

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has more than adequately answered the questions of revival in this study through Chronicles. What is revival? What can be done to bring revival today? How does revival happen according to Scripture? — All asked — all answered — by God Himself in our previous twenty-nine safari reports. Revival *COULD* happen in our lifetimes. I don't know if it will or not. Frankly, I tend to doubt it; but It's not impossible — although highly unlikely. Our final report from Chronicles will examine the last period of revival in the southern kingdom of Judah immediately prior to their deportation as slaves to Babylon in captivity. The ten tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel have already been taken into Assyrian captivity at this time in which we are studying. Judah is at the end of their line; and it is amazing that revival could even happen at such a time as this. Our last few reports examined the wicked kings Manasseh and Amon, who almost finished the nation off in their time by plunging the people into gross idolatry and willful disobedience.

This revival at this time won't prevent the final destruction of Israel as a whole — but there is *STILL* always hope. This passage demonstrates that God *COULD* move in and cause revival in Israel *today*, to be sure. I think we need to stress that point, too. See, I believe revival could happen; it's other people I doubt — because I see them trying to work revival up themselves — which will never work out for them. Man cannot demand revival, cannot pray it into existence — or tear it down, for that matter. The Spirit of God is sovereign — completely; our prayer ought to be that we walk in His *DIRECT* will for our lives.

Let's make sure our own lives are right before God Almighty today, friends. There are several questions we all need to be asking ourselves. Am I honest? Am I truthful? Am I pure? There's no sense discussing revival until we are all getting right with God in our own hearts. Only then can we approach God in a credible way and ask Him to bring revival according to

His will. In our last report, we saw the patience and sovereignty of our Holy God! Even so, this section of Scripture is also highly prophetic and extremely important to understanding eschatology correctly, hence the title for this report....

#### **XXXIV**

***<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.***

***<sup>2</sup> And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.***

~ There are some funny answers to what's right and wrong floating around philosophy today. Well, Josiah did that which was right in the sight of God. All we know about right and wrong today is what God says is right and wrong. That's the only provision we have available to test what is right and what is wrong. God divided the light from the darkness. Have you ever tried that? You can't do it. When we do flip the switch and the darkness somehow runs away in a hurry – that's still God in action of patience and sovereignty! Josiah will experience revival by doing that which was right in the sight of the Lord....

***<sup>3</sup> For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.***

***<sup>4</sup> And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.***

***<sup>5</sup> And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.***

~ Whatever our modern-day movement of turning to religion is I do not know – but it is a movement; and it is spiritual – but it isn't revival. Now, I am just a poor Bible teacher and that's all this safari does — teach the Bible. I thank God for people who seem to be interested in the salvation offered by the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Word of God; but I am a complete failure at getting them to study their Bibles – I know that. People just do not care for a proper, correct and complete Bible study. This is not entertainment. I'm not selling anything. This safari never attempts to use any gimmicky methods whatsoever – just straight Bible teaching – that's all we do; but people are not interested in that, in case you haven't noticed. Revival can never happen for them.

Alright, Josiah was sixteen when he began to study the Word of God and, when he was twenty, he was made king. Josiah makes all these changes in the land because revival will bring about reformation. When Jesus told the lame man to *“take up his bed and walk”* Jesus also said to him, *“your sins are forgiven you.”* If you are healed, according to Biblical healing, you're going to walk away from your sins; if you are truly converted, you want to keep the commands of the Lord Jesus. Only God can bring about the tremendous change that would have to happen in order for there to be a genuine revival in this world. God might do it; and that should be a great encouragement to you and me....

***<sup>6</sup> And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.***

***<sup>7</sup> And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.***

***<sup>8</sup> Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the***

**governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.**

**<sup>9</sup> And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and of all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.**

**<sup>10</sup> And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house:**

**<sup>11</sup> Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.**

**<sup>12</sup> And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of musick.**

**<sup>13</sup> Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.**

**<sup>14</sup> And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses.**

**<sup>15</sup> And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan.**

**<sup>16</sup> And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it.**

***17 And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.***

***18 Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.***

***19 And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.***

***20 And the king commanded Hilkiyah, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Abdon the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying,***

***21 Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.***

~ Again and again, our Spiritual Safari returns to the Word of God, my friends! The Bible is a complete re-affirmation of itself. That's what brings revival. Nothing else can or will ever bring revival, either. I have never personally seen revival materialize in the church – have you? I would like to see revival in our churches worldwide; but it is not happening today. The reason is simple, and it is because the church has neglected the Word of God!

The church has tried gimmicks, missions, hard rock music – all the way down to gay marriage today – well, those things might make the world a nicer place to go to hell in – but – none of those things bring revival. Only the proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God can bring about real revival from the True and Living God. All sorts of methods are being adopted today, but none are bringing a lost and dying world to Christ – nothing is happening as far as truly transformed lives are concerned.

Revival doesn't happen any other way than in the Word of God, my friends. Only when the patient and sovereign Spirit of God moves in, and people return to the Word of God to discover what God has to say to them, can revival begin. These people in Josiah's day found the Word of the Law in the temple; which means they *LOST* the Word of God *in church!* I would have you note that fact, friends. The worst possible place to lose the Word of God is in the church....

***22 And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college) and they spake to her to that effect.***

***23 And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me,***

***24 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah:***

***25 Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.***

***26 And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to enquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard;***

***27 Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.***

***28 Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring***

***upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.***

***<sup>29</sup> Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.***

***<sup>30</sup> And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.***

***<sup>31</sup> And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.***

~ God cannot convey His instructions in any more concise a manner: a revival today would first involve a complete return to the Word of God to find out what God wants us to do. Then, there must be a true and genuine commitment by God's people to obey Him. It seems most of what we have today is a half-hearted service that tries to go with the world and also go with God. It's impossible to do both. There must be a clear-cut dedication in the hearts and lives of believers to God. If all of that were to take place, then the spirit of God would begin to move – but – God will never move until we do it His way! There is no other way! Again and again, we arrive at the place where redemption from sins becomes all important – in the Word of God. In the day in which we are studying, the burnt offerings and other sacrifices spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ dying on the cross in the future. Christ *MUST - MUST* be exalted....

***<sup>32</sup> And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.***

***<sup>33</sup> And Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in***

***Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God. And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.***

### **XXXV**

***<sup>1</sup> Moreover Josiah kept a Passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.***

***<sup>2</sup> And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the LORD,***

***<sup>3</sup> And said unto the Levites that taught all Israel, which were holy unto the LORD, Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel did build; it shall not be a burden upon your shoulders: serve now the LORD your God, and his people Israel,***

***<sup>4</sup> And prepare yourselves by the houses of your fathers, after your courses, according to the writing of David king of Israel, and according to the writing of Solomon his son.***

***<sup>5</sup> And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the families of the fathers of your brethren the people, and after the division of the families of the Levites.***

***<sup>6</sup> 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.***

***<sup>7</sup> And Josiah gave to the people, of the flock, lambs and kids, all for the passover offerings, for all that were present, to the number of thirty thousand, and three thousand bullocks: these were of the king's substance.***

***<sup>8</sup> And his princes gave willingly unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites: Hilkiyah and Zechariah and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave***



***unto the priests for the passover offerings two thousand and six hundred small cattle, and three hundred oxen.***

***<sup>9</sup> Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethaneel, his brethren, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave unto the Levites for passover offerings five thousand small cattle, and five hundred oxen.***

***<sup>10</sup> So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their courses, according to the king's commandment.***

***<sup>11</sup> And they killed the Passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them.***

***<sup>12</sup> And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as it is written in the book of Moses. And so did they with the oxen.***

***<sup>13</sup> And they roasted the Passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people.***

***<sup>14</sup> And afterward they made ready for themselves, and for the priests: because the priests the sons of Aaron were busied in offering of burnt offerings and the fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared for themselves, and for the priests the sons of Aaron.***

***<sup>15</sup> And the singers the sons of Asaph were in their place, according to the commandment of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the porters waited at every gate; they might not depart from their service; for their brethren the Levites prepared for them.***

***<sup>16</sup> So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover, and to offer burnt offerings upon the altar of the LORD, according to the commandment of king Josiah.***

***17 And the children of Israel that were present kept the Passover at that time, and the feast of unleavened bread seven days.***

***18 And there was no Passover like to that kept in Israel from the days of Samuel the prophet; neither did all the kings of Israel keep such a Passover as Josiah kept, and the priests, and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel that were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.***

***19 In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah was this Passover kept.***

***20 After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him.***

***21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.***

***22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.***

***23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded.***

***24 His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.***

***25 And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and***

***made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.***

***<sup>26</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his goodness, according to that which was written in the law of the LORD,***

***<sup>27</sup> And his deeds, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.***

### **XXXVI**

***<sup>1</sup> Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's stead in Jerusalem.***

***<sup>2</sup> Jehoahaz was twenty and three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.***

***<sup>3</sup> And the king of Egypt put him down at Jerusalem, and condemned the land in an hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.***

***<sup>4</sup> And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and turned his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother, and carried him to Egypt.***

***<sup>5</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.***

***<sup>6</sup> Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and bound him in fetters, to carry him to Babylon.***

***<sup>7</sup> Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.***

***<sup>8</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and his abominations which he did, and that which was found in him, behold, they are written in the book***

*of the kings of Israel and Judah: and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his stead.*

*<sup>9</sup> Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.*

*<sup>10</sup> And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.*

*<sup>11</sup> Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.*

*<sup>12</sup> And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD.*

*<sup>13</sup> And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.*

*<sup>14</sup> Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.*

*<sup>15</sup> And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:*

*<sup>16</sup> But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had*

***no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.***

***<sup>18</sup> And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.***

***<sup>19</sup> And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.***

***<sup>20</sup> And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:***

***<sup>21</sup> To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.***

***<sup>22</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,***

***<sup>23</sup> Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up.***

~ Josiah was keeping the Passover and having revival in chapter thirty-five verse twenty-three — and the Passover speaks of Christ. Our Spiritual Safari seeks the Lord Jesus Christ on every page of Scripture, too, as you know. Josiah had peace – he shouldn't even have been fighting anyone; and he got himself killed doing what he shouldn't have been doing.

So, God breaks off the account at the time in which we are studying with Jerusalem burned and the walls broken down. Chronicles began by detailing the lives of God's people — but concludes with them all in slavery. What happened? – Disobedience happened, friends! Judah is going to the Babylonian captivity; and God's explanation in verse twenty-one is twofold. It's all about their refusal to listen to the prophets, and their failure to keep the Sabbatic years. God would have been justified sending them into captivity a hundred years before this; but He was very gracious because of several good kings. I wonder if our nation is living on borrowed time today.

There can come a time when a nation reaches the place where the Lord allows that nation to go into captivity. For Israel, they had not observed the Sabbatic Year for four hundred ninety years. So, their time has come to catch up. They will go into captivity for that same period of time. Israel had continued planting crops through the centuries on the Sabbatic Year - as if there were no problem with that at all; and they thought they got by with willfully not observing the Mosaic Law. Well, *NO ONE* got by with anything!

The northern kingdom of Israel, with their golden calf worship, is now gone into Assyrian captivity. Judah - all the prophets, women and children are taken away as captives. That wasn't fun for them, my friends. Jeremiah is the prophet during this time, and he is going into captivity, too; and he has told the people why God was doing this. The land had to enjoy each and every one of its annual Sabbath years before the nation would be released from Babylonian captivity. God is not mocked. Be not deceived. Whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap ~

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