

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
A REVIVAL BEFORE JUDGMENT?-PT 2
2 KINGS 22:1-2; REVELATION 2-3

Introduction

Last week we began *“running a rabbit”* so to speak that pertains to the point we are going to be making in our **2 KINGS** series of messages. We will be examining the **REVIVAL** in **JUDAH** under **KING JOSIAH** prior to the **LORD** pouring out **HIS JUDGMENT** on **JUDAH** that **HE** determined on them in the early part of **MANASSEH’S** reign!

Now, we might find it odd that a **REVIVAL** could take place and actually did take place in **2 KINGS 22-23** when the nation was living under a cloud of **JUDGMENT** that would indeed come!

They didn’t know **WHEN** the **JUDGMENT** was coming, only that the **LORD** said that it **WAS** coming! The **JUDGMENT** was delayed somewhat by **JOSIAH’S** seeking after the **LORD** and returning **JUDAH** to the **LORD**, even if the **REVIVAL** didn’t last beyond his reign!

If **JUDAH** experienced a **REVIVAL** before **JUDGMENT**, is there a possibility of **REVIVAL** in our **CHURCHES** before the **LORD** rains down **JUDGMENT** in our own land?

In the 2nd and 3rd Chapters of the Book of **REVELATION** the **APOSTLE JOHN** records seven messages from the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** to each one of seven different **CHURCHES** located in **ASIA MINOR**.

These messages were **very personal** and **very direct** in nature! Jesus didn’t just look at the outward appearance of these 7 Churches. He peeled back a few layers and **examined their overall spiritual health**. And with the exception of the **CHURCHES** at **SMYRNA** and **PHILADELPHIA**, what He discovered was very troubling.

But lest we think that the message to these **CHURCHES** were messages **SOLELY** directed to them, we find this phrase at the end of each message: *“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.”*

SO, WHAT DID JESUS SEE IN THESE CHURCHES IN ASIA?

We could simply say...**HE SAW IT ALL!!!**

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He saw **THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY!!!**

He saw **THE POSITIVES...He saw THE NEGATIVES!!!**

Hebrews 4:13–“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”

I. THE CALL FOR REVIVAL IN THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS!
(Revelation 2:1-7)

JESUS spoke favorably of their **works**, their **labour**, their **patience** and **their stand against evil**.

But having said all that, HE rebuked them because they had left their FIRST LOVE!

PAUL had once commended this **CHURCH** for its faith and love for their **SAVIOUR** and others. *Ephesians 1:15-16– “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;”*

But by this point in the life of this **CHURCH**, many of its founders had died, and the new generation of Believers had **lost their zeal for the LORD!**

Now understand that this **CHURCH** at **EPHESUS** was a **busy CHURCH**, but their **motive was all wrong!**

They had replaced their **personal love relationship with JESUS CHRIST** with a bunch of **so-called spiritual activities!** i.e. **They got the cart before the horse!** **Our spiritual activities should FLOW out of our love relationship with JESUS CHRIST—Not replace it!**

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

JESUS warned them to **REMEMBER** from where they had fallen, **REPENT**, and get back to where they should be, or else there would be dire consequences. (i.e. **HE** called them to **REVIVAL!**)

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The consequences in this case were that He would **REMOVE** their candlestick out of his place—i.e. they would lose their effectiveness as a **CHURCH!**

So, do we have an ear as a **CHURCH?** Are we listening? Can we hear and understand what the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** said by **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** unto the **CHURCH** at **EPHESUS?**

If so, WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY ABOUT OUR WORKS, OUR LABOUR, OUR PATIENCE, OUR STAND AGAINST EVIL?
(Are they up to par?)

But primarily, **WHAT WOULD HE SAY OF OUR LOVE FOR HIM AND FOR OTHERS?** Would **HE** say we've stepped back?

II. THE CALL FOR REVIVAL IN THE CHURCH AT SARDIS!
(*Revelation 3:1-6*)

JESUS condemned the **CHURCH** at **SARDIS** for **having a name or reputation that they were alive**, but being lifeless (dead).

i.e. They were going through the motions of being a **CHURCH:** There may even have been a lot of **activity** in the name of the **LORD** and there may have been a lot of **fleshly excitement**, but in reality, **they were lacking in spiritual vitality because of SIN!!!**

While *verse 4* says **there were a few in this CHURCH that were undefiled**, by and large most of its members had a sin problem!
Does that not describe what we see in most **CHURCHES** today!

Though there may be a small faithful remnant of the **LORD** who live right and follow the **LORD**, most people seem to be just **playing CHURCH!**

There are way too many in **CHURCHES** today who want to **hang on to their sin and the LORD too! IT DOESN'T WORK!**

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A. JESUS Told Them To Be Watchful And To Strengthen The Things That Remained, That Were Ready To Die! (Vs 2)
To be "**watchful**" means "**to keep awake.**" The implication here is that **they were not being watchful!**

To "**strengthen**" means "**to set fast, to turn resolutely in a certain direction, and to confirm.**"

B. JESUS Told Them To Get Back To The What They Originally Heard And Received! (Vs 3)
HE urged them to **hold on to the TRUTH** they had and **return to the TRUTH** they had left! (**REPENT!**)

That's a call to REVIVAL!

HE told them that if they failed to watch, **HE** would be coming to them like a thief in the night! (i.e. they'd be caught off guard!)

The **LORD** is getting ready to return in the air to take **HIS** Children home to be with **HIM**. But I'm afraid that the coming of the **LORD** is going to surprise many in the **CHURCH!**

Our time as **BELIEVERS** to stand before **HIM** at the **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** is closer than we think!

So, do we have an ear as a **CHURCH?** Are we listening?
Can we hear and understand what the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** said by **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** unto the **CHURCH** at **SARDIS?**

Is some of the rebuke and exhortation to us also?

III. THE CALL FOR REVIVAL IN THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA! (*Revelation 3:14-22*)

Perhaps the **LORD'S** harshest rebuke was given to the **CHURCH** at **LAODICEA!**

A. The Production.

JESUS told them that their **works** made **HIM** sick to **HIS** stomach like drinking lukewarm water.

Being COLD would be like the unsaved - Clearly uninterested!

Being HOT is: Being **excited**; being **passionate** about **GOD** and living **HIS WORD**; Being **hungry** for things that are true, and right, and clean, and eternal!

Being LUKEWARM is:

1. **Compromising** – not wanting to be controversial!
2. **Ecumenical** –trying to get along with everybody at the expense of truth– even the devil!
3. **Apathetic** – not really caring about the things of **CHRIST** as a **BELIEVER** should! Conduct unbecoming!

B. The Problem.

1. **They Were Self-Deceived. (Vs 17)**
“Because thou sayest...and knowest not.”
This **CHURCH** thought they had arrived, they thought they had it all together and didn’t need anyone or anything.
2. **They Were Self-Absorbed. (Vs 17)**
“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing...”
3. **They Were Self-Sufficient. (Vs 17)**
“Because thou sayest, I...have need of nothing.”

C. The Pertinence.

How does this pertain to us?

Again, do we have an ear as a **CHURCH**? Are we listening? Can we hear and understand what the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** said by **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** unto the **CHURCH** at **LAODICEA** and unto us?

Conclusion

REVIVAL was certainly possible for **ANY** of these **CHURCHES** and **ANY** other **CHURCH** that has similar problems as they did!

JUDGMENT is coming to this world and especially to our own dear country! (The **TRIBULATION PERIOD**) Now, is the great bulk of that for our land going to be before or after the **RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**? We don’t know.

Some observers say the U.S. is not found in the end time events. It could be as some of the players are assimilated with others. (*e.g. The Revived Roman Empire*)

But what we do know from what we will see in **JOSIAH’S** day and from what the **LORD** told these **CHURCHES** we’ve seen tonight, is that the **LORD** is calling **US** to **REVIVAL** by way of **REPENTANCE**! That means that it is possible, even though **JUDGMENT** is still certain for our land!