They wandered in the desert for forty years, until a whole generation had passed away, because they turned away from God again and again.

The United States of America, since its very beginning, has found revival, a turning back to God, in a number of revival awakenings. Every time, it has been following a time of turning away, of falling away from the church, a time of immorality and atheistic antics.

The Great Awakenings has happened three or four times between the seventeen hundreds and the nineteen hundreds. They all followed the powerful preaching of protestant ministers who emphasized personal repentance and the need for salvation in Jesus Christ.

The first Great Awakening happened mainly along the east coast, from Georgia to New York, in the 1730's to 1740's, and mainly was in the church, calling people away from rituals and ceremony to personal faith. Millions of people came to faith, and the world was filled with Christians who put God first.

The Second Great Awakening came to be about the year 1800 and continued until about 1840 or so. This was a time of awakening of Christ in the hearts of the entire society, to the ordinary man, and spread across the entire country.

The Third Great Awakening was in the 1850s to early nineteen hundreds, and the Fourth Great Awakening happened in the 1960's and seventies, as mainline denominations declined and others grew.

So it's time. The same God is waiting for his people to repent and come back to him. Sin is rampant, people are trusting in their own fallible selves for salvation, and more people are outside of the church on Sunday morning than inside.

It really is a little bit scary, because times like these are the times when people predict the end of the world because things have gotten so bad. Like Noah's Ark times, and Sodom and Gomorrah times.

Os Guinness writes that “The story of Christian reformation, revival, and renaissance underscores that the darkest hour is often just before the dawn, so we should always be people of

hope and prayer, not gloom and defeatism. God the Holy Spirit can turn the situation around in five minutes.”

When even religious organizations have adopted the ways of society as their norm, we have gone too far. Something must change. We must be a beacon of light, a clarion call to hope, and an example of people who live and walk with the eternal God. We need true revival.

“A true revival,” writes Andrew Murray, “means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness and selfishness, and making God and His love triumph in the heart and life.”

We need a true and complete revival in these United States, as God brings us back together, cleanses us of sin, shows us how to love our neighbors, and helps us rediscover the Golden Rule. It is time. The cycle is right. Things are that bad. That’s when revival comes, and offers a wonderful result, a new life, even a new world.

God has all the power, all the insight, all the wisdom to bring his people to life. That’s what revival is. From people who know Christ at a distance to people who walk with him, it can be as quick as an instant.

Let us all pray for another great awakening, a spiritual revival at the very time we need it most. According to the morality meter, and according to spiritual history, it’s high time.

Let us pray for families to be gathered at church on Sunday mornings, where they were created to be. Let us pray for a nation which holds true to principles of faith and understanding. And let us pray that we will realize once again that it is the spiritual, not the temporal, that is most important.

Maybe we shall yet live to look back upon these next few decades as Fifth Great Awakening for our country, a time to be written about and rejoiced in by those who now know God in Christ as he is meant to be known.

“To look back upon the progress of the divine kingdom upon earth, “writes E.M. Bounds, “is to review revival periods which have come like refreshing showers upon dry and thirsty ground, making the desert to blossom as the rose, and bringing new eras of spiritual life and activity just when the Church had fallen under the influence of the apathy of the times.”