

The Trumpet Call

Messages and Reports Oct. – Nov. 2005 Evangelist Edgar Martin

CYCLES OF REVIVAL AND SPIRITUAL DECLINE

“Their days did He consume in vanity, and their years in trouble. When He slew them, then they sought Him; and they returned and enquired early after God”—Psalm 78:33-34 “Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved”—Psalm 85:6

The Bible assures us that God is slow to anger and plenteous in mercy (Ps. 103:8). However, when men refuse to repent and rebel against God by persisting in their evil ways, they provoke God to anger. (Rom. 2:4-6, Ps. 78). When the morals of society spiral downward the hot flames of God’s wrath spiral upward. A day will come when His mercy will give way to His wrath! (Pro. 29:1)

Throughout the course of human history, moral depravity has plunged nations into chaos. Men have faced the wrath of God. But in our darkest hours, if we will humble ourselves and pray, God will once again step into the pages of history and lift up His mighty hand in divine intervention. Sweeping revival changes have always come at a high cost. **Men and nations must be shaken out of complacency.** Catastrophic events: war, disaster, epidemics, famine, fire, and flood, have often checked the rise of rampant sin and wickedness. When churches are surrounded by calamity they feel their desperate need of God’s power and purity. They are then able to pray through for true revival. Revivals started by God’s judgment are the great awakenings that have changed history. They mark the ends of dark eras of sin and the beginnings of new eras of hope and righteousness.

During the last three centuries in America there have been four great awakenings. These were true revivals that changed the moral climate of the entire nation, tens of thousands came to God. The glory spread like wildfire throughout the nation and was experienced in many parts of the world. The first was in the mid-1700’s. The second great awakening centered around the early 1800’s, the third came during the mid-1800’s, and the fourth was in the first decade of the 1900’s. God has blessed America with a re-awakening of our Christian faith about every 50 years. When each new generation fell away, God was gracious to hear the intercessory prayers of the saints and send another great revival.

Now we ask ourselves what hindered us during the mid-1900's when we should have had another national revival? There was a measure of revival in certain parts of the United States and Canada. But the effect on the nation was far less than in past revivals. Why is revival delayed in America? In this century the revival effect has been weaker and our national sins are greater. Divine chastisement is upon us. Terrorism and disaster should bring us to repentance. How many more plagues will it take before we forsake pagan, lustful idols and return to the faith of our fathers?

Three deadly sins have always destroyed nations: 1. The shedding of innocent blood, 2. Sexual impurity, and 3. Occult worship. Our nation is guilty on all counts! We cannot think that any city or region of America is more at fault than we. Instead of pointing fingers, we must all bend our knees and pray, searching our own hearts. Jesus said, "except you repent, you shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3). We should be in national mourning for our national sins. We should be fasting, praying and weeping before God for revival. May God make us mighty in prevailing prayer! May He revive us once more!

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