



Nehemiah 7-8

# EXPERIENCING REVIVAL

*In every genuine revival in history, two major thrusts have always appeared. First, there has always been proclamation of the Bible, God's Word; second, there has always been the responsive mobilization of the believers, God's people. Strange as it may sound, a revival does not relate directly to the unsaved. You cannot revive the lost. You can revive the saved. Revival occurs as God ignites the fire of His Word and mobilizes His people to go and win the lost. ...When the Word of God is proclaimed and the people of God are mobilized, revival has occurred.*

—Charles R. Swindoll

The wall was complete. The gates were hung. And city of Jerusalem had become a functioning city once again (7:1-3). Now it was time to rebuild and revive the people of God!

## THE EXPERIENCE OF REVIVAL (8:1-18)

On the first day of the seventh month (Tishri) of 444 BC, all of the people—men, women, and children—gathered together in front of the Water Gate, near the Gihon Spring.

Based on Nehemiah 8, there are seven key elements of revival:

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ among the people of God.

*Now all the people gathered together as one man... (8:1)*

*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)*

*Fulfill my joy, by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord [soul partners], of one mind. (Philippians 2:2)*

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ for the Word of God.

*The ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law (8:3)*

*Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. (1 Peter 2:1-3)*

Nehemiah 7:5-72 is the register of families who first returned from exile as recorded in Ezra 2.

The seventh month was the beginning of the Jewish civil year with the celebration of three feasts—the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles (cf. Lev. 23).

*Revival is the visitation of God which brings to life Christians who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God's near presence and holiness. Thence springs a vivid sense of sin and a profound exercise of heart in repentance, praise, and love with an evangelistic outflow.*

—J. I. Packer

*We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven.*

—G. Campbell Morgan

*If we want revivals, we must revive our reverence for the Word of God. —Charles H. Spurgeon*

*The basic elements of the synagogue—the public reading of the Law and congregational prayer—were first instituted by Ezra and Nehemiah. —Michael Avi-Yonah*

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word of God expositionally.**

*So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading. (8:8)*

*For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel. (Ezra 7:10)*

*Make every effort to present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately. (2 Timothy 2:15, NET Bible)*

**4. A heart of \_\_\_\_\_ for the greatness of God.**

*And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. (8:6)*

**5. A heart of \_\_\_\_\_ before the holiness of God.**

*For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law. (8:9)*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3)*

**6. A heart of \_\_\_\_\_ because of the grace of God!**

*Then he said to them, "Go and eat what is rich, drink what is sweet, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because the joy of the Lord is your strength." (8:10)*

*Rejoice in the LORD always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)*

**7. A life of \_\_\_\_\_ motivated by the love of God.**

*He read from the Book of the Law of God daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a festive assembly in accordance with the ordinance (8:18)*

*This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. (1 John 4:23)*

*The law had always envisioned a "wise and understanding people," taught from childhood not only the words of God but what the words and rituals meant. Mindless superstition was the mark of paganism.*

—Derek Kidner

**Distinctly** (8:8). Hebrew, *paras*, "to separate, to declare with precision, to make clear."

*At its best, expository preaching is the presentation of biblical truth, derived from and transmitted through a historical, grammatical, Spirit-guided study of a passage in its context, which the Holy Spirit applies first to the life of the preacher and then through him to the congregation.*

—Haddon W. Robinson

*The powerful exposition of the Word of God can bring deep conviction of sin. But repentance must not degenerate into a self-centered remorse but must issue into joy in God's forgiving goodness.*

—Edwin Yamauchi

*Joy is the great note all through the Bible.*

—Oswald Chambers

*The more cheerful we are in our religious exercises the more we shall abound in them. Holy joy will be oil to the wheels of our obedience. ...The joy of the Lord will also arm us against the assaults of our spiritual enemies and put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks.*

—Matthew Henry

*Any obedience that isn't motivated by His great love is nothing more than penance.*

—Elyse Fitzpatrick