

# "GET READY FOR REVIVAL!"

**TEXT:** *Josh.7:13 Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow for thus saith the Lord God of Israel. There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.*

**THESIS:** To attempt to isolate the major prerequisite to revival.

**INTRO.:** A. God is sovereign & sends revival to His people as **He chooses**. But He is not capricious & does not act on a whim. He usually moves in response to man's need & *when man meets His requirements*. There seems to be *a definite pattern & a basic prerequisite* to His sending revival in the Scriptures ***There is something without which He will NOT send revival & something that always seems to precede it.***

B. Over & over God commands His people to do this **one basic, fundamental thing** & then & only then does He send revival. Two simple words summarize this biblical prerequisite: **"SANCTIFY YOURSELVES...!"**

**DEFINITION:** Sanctify = *To be set apart. To be holy, clean, useable.*

## I. THIS IS A DEMAND NOT AN OPTION:

A. God Loves His Children:

**Titus 2:14** *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

1. God didn't create nor save us simply for us to go to heaven nor that we enjoy His blessings, joy & peace.
2. God mainly wants us for Himself, that we may praise Him, adore Him, magnify Him, fellowship w/Him & become the object of His great love.
3. This is why we are commanded to do everything to His glory.

**I Cor.10:31** *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

B. God Is Jealous for His Children:

**ILLUS.:** This is jealousy in the positive, not negative sense. No wife wants to share her deep love for her husband w/a *prostitute, a stranger, a friend or even a sister!* She is jealous & wants him exclusively for herself. He is free to love his mother, his children, his sisters, brothers & even his friends, but not on the same level.

**Ex.34:14** *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*

1. Whatever causes our love for Him to be diminished or distracted, He is jealous over.
2. He has made us for Himself & redeemed us for Himself so He wants us for Himself & desires that we separate from anything that detracts from His praise, glory & fellowship.

a. **Fellowship w/unbelievers** or the wrong crowd (personally, social media, TV, etc.) takes away from our fellowship w/Him.

**ILLUS.:** A wife doesn't mind sharing her husband to a limited extent, but when she goes to bed at night she doesn't want him elsewhere!

b. **Poor health** hinders us from serving Him & fellowshiping w/Him as we should, so He expects us to separate from whatever will destroy our health; besides our body is His temple & He doesn't want to share His home w/anything we love more than Him!

**ILLUS.:** God separated the firstborn, then later the Levites to Himself. He told them they would have no inheritance w/the other Israelites & that He would be their inheritance. God wanted to be all they needed. Not only was He all they needed, but they were all He needed! He wanted them exclusively so He could be all they needed & He could find His all in them. Today we are His priesthood!

## II. THIS IS A PREREQUISITE NOT A REQUEST:

**NOTE:** To put it another way, this is a necessity not a luxury! If we want to be all we can be for His glory because He loves us, ***we must separate ourselves or sanctify ourselves*** exclusively for Him! If we expect **revival...His power & blessings**...we must be clean!

A. Before God Will **Reveal Himself** We Must **Sanctify Ourselves**:

**Ex.19:10-11** *10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, 11 And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.*

1. God is about to give Israel His Law.
2. God is about to show Himself in His majesty & power to Israel.

**NOTE:** They would see His awesome presence with thundering, lightning, darkness and even death to those who did not maintain the required distance from Moses and Mount Sinai.

3. God demands that they be clean before coming into His presence.

B. Before God **Will Provide** We Must **Sanctify Ourselves**:

**Num.11:18** And say thou unto the people, **Sanctify yourselves** against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

C. Before God **Will Do Wonders** We Must Sanctify Ourselves:

**Josh.3:5** And Joshua said unto the people, **Sanctify yourselves**: for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

1. The Israelites were standing at the brink of entering the Promised Land.
2. God is about to part the waters of the Jordan River, but first His people must be clean!

D. Before God **Will Give Victory** We Must **Sanctify Ourselves**:

**Josh.7:13** Up, sanctify the people, and say, **Sanctify yourselves** against tomorrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you.

E. Before God **Will Fellowship with Us** We Must **Sanctify Ourselves**:

**I Chr.15:12** And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: **sanctify yourselves**, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it.

1. The Ark was symbolic of God's presence.
2. Before the Ark can be returned the people must be clean.

F. Before God **Will Send Revival** We Must **Sanctify Ourselves**:

1. There are 2 great revivals recorded in the O.T. in the period of the Kings of Israel.
2. A terrible apostasy under King Ahaz was followed by a great revival under King Hezekiah, but before God sends it the people must be sanctified.

**II Chr.29:5** And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, **sanctify now yourselves**, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

**ILLUS.:** America needs revival! **The church** needs revival! **We** need revival. Voting is important but we will not be saved at the ballot box. Special services are important but we will not be revived by them. The homosexual, abortion & transgenderism problems are great but the problem in the church & in our lives is sin. The drug problem is not America's problem, lack of revival among Christians is the real problem.

God wasn't looking for 10 saved people in Sodom, He was looking for 10 righteous people! If America is to be spared, God's people must be cleansed. If the church is to have an impact on the world, God's people must be sanctified. If our homes are to be salvaged, God's people must be separated!

3. Another apostasy under Manasseh & Amon & God raised up the boy-king Josiah to bring revival, but first the people must be sanctified.

**II Chr.35:6** So kill the passover, and **sanctify yourselves**, and prepare your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

**CONCL.:** The only way to **"GET READY FOR REVIVAL"** is through a purging of sin in the church & in our homes & lives! **Sanctification & separation** is the only answer! Revival will not come as long as we hold back anything from a Jealous God!!!