



Network for Revival January 2019

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Revival and Holiness

There have been various special movements of the Spirit over the years. But most in living memory have not stressed holiness. We need to do so. *See the article below*

Revival and the dangers facing the world

It is important to see the context of our prayers for revival. We need to get an overview of what is happening in the world, to see the overall picture. So often we just concentrate on specific issues and don't see the wood for the trees.

I have put together a table on a single page (*attached*) outlining many of the main dangers facing us in today's world. I find it helpful to have them in such a concise form as an aid to memory. It shows how much we need major divine intervention. They include *global warming, artificial intelligence AI, genetic engineering, surveillance, economic challenge, disease threats, antisemitism, sexuality issues, Islamic threats, terrorism, persecution, secularism, societal decline, war dangers, world government, political oppression, religious oppression and church decline.*

(I have also attached a non-tabular version for those who have older computer systems which might have difficulty downloading a table).

Revival and Holiness

My wife Patricia wrote the following section. (Patricia is a Lay Minister. We met at theological college and have shared in ministry ever since).

I believe that Isaiah 35 is a significant Scripture to use as a basis for our prayer for revival. I comment on several aspects, grouped under verses, but to save space I only quote one verse or part of a verse:

Verse 1-2a, 7

"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom"

This is a promise from the Lord which I believe he is giving to revival intercessors about the church in this country. Much of it (with some exceptions) seems arid at present – but with revival that will wonderfully change.

Verse 2b

"They will see the glory of the LORD, the splendour of our God."

This is the very heart of revival – a new vision of God; a revelation of the glory of the Lord.

Verse 3-4a

"Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear'"

The main temptation is to give up on prayer for revival. Another temptation is to be fearful of what it will involve, including opposition. Here we are encouraged to be bold and to persevere.

Verse 4b

"Your God will come, he will come with vengeance he will come to save you."

This is mainly about God dealing with opponents of revival and opponents of the church. We need to be prepared for an element of judgment in revival, including on the sin in our own lives.

Verse 5-6a

"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped."

This will happen spiritually in revival, both in the church and beyond – but there may also be an increase in miracles of healing.

Verse 6-7a

“Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.”

The coming revival will be no small affair – the transformation of the church will be remarkable and will make a huge impact on society.

Verse 8

“And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness...”

I firmly believe that the coming revival will be a Revival of Holiness. Tragically, even ‘good’ churches have so often compromised with the world in some aspects of life, especially personal morality. This compromise has now reached proportions which would have been unthinkable even forty years ago. God can never bless compromise with the world – compromise which undermines the clear teaching of his Word.

In this revival we shall all be brought to our knees in repentance for flirting with the world, whether ourselves or tacitly or overtly supporting those who do. God can only come to us as a holy God and his Holy Spirit will burn with purifying fire.

Verse 8b-9

“The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹ No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there...”

There is no place for “wicked fools” in the revival - those who deliberately oppose or undermine God’s ways. Nor is there room for “ferocious beasts” which we could understand as God dealing with demonic forces.

Verse 9b, 10

“... the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return ... with singing Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

This Way of Holiness is not filled with doom and gloom, but rather joy, gladness and singing!

So why not take a section at a time of this wonderful prophecy from Isaiah (which has had and will have more than one fulfilment) and proclaim it in your prayers in connection with the coming revival?

A quotation about revival

Duncan Campbell (a leader in the Lewis revival) wrote: “We had men and women seeking the Saviour every night ... under the conviction of sin ... Conviction was very evident, and one meeting for dealing with the anxious went on until 3 o’clock in the morning.” He says of meetings in Bernera: “Meetings are crowded and full of divine power and conviction, and distress of soul as deep as ever.” He writes again: “Men who were never near a meeting were suddenly arrested by the Spirit of God and had to give up work and give themselves to seeking after God.”

Thank God

There are now over 450 people, mainly clergy and ministers on the mailing list (but lay folk just as welcome) and more responses are coming in. I’ve finished my extensive PR, but maybe there are people you could encourage to join. We need as many people as possible praying in an informed way for revival. Please try to increase the number.

God bless you throughout 2019. I am praying for you.

Tony

[PS. If you wish to see my recent update on the Israeli-Palestinian situation go to

<http://www.prayerforpeace.org.uk/paradox49.html>]

Revival is a supernatural event in the church and society. It is a work of the Holy Spirit which brings: an overpowering sense of God’s presence leading to uplifting, inspired worship; an awesome sense of God’s holiness leading to a deep conviction of sin, even amongst those outside the church; a supernatural drawing of people together and an outpouring of love for one another, all of which leads to a huge number coming to faith. People’s lives and whole communities are transformed.