

THE GREAT REVIVAL OF THE LAST DAYS

Joel 2:28 *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see vision.*

Joel 2:29 *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

The church must believe that people will rush to salvation in Jesus in the last days because God said it. Just as salmon find their way back from the vast ocean to their place of birth in a fresh stream, sinners will find they cannot resist the Spirit and love of Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters, take courage from the prophecy of Joel! Today we strive with the lost, but one of these days, they will fly like doves back to where they belong.

Isaiah 60:8 *Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?*

Today, we rejoice in the salvation of one soul that we have bestowed much labor upon, and rightly so. However, by faith we must believe that the time is coming when souls shall fly like a cloud of doves without our labor, as Isaiah prophesied, into the arms of Jesus. We win one or two, but when the fullness of God's time of revival comes, thousands will come. God brings in a cloud of doves. Today we worry about winning one soul, but when God's time for revival kicks in, we will worry about accommodating and ministering to thousands within a short time, as was the case on the day of Pentecost. Close your eyes and see the cloud of doves flying to Jesus!

Psalms 63:1 *[[A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.]] O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.*

The fourth century church father, Augustine, famously said, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee". Augustine's mother, Monica, fasted and prayed for 17 years for her son to come to Christ and 30 years for her husband. I have always believed that the soul's need for Jesus is infinitely greater than the belief that we can happily exist without God in our lives. Augustine experimented with every pleasure and philosophy known to his time but descended further into depression. One day he heard a child's voice saying he heard a child's voice saying, in Latin, "tolle, lege," which means "take and read." He got a Bible and it fell open on Romans 13, among others.

Rom 13:12 *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

Romans 13:13 *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*

Romans 13:14 *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

One of these days, as Joel prophesied, expect the world to hear the words, “take and read”. Time is running out for the flesh! “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption” (I Corinthians 15:50). Where there is a great indulgence in wickedness, there will a great hunger for righteousness! Why else did the people of Nineveh collectively repent? Was it not because they knew their own ways were extremely wicked and all they needed was one righteous person to tell them so? This is why God had to send a prophet from Israel because there was not one righteous person found in the whole of Nineveh. Sin shuts the mouth of the sinner and paralyzes his/her tongue.

Jonah 3:3 *So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.*

Jonah 3:4 *And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*

Jonah 3:5 *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

Note that Jonah 3:3 states, “Nineveh was an exceeding great city”. Look at many of the great cities of the world today. How much bigger and more sinful are these metropolises than Nineveh? Let us take courage from Nineveh and believe these great cities will soon repent and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ – he is waiting to pour out his Spirit on them. Let us never stop believing and praying they will fly like a cloud of doves back to their God, the one who died for their sins – Jesus Christ. Let wait in hope and expectation because, at any time, often when we least expect it, the great cities will ask for a witness – a preacher. When that happens, may God find us prepared – our feet shod with the Gospel of peace.

When the antichrist comes, he will of course ban the Bible and do everything in his power to shut down the preaching of the word of God. Yet, just as was the case in Nineveh, when the world is hungry for salvation, and there is no preacher, God will permit angels to preach for the first time in the history of salvation.

Revelation 14:6 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*

Revelation 14:7 *Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

Let us take hope from these scriptures: no one and nothing can stop hungry souls from hearing and responding to the Gospel of salvation – God has given humans this right and sealed it with his own blood. There will be revival! The flock of doves will fly back to their savior because he is the only safe refuge.

Psalm 49:7 *None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:*

Psalm 49:8 *(For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)*

Psalm 49:9 *That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.*

The issue is not whether people will return to the Lord or not – it is whether we are prepared to receive and minister to them when that happens. Nineveh was ready but the preacher was not! Let us to everything in our power to prepare ourselves for any moment it will come. Like Elijah girded his loins and told Ahab to prepare for the mighty outpouring of rain, we need to gird our spiritual loins for an abundance of rain can come at any moment.

1Kings 18:44 *And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.*

1Kings 18:46 *And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*