

Amos, pt.3, 3.2.08  
Becoming The Revival

Intro.

1. Review Purpose – Amos 9.13 & end time harvest; to allow God to expose, confront and eradicate sin so that we can live passionately for Him. Every move of God that I'm aware of always began with confronting sin, but it didn't end there.
2. Shantung Revival, 1927–37. Background, manifestations & outcome. Greatest revival among SBC.
3. IMPORTANT: Revival is more than the confession of sin & righting the wrongs. Those are critical & must be done. But, if revival is simply confessing sin then you have to have sin to keep it going.
  - a. There are two things that fuel the fires of revival/transformation. The consumption of our sin (confession) and the engulfing of our spirits (take my life Jesus). Once our sin is consumed, if we don't let Him take over our lives the work is short lived. Recent revivals – HPU, Asbury, Liberty
  - b. There is both the grieving of the Spirit & the quenching of the Spirit. Grieving comes from sin, bad values, beliefs, etc. We confess & repent of these. Quenching happens when we don't respond to what the Spirit is doing in or around us. We must submit to His work.
  - c. John the Baptist came preaching “get right with God...confession your sins...be baptized!” He cleared the land.
  - d. Jesus came preaching, “give your life to God & enter the Kingdom.” He built the house.
  - e. A dentist who simply points out the decay and extracts it from the tooth hasn't completed the job. He must rebuild the tooth for the work to be completed. We need both confession of sin & construction of the Kingdom for the fire of God to remain!

- f. Fire will burn continuously as long as their fuel. Our spirit is the fuel the Holy Spirit needs to be consuming. As long as there is a “Yes” and a hunger in my spirit there is fuel to be burned! I can be a living flame
  - i. Negatively, this is one reason hell is eternal, because man’s spirit is the fuel the wrath of God consumes. Since the fuel is eternal the fire is never quenched.

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To become the revival, we need to –

- Hear God’s Heart (3.1–7)
  - 3.2 – Luke 12.47f. God loves Israel. He disciplines those he loves.
  - I believe this passage has direct application to America and the church in America. God loves America & the church in America. Therefore, he will discipline us based upon our level of knowledge of His ways.
    - Compare our level of knowledge to Sri Lanka or Ivory Coast.
  - 3.3 – God wants us to walk in step with him. God’s heart is always for humanity to be in harmony with him. He takes no pleasure in correcting us.
  - 3.4–9: God has warned us time & again that we are out of line with his will
  - 3.7 – We must especially take serious the words of the prophetic voices whom have seen a time of turbulence shaking this nation of which we are partially in.
  - Does God discipline nations?
    - Matt.22.7; Luke 19.41–44
    - Acts 12.20–23 (similar to Neb in Daniel)
    - Rev.6–20
    - I believe that God sometimes allows for active discipline, such as New Orleans, droughts, Northridge

earthquake. By opening ourselves to societal sins, we are giving Satan access to our nation. He is free to do his destructive work. Therefore, Satan is behind the activity which attribute to God. It is active discipline, but it's perpetuated by Satan.

- His discipline is often in the form of passive discipline...he lets the nation experience the bitter fruit of its sin. Deut.28 is a good picture
- The purpose of God issuing personal and national discipline is the same - to bring us to repentance so we can fulfill our destiny.
- The purpose of discipline is to bring us back into alignment with our God ordained destiny. At the end of discipline, "But still you would not return to me." V.6, 8, 9
- We mustn't be like Israel & fail to respond to God's corrective measures.
  - 4.6 - famine & hunger
  - 4.7f - drought
  - 4.9 - pests
  - 4.10 - plagues
  - 4.11 - destruction
  - If when these things happen, all we do is redouble our efforts and become water conservationist, pest controllers, plague quarantiners & disaster relief responders, we miss it! We must respond with our hearts.
  - These negatives are indicators that we are being disciplined by God. When will America see that the violence, debauchery, economic hardships, natural disasters are God's passive discipline. He's let us experience the fruit of our national sins to see if we will respond in repentance.
- We need to remember what Bill Johnson says, you can't build anything substantial on a negative...that is confession of sin. The negative was meant to redirect us to the positive. Deal

with the sin issues, break agreement with the devil, and then do the positive build the Kingdom.

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- Deal with the Issues (2-4)
  - Injustice towards the poor
    - Self indulgence at the expense of others (God isn't against wealth but that which is ill gotten through corruption and oppression.
      - The poor weren't treated with respect, but as second class citizens. (2.7a).
        - How you treat people in the service industries is a clear revelation of your character – janitors, fast food employees, convenient store clerk, sales people, those who service your vehicles, etc.
        - For those that work in the service industries, the Lord sees...you have an advocate with Him.
      - Oppression of the poor (4.1). Demonstrated by:
        - 2.8a – The necessities of life were deprived from them. Ex.22 states that such garments were to be returned before the end of the day so the person could be protected from the elements.
        - 3.10 – Possibly, material possessions or labor unjustly stolen from the poor. It is important that we pay adequately & on time those who work for us. Not withhold what rightly belongs to another.
        - Isa.58.6-10. How much of those commands do you do? When you come into contact with these realities in your daily life how do you respond to them? Not talking about the poor guy begging for

money, but the under paid worker who can't meet his rent. The family or single mom living with nothing...what stirs inside of you?

- Matt.25 is a big deal to God.
- President Bush's recent trip to Africa & the wonderful reception by many because he had funneled money into their country to save lives from diseases.
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- They will be punished (3.14f., 4.2f.). Hooks in their noses.
- Injustice in the courts (2.6b, 8b)
  - V.6 seems to be indicating judges were bribed for decisions in favor of the rich.
  - Justice is to be blind, but in Amos' day, justice was bent towards the rich through bribery & corruption.
  - Even today, the rich & influential have a greater ability to sway a jury in their favor
- Ritual religion (4.4f.)
  - Appl - God combines your religious practices with your attitude towards the poor & broken. We can have a great worship experience, small group discussion, powerful prayer, meaningful fellowship, but how is it being translated into meeting the needs of the broken...this is the working out of the Greatest Commandment.
  - James 1.27; 2.5-8; 1 John 3.17-19
  - James 5.1-6
  - How we treat others, especially those who serve us & provide us with goods is huge in the sight of God. This is talking about slave & under paid labor that make so much of what we have & includes paying contractors on time & those who service

- God is extremely concerned how we treat those who directly or indirectly work for us. He is extremely concerned that the poor & needy are taken care of & they receive justice.
  - Their voices are heard by God – James 5.6, “Aren’t they now accusing you before God?” It is important to God they receive justice in their pay, in the court room and how they are treated.
  - Appl – Prov.31.8f. God is calling some of you to give your time to be a voice for those who can’t speak for themselves. You have a special calling to Prov.31.8f . We’re all to do it, but it stirs you – unborn, foster, advocate for a child, families in crises, prayer, legal matters, aged, housing, volunteering River of Hope, PHC, Food Pantry, etc.
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- Live the Solution (5.24)