

# God's Purpose for Revival

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**Ezra 9:8-9 (NKJV) “And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage. For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage, but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.”**

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the life and liberties that our forefathers lived and died for could be lost forever. If this happens, the life and liberties we have enjoyed will not be lost to a foreign invader but to an inward moral collapse. Our problems in America are not economic, racial, or political. Our problems are rooted in a spiritual issue—we have departed from the God of the Bible: *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD (LORD refers to YAHWEH, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ).”* (Psalm 33:12) America will never be blessed by opening its door to the gods of different religions or by banning the Bible, prayer, or the Name of Jesus in the public square. God's blessings will only return to America as America returns in true allegiance to the God of the Bible.

Throughout Bible history God's people have experienced His blessing by following Him faithfully. Inevitably their pride and self-sufficiency soon caused them to depart from Him and fall into bondage and oppression. During these times God's people remembered the LORD and cried out for His salvation and deliverance. In response God mercifully sent measures of “revival”. If there is ever a time when the church in America needs revival, it is NOW!

Unfortunately many cry out to God in order to be freed from the *consequences* of their sin with little interest in departing from their sin. Then there are others who, when God sends revival, soon return to their pride and self-confidence leading them to backslide again. God does not send revival so that we can be free to sin again. Revival must be connected to God's purpose for sending it. What is God's purpose for revival?

First, God sends revival to establish a remnant: *“to leave us a remnant.”* The word “remnant” refers to those who are left after God's work of separation and purification. It refers to those who are set apart for God's special purpose. It refers to those who have escaped from something and are entering into something else. God sends revival in order to secure unto Himself a remnant of faithful followers who will be His instruments in restoring true worship. A remnant does not describe a *quantity* of people as much as it does a *quality* of people. God wants a special people who will come out of spiritual darkness in order to carry His light.

Second, God sends revival in order to establish us in His presence: *“to give us a peg in His holy place.”* Whether driven deep into the ground or deep into a wall, a peg speaks of the stability of position. When God gives us a peg in His holy place, He gives to us a secure place in His house and a restored position in His glorious presence.

Third, God sends revival to enlighten our eyes: *“that God may enlighten our eyes...”*

Enlightening our eyes speaks of an increase of the light of the Holy Spirit so that we can see things from God's perspective. Without God's light we are spiritually blind. That is why Paul prayed that *"the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places..."* (Ephesians 1:18-20) Revival will always open our eyes to God's perspective on the issues of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Fourth, God sends revival in order to restore His house: *"to repair the house of our God, to repair its ruins..."* Sin in the lives of individual believers or groups of believers always brings defilement into the church—the house of God. In many cases, Christ is no longer welcome in His own church but stands outside knocking (Revelation 3:20). God sends revival in order to cleanse, restore, and revitalize His church. In times of revival God takes the ruined, wasted, destitute church and restores it so that His presence and glory may reside there once again and so that His church may be all that He intends for it to be.

Fifth, God sends revival in order to "revive" His people: *"to give us a measure of revival...to revive us."* God desires to revive the spiritual vitality of His people. God desires to bring relief and deliverance to those oppressed by sin. God desires to bring new life to those who are barren and unfruitful in their spiritual walk. God desires to revive our hearts so that we are responsive to Him once again. God desires to revive us so that our homes will be filled with His love, joy, and peace. God desires to revive our churches so that Christians begin to fear and honor the LORD once again. God desires to bring revival to America so that it will again choose to be a nation whose God is the LORD.

Sixth, God sends revival in order to restore His hedge of protection around His people against the enemy: *"to give us a wall..."* Walls speak of *protection*. Without a wall, cities were vulnerable to their enemies. We have an enemy—the devil—who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy us by every means available to him (John 10:10). Without God's protection, our best effort to defend ourselves against this enemy is in vain (Psalm 127:1). Because of sin and rebellion, we have experienced the removal of the walls of divine protection. In His mercy, God brings revival so that He might restore His hedge of protection over our lives once again. Walls also speak of *boundaries*. Natural walls define the boundary lines of the city. God's Word defines the moral and spiritual boundary lines of God's protection. We do ourselves a favor to remain within the boundary lines of Scripture. Walls also speak of *strength*. Walls enabled a city to stand strong against the enemy. God wants to restore our spiritual strength against the enemy. Finally, walls speak of *security*. Those who stayed inside the walls had nothing to fear. Revival brings us back within the walls of security in Christ.

We will do well to understand and cooperate with God's purposes for revival. Cooperation with God requires change. Since God never changes, we are the ones who must. Change involves humility. We must admit that we have a need that only God can fix. Change involves prayer by asking God for His help. Change involves seeking God's face—looking to God for His solutions. Finally, Change involves repentance. Repentance is more than saying that we are sorry. Repentance is turning from sin in order to do what is right. Now is a good time to change. Now is a good time for revival.