



REVIVE US, O YAH!

by Matt German

Revival. That's another one of those words that's loaded with religious connotations. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th Edition, defines revival, in part, as "a restoration to use, acceptance, activity, or vigor after a period of obscurity or quiescence ... a time of reawakened interest in religion ... a meeting or series of meetings for the purpose of reawakening religious faith, often characterized by impassioned preaching and public testimony." Encyclopedia.com goes on to state that "as applied to the Christian religion, the phrase belongs to modern times, dating from the 18th century; but **such experience is described in scriptural accounts**" (*emphasis added*).

One can quickly think of several occasions in Scripture where "revival" occurred:

- the Levites' recommitment to Yahweh in the wake of Israel's rebellion and in response to Moses' definitive challenge at the foot of Sinai: "who is on Yahweh's side?" (Exod. 32)
- at the dedication of the temple under Solomon (1 Kings 8)
- the emotional response of the re-gathered children of Israel to the first reading of the Torah in Jerusalem following the end of the Babylonian captivity (Neh. 8)

Even the day of Pentecost following Yahshua Messiah's resurrection and ascension would qualify as a revival – 3000 people's hearts were changed in one day, sparking the explosive growth of the 1st century Body of believers and the spread of the good news throughout the nations.

Revival is important. Why? Because we're all still human, daily battling not only our own carnal natures but also an unseen but active enemy and his minions. As we face trials, adversity, and even the pressures of daily life, our zeal can wane and fade, so we must constantly rekindle that fire, that commitment, that passion for the Most High.

There are several important Scriptural truths about revival. First, revival comes at an appointed time:

Hosea 6:2 "After two days will He revive us: on the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live before Him."

The word used for "revive" here is the Hebrew *chayah'* (#2421 in Strong's). Among its several meanings is "to be quickened, be restored to life; revive, cause to grow." This is the same word, incidentally, that is used to describe the resurrection (restoration to life) of the son of the Shunammite woman at the hand of the prophet Elisha (2 Ki. 8:1, 4:32-37). The Scripture in Hosea 6:2 tells us that Yahweh will revive us after two days; it's significant to note that we are now 2 prophetic days – about 2,000 years – removed from the time that Yahshua walked this earth. According to that reckoning, revival is imminent – and it will be the greatest revival the world has ever seen!

One key sign of true revival is noticeable change in those who have been revived. This is just as true spiritually as it is physically. When the spiritually dead or dormant have been revived, their minds are renewed, their hearts and their lives transformed. They are once again alive for Yahweh. Their hearts beat for Him and their lives are lived for Him; their ears are attuned and attentive to Him; their hands are at work for Him, their feet are moving forward with Him, their eyes are seeing through Him, and their mouths are speaking for Him. They have been revived. They have been resurrected. They have been raised up to live in His sight.

Another Scriptural truth about revival is that it is necessary in times of trouble:

Psa. 138:7 "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me."

Any time the flame of zeal has grown dim – whether buffeted by the winds of adversity or stifled and smothered by apathy, complacency, or weariness – revival is necessary. That is the only way for the flame to burn bright again. We must add fuel to the fire.

True revival is always tied to true repentance (*teshuvah*), a returning to Yahweh:

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of Yahweh;"

If we have grown apathetic, complacent, or weary, then – in order for the revival fire to be kindled in our hearts – we must return to the Source of our original zeal. We must return to that consuming Fire. Even wet wood will eventually burn if

subjected continuously and consistently to the flame of a blowtorch.

One final Scriptural truth about revival is that it starts with a decision – we must decide to revive. Like just about anything worthwhile in life, we must commit ourselves to it if we want to see it realized in our midst:

2 Tim. 1:6-7 “For which cause I put you in remembrance that you stir up the gift of Yahweh, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For Yahweh gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline.”

It has been said that “a fire starts with a single spark.” Any one of us can be that spark, but each of us should be that spark. Each of us must learn to say, “If it’s meant to be, it’s up to me.” Each of us must stir up the gift of Yahweh within us. We don’t want to be lukewarm; we want – as David said in the Psalms (Psa. 119:139) – for the zeal of Yah to consume us. When that zeal is truly consuming us, it will show in all areas of our walk: in our prayer life, in our praise and worship, in our individual ministries, in our commitment to our relationships with each other and to the Body as a whole, and in the consistent, practical use of our Yahweh-ordained spiritual gifts.

We’re told in Habakkuk 2:4 that “the righteous (just) shall live (*chayah*) by faith.” Let us do more than just live by faith; let us truly *chayah*’ – revive and be quickened – by faith!

Revive us, O Yah!

Revival – Igniting the Fire!

Imagine the largest, most powerful and sophisticated rocket in the world. There it sits on the launch pad, lights flashing, fully loaded and ready to go. The flight crew has spent countless hours in flight simulators; they’ve read the flight manuals backward and forward; they’ve gone through exhaustive pre-flight checkouts of their ship. Yet, if no one ever starts the engines, they will never go anywhere. The rocket will never fulfill the mission for which it was built.

The same may be said of revival. We can talk about revival, teach about or study it, even hear a sermon – or a series of sermons – on it; but none of that will necessarily lead to revival. If we don’t actually spark the fire, it will never burn. If we don’t ignite the engines, they will never thrust us skyward and take us where Yahweh wants us to go.

Revival is a sovereign move of Yahweh Almighty. It cannot be legislated or voted on by committee ... and it only happens when His people have prepared their hearts to receive it.

The word ‘revive’ in English comes from the Latin *revivere* – “to live again, to return to consciousness or life”. In other words, that which is dead or dormant comes back to life. One of the first things we must realize about revival is that, before it can come, something must die – in order for something to be revived, it must first have been dead or dormant. Then, and only then, can it revive. In order for us to be revived, we must die to self.

Rom. 6:1-4, 11-13 What will we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? May it never be! We who died to sin, how could we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all we who were baptized into Messiah Yahshua were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him through baptism to death, that just like Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life... Thus also reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to Yahweh in Messiah Yahshua our Master. Therefore don’t let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Neither present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to Yahweh, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to Yahweh.

A second point we must realize is that *Ruach ha’Kodesh*, the Holy Spirit, is the fuel of revival. That is one reason why it is so critical that we “quench not the Spirit” (1 Thess. 5:19), for it is the Lifeblood of our walk and the source of our overcoming and our power. “Quench not” means that we must not suppress, stifle, subdue, or extinguish it. Quenching the Spirit is antithetical to (in opposition to and totally incompatible with) revival. We cannot have a “quenching the Spirit” attitude and expect revival in our midst.

It’s been said that “dead men tell no tales.” The Scriptural truth, however, is that dead men DO tell tales. Take, for instance, the following account regarding the prophet Elisha:

2 Kings 13:20-21 “And Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.”

In these verses, a dead man is revived at the mere touch of a dead prophet’s bones. The anointing on that prophet, Elisha, was so strong, even after he himself had died, even after his body had become dust and all that remained was a pile of bones, that it raised another man from the dead. In essence, it said to the first dead man, “I don’t care if you’re dead – get up!” And he did! As soon as he touched Elisha’s bones, he revived and stood up on his feet! That is the power of the spirit of

revival in which we ought to be walking as Blood-bought believers. If we have truly “died to self,” when we come in contact with those who are spiritually dead or dormant, the anointing, the resurrection life of Yahshua in us, ought to jolt them back to life and stand them up on their feet. HalleluYah! That was the example of the 1st century Body of believers. The Scriptures say that the apostles witnessed to Yahshua’s resurrection with “great power” (Acts 4:33). Because of it, people’s lives were *dramatically and radically changed*.

By definition, revival represents a new work of Yahweh, when something inactive or dormant comes alive again. Many Western churches are spiritually dead – or at least on life support. There are many reasons why this happens, but at core is a lack of movement of the Holy Spirit. What good is a church if no one ever gets saved or delivered there?

Revival is all about movement and change. It is the manifestation of the Kingdom of Yahweh in our midst. It is Yahshua Messiah ruling and reigning in our hearts and in our lives. Yahshua Himself said that the Kingdom of Yahweh does not come with carnal observation, but that it was here among us if we could only recognize it (Luke 17:20-21). To do so requires spiritual vision – in other words, faith. Yahshua told Nicodemus that unless a man is born again [born anew, from above], he cannot see the Kingdom of Yahweh (John 3:1-10).

One cannot remain in Yahweh’s revival fire and be unaffected, untouched, impervious to the work of His Spirit. It will purify us, consume us, or drive us away from His presence. The choice is ours.

We have all probably seen video footage of actual rocket launches. The engine ignition is extremely powerful, almost violent, and there is always a lot of smoke and fire. Initially the rocket doesn’t even seem like it’s moving or that it will ever get off the ground. But then it slowly begins to rise. In less than a minute it is roaring through the sky, and there is nothing on earth that can stop it.

In rocketry, accidents can happen and things can go out of control. Yahweh is infinitely more aware of our human weaknesses and frailties, however, and will never allow us to crash and burn – IF we’re earnestly listening to His voice and following His flight plan. His Spirit is the fuel and His Word is the rocket engine nozzle that directs the flight.

Isa. 40:28-31 (AMP) “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting Elohim, Yahweh, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is not searching of His understanding. He gives power to the faint *and* weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength – causing it to multiply and making it abound. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and the *selected* young men

shall feebly stumble *and* fall exhausted; But those who wait for Yahweh – who expect, look for and hope in Him – shall change *and* renew their strength *and* power; they shall lift their wings *and* mount up [close to Yahweh] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint *or* become tired.”

No matter how young or vibrant we think we are, we can still get tired, grow faint and weary, even stumble and fall. And if we’re lugging around unnecessary baggage (sin, carnality, unforgiveness, envy, etc.), that will just slow us down, weigh us down even more. We’ve got to cast off all of those weights and restraints.

Hebrews 12:1-3 “Therefore let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Yahshua the Author and Perfecter of [our] faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of Yahweh. For consider Him that endured such opposition of sinners against Himself, that you do not become weary, fainting in your souls.”

The Amplified Bible translation of verse 1 reads “let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance – unnecessary weight – and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us...” We must reckon ourselves dead to sin, but alive in Yahweh through Yahshua Messiah (Rom. 6:11).

Rom. 8:10-11 If Messiah is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised up Yahshua from the dead dwells in you, He who raised up Messiah Yahshua from the dead will also give life to [quicken] your mortal bodies through His Spirit that dwells in you.

Here is what author Sammy Rodriguez says about revival in his book Are You a Third Day Christian?: “[Revival] is God’s heart being poured out upon His people. Waking us up; preparing us for the next level. Revival is the catalyst to the journey. Revival is the first step to more. It is a step that every church, every ministry, every believer – you, I and the entire body of [Messiah] – must take. Revival is the first stage... [It] is not the end, but the beginning.”

Revival isn’t the end, nor is it an end in itself, but rather just the “first stage” – the impetus that kicks us off the launch pad, allowing us to break free of the gravitational constraints that have held us back and kept us from realizing our Yahweh-ordained potential. Let us seek revival by pursuing the One who brings revival and praying this simple prayer: “Yahweh – Ignite the Fire!”

Recent Sermons

- Intercession (2/25/12)
- Wait for Yahweh (1/21/12)
- "I Will Build My Ekklesia" (1/7/12)
- Are You Shiny? (12/10/11)

For all the latest teaching & preaching from this ministry, please visit us online – www.4LionofJudah.com. Most recent sermons are available for immediate download in mp3 format.

Recommended Tool of the Month

Are You a Third Day Christian? by Sammy Rodriguez.

"In this exciting book *Are You a Third Day Christian?*, pastor and broadcast host Sammy Rodriguez takes you through the Scriptures – into a new and revived and raised up experience in HIS sight – A Third Day experience of power!

"Learn what God is doing today—the third day of Christianity – and why it's so important in your life. Find out how you can be unstoppable, never retreating in the things of God. Discover how you can live in a new anointing stemming from Third Day revelation."

Available at Amazon.com (bargain price).

Yahweh's Feast Calendar – 2012

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh's calendar. These are the feast dates for 2012 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 5 th (Thu.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 6 th – 12 th (Fri. – Thu.)
Pentecost	May 27 th (Sun.)
Trumpets	Sep. 16 th (Su.)
Day of Atonement	Sep. 25 th (Tue.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Sep. 30 th – Oct. 6 th (Su. – Sab.)
Last Great Day	October 7 th (Su.)

** observed the evening before*

Bear in mind that the Biblical day begins at sunset the night before.

Contact us:

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