

TRUE REVIVAL CAN SAVE A NATION

Before reading this, please read the following scripture verses: Ps. 33:12, Prov. 14:34, Deuteronomy 8:11, Psalm 9:17, and Ps. 50:22.

For hundreds of years historians and scholars have carefully studied and evaluated the factors that have caused the decline and death of great empires. Their careful conclusions are readily available to those who really want to know them. They are consistent and clearly observable if one has the courage to honestly investigate. Scholars like Edward Gibbon, who wrote the classic The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, and Arnold Toynbee who wrote A Study of History, have set forth in great clarity and detail the disturbing reality that twenty-one of the last great empires on earth all showed the same common signs of decline *just before they dissolved and disappeared* from world history. This simply cannot be refuted by any honest person!

History is littered with the remains of once great empires, each one having had their turn at the very helm of the world, rising so high, yet today they are only a memory. Will this be true also of America? Many historians have catalogued the “commonalities of calamity” or “the pathology of death” for human societies, and the diagnosis is alarming! Nations do not really die...they dissolve, a slow process of erosion and decay. They self-destruct due to disintegration from within...caused by evils and dangers lurking within that they had not attended to. They forgot God and His Truth.

Let us list some of those common symptoms of the end that the historians listed, “harbingers of death” shared by all twenty-one of those last great extinct societies:

The Social Symptoms: 1. An increase in lawlessness and the promotion of the wrong people. 2. A loss of economic discipline and self-restraint; greed. 3. Rising government taxes and regulations, and a growing bureaucracy. 4. A decline in the relevance and quality of education.

The Cultural Symptoms: 1. An increase in materialism and selfish luxury. 2. The weakening of the foundational principles that built the nation and made it great. 3. Policies based on feelings and not moral discipline. 4. A loss of respect for established authority.

The Spiritual Symptoms: 1. A rise in immorality and perversion. 2. The lure of alien gods and the exaltation of man. 3. A decline in the value placed on human life as evidenced by abortion, brutality, loss of natural affection, care for the elderly, etc.

Nations ready to die are plagued by lawlessness, economic insolvency, loss of values, self-centeredness and the breakdown of social order. Peace and order become impossible to maintain despite a deluge of “new laws” to stem the flood of lawlessness. The Barbarians then come and infiltrate, and the nation cannot resist the continual internal chaos. It loses its moral fiber and the will to sacrifice is no longer present in the people. There are well-worn paths to disaster that nations mindlessly take, and these symptoms remain stark warnings to any nation. They are absolute alarms to “wake up,” turn to the LORD, and not continue the fatal movement away from God that ends in oblivion. The old expression, “No man loves his alarm clock!” is appropriate here.

A nation that has forgotten God has no chance, it is doomed to idolatry that ends in death! The nation that does not fear Him...*has* forgotten Him...and cannot hear His warnings. The reason that history repeats itself is that most people do not listen the first time! Someone has said, “The future cannot be seen clearly without the past.” (See Job 8:8-13, Eccl. 1:9-10). It was Aristotle who first said, “Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.” **The lessons of history are meant to lead us to the LORD of history.** It is really *His*-story... and it lovingly and practically shouts at us that every individual and nation is accountable to Him. Are we listening? History *will* end at the feet of our Risen Lord. Every Knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that He is Lord.

God repeatedly warns a nation and pleads with it in many ways before He removes it. But history shows that nations seldom listen! The great hope in a wayward nation is that God will

send a mighty move of His Spirit to that nation and bring people into a right relationship with Himself. The people in a nation must respond to the revelation of God and get in the place of letting God be God (Nineveh is a good example of how God will have mercy on a nation when there is a heart response to His Word.). In America, true revival will *not* come by simply making people aware of our great need for it. Revival will *not* come even if we are successful in pointing out all our present grievous sin and error, and try to change it. It will *not* come because of multiplied meetings to encourage us and to make us long for revival more. It will *not* come no matter how much we desire for it and sing about it.

Revival will come only in God's sovereign grace when the people of God recover God's revelation of Who He is. It is only united believing prayer that can grasp eternity and open the heavens in authentic revival. What can bring God's people to the place where they recover the vision of believing prayer? We must have fresh revelation of God Himself through His Word...Jesus Christ the Lord must lifted up and proclaimed in all His beauty and power! God Himself ! Inherent in this spiritual revelation of Him will also come to us the glorious realization of what He wants His people to be. Then, the people of God must choose to authentically respond to Him in such a way as to allow Him to clear up the discrepancies and contradictions. Apart from Him there is no hope for us.

The Church must once again become "salt and light," and be filled with His resurrection life and power. A Spirit filled Church is the greatest need in America...a faithful channel of Who He is.

Friends... in our day we seem to have lost sight of who He is. And because *we don't see His holiness* there is no fear of God. Because *we don't see our unholiness* there is little brokenness and contrition. Because *we don't see His forgiveness and grace* there is no joy. Because *we don't see His plan and eternal purpose* we sense a lack of purpose and meaning.

Let each of us realize today...**America is in grave danger and is repeating the mistakes of nations long gone.** In fact, we are outdoing them in their error! The fact that we have enjoyed so much blessing and Truth from God *only* makes us more accountable to Him. We are living in the mercies of God in the momentum of yesterday's blessings. It is time to fall before HIM in fresh repentance and faith.

When true revival comes it will make the Church a bull's eye for the world, not just a blessing. The enmity of a hostile world will become focussed against the church because the devil fears a glorious church! Antagonism and attacks will come upon God's people from the world, and from the *worldly* inside the Church. But God will own His Church and show that she is HIS! He will manifest His power, and she will be full of the fresh demonstration of His resurrection Life and Lordship. She will worship the Lord "in the beauty of His holiness", and the Gospel will go forth in power! Just imagine what His Church would be like if our wonderful Lord had His way! Oh, we need an epidemic of the Glory of God!! It is time for the Church of the Lord Jesus to heed the scriptures afresh! We must deal with the real issues of our hearts...the ones that have kept us from heavenly intimacy with God and have stifled a passion for His glory.

The world is waiting to see the New Testament Church, clothed with power from on High and brimming over with the joy of Resurrection Life. Revival in the Church!! It is the only hope for our nation and the world.

Isn't it true...the Church cannot have a message for the heart of the world until the Lord has the heart of the Church? The Church must be *ignited* by the Lord, or we will be *ignored* by the world! God loves a Church aflame; but He cannot abide the lukewarm. It is time to seek the Lord... to let the Holy Spirit *burn* the promises of God into our very being. Revival can save a nation.

"Lord send revival, and let it begin in me."

Al Whittinghill