

“When a Nation Needs Revival”

Exodus 32 - 34

There are at least twelve “revival movements” in the Old Testament: (1) Moses (Ex. 32-34), (2) Samuel (1 Sam. 7), (3) David (2 Sam. 6:7), (4) Asa (2 Chron. 14-16), (5) Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 17-20), (6) Jehoiada (2 Chron. 23-24), (7) Hezekiah (2 Chron. 29-32), (8) Josiah (2 Chron. 34-35), (9) Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-6), (10) Ezra (Ezra 7-10), (11) Nehemiah (Neh. 1-13) and (12) Joel (Joel 1-2:27).

Preceding each of these movements there are five “common factors” evident in the culture. The same factors have been true of the Great Awakenings and any great, wide-spread revival of the past.

- I. A MORAL DECLENSION in God’s people (Exodus 32:1,6)**
(i.e. moral and ethical compromise among many church members)
- II. The RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD toward His people (Exodus 32:10)**
(i.e. the world’s sinful influence and the believers weak or negative treatment of sin)
- III. The RAISING UP OF BURDENED LEADERS among God’s people who will speak and act for God (Exodus 32:11)**
(i.e. preachers, in large numbers, willing to boldly and faithfully proclaim the truth)
- IV. The CALLING OF A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY of God’s people (Exodus 32:26)**
(i.e. a strong call for God’s people to take their stand and obey God’s Word.)
- V. A GENUINE BROKENNESS AND REPENTANCE in God’s people (Exodus 33:4)**
(i.e. a large number of church members confessing and repenting of any sin)

In this example (Exodus 32 - 34) we see (1) the REBELLION in God’s people (32:1-10), (2) the RETRIBUTION from God (32:25-29), (3) the REPENTANCE of God’s people (33:1-10) and (4) the eventual RESTORATION of God’s people (34:1-9). Genuine revival includes all of these ingredients. Our churches will only see revival when these characteristics are evident.

God may be convicting you to be His catalyst for revival in your church and community. If so, what is your response? — rrc