

There is Revival in Your Future

Opening Text: Jeremiah 50:4-5

*“In those days and in that time,” says the Lord, “the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together; with continual weeping **they shall come and seek the Lord their God.** ⁵ They shall ask the way to Zion, with their faces toward it, saying, ‘Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten.’*

There was a dark period in the history of the Jewish people when they were overrun by other nations and taken captive into exile. Judah was in exile 70 years under the Babylonian empire and Israel under the Assyrians for 159 years. This tragedy happened as Israel and Judah persistently pushed God out of their lives over a long period of time. As a Nation made up of two kingdoms, the Jewish people were subjugated, oppressed and captive. They were in survival mode. Jerusalem, once a great city was now a heap of rubbish. Recovery seemed impossible.

Nehemiah 4:2b – “*will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish – stones that are burned?*”

That was a good description, not just of the physical city of Jerusalem but also of the Jewish people: they were lifeless stones, burned-out, spent. Could stones live? Could revival happen in Israel again? Could they break free from exile and be a nation again?

The prophet Jeremiah prophesies that God is about to do something new, that He is about to overturn their fate. God is about to bring revival to His people and the days of the enemies are numbered. Jeremiah speaks prophetically against the nations that oppressed them over 221 verses. Their downfall is eminent! As for Israel, there was revival in their future.

Jeremiah prophesied against God’s enemies but here is what he prophesied to God’s people:

“In those days and in that time,” says the Lord, “the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together; with continual weeping they shall come and seek the Lord their God. ⁵ They shall ask the way to Zion, with their faces toward it, saying, ‘Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten.’

There are a few things I want to extract from this text that will be crucial for your own revival:

1. Acknowledging the appointed times of God

“In those days and in that time, says the Lord”

The question we need to ask ourselves before God is: *what time is this? What’s on God’s agenda for now?* – I believe that it is time to seek the Lord!

Hosea 10:12 - *Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, **for it is time to seek the Lord**, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.*

The rain is coming, the drought will be over but *now it is time to seek the Lord!* (hence the theme of our church camp).

Isaiah 55:6 - ***Seek the Lord** while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.*

We need to acknowledge this time: it is time to seek the Lord. Prayer is like breaking up hardened soil in preparation for the harvest. Prayer precedes every victory and every breakthrough.

2. Acknowledge the power of unity.

*In those days and in that time,” says the Lord, “the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah **together**.*

“Together” is such a crucial word.

a) *the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together*

Israel and Judah didn't always walk together. After the death of Solomon and during the reign of his son, something happened that caused the kingdom to be divided: 10 tribes stayed with Israel and 2 formed the kingdom of the South, Judah. They never walked together again and even fought each other in war.

Matthew 12:25b - *“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.”*

b) There is nothing sadder than brothers that don't get along and stand divided: Abel and Cain (over envy), Jacob and Esau (over inheritance), Israel and Judah (over taxation and politics), the prodigal son and his older brother (over issues of preference).

c) However, the prophecy of Jeremiah said something powerful: Israel and Judah would come together again. There was going to be supernatural reconciliation. Unity is crucial in anticipation of victory, breakthrough and revival!

Acts 2:1 - *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one **accord** in one place.*

John 17:22-23 - *²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*

Jeremiah 50:5b - *let **us** join ourselves to the **Lord** in a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten.'*

Matthew 18:19 - *“Again I say to you that if **two of you agree** on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.*

3. Acknowledging the need to ‘return’

If we want to see revival, then we need to return to our first love. We need to find our way back to Him.

*5 “They shall **ask the way** to Zion, with their faces toward it”*

- a) 70 years of exile made them forget the way back to Zion. They had lost their way.

Jeremiah 50:6 – *“My people have been lost sheep [...] they have forgotten their resting place”.*

In anticipation of revival, we need to find the way back to the Father, we need to return to our first love.

Jeremiah 4:1a - *If you will return, O Israel,” says the Lord, “return to Me;*

Zechariah 1:3 - *Therefore say to them, “Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Return to Me,” says the Lord of hosts, “and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts.*

Joel 2:13 - *So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.*

- b) *5 “**They** shall ask the way to Zion, with their faces toward it”*

This speaks of focus, of being single-minded. We need to abandon the distractions of this world and set our faces towards the Lord.

4. Acknowledging the power of consistency

*5 They shall ask the way to Zion, with their faces toward it, saying, ‘Come and let us join ourselves to the Lord in a **perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten.**’*

One of the issues of Israel was their inconsistency, their ups and downs, their temporary and shallow commitments only to return repeatedly to their bad behaviour and backslidings. They kept forgetting God.

Jeremiah 2:32 - *Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.*

Deuteronomy 32:18 - *Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who fathered you.*

God is looking for a perpetual covenant that will never be forgotten – something that will stand forever, unchanged in our hearts. God is looking for people who join themselves to Him and stay consistent in their walk with Him.

Conclusion

In anticipation to the breakthrough God is about to unleash, to the victory He is about to bring, to the revival He is speaking over us, let us acknowledge...

1. that it is time to seek the Lord,
2. that it is crucial that we come together, united, in one accord.
3. that we need to return to our first love. We need to find our way back to Him.
4. that we need to stand with resolve and to be consistent in our relationship with Him.

I don't know where you stand today but perhaps you find yourself in some place of captivity, confined by sickness or troubled by the constant attacks of the enemy. Perhaps you feel burnt-out and spent. Or it may be that you have distanced yourself from the Lord and you feel like you are in some sort of spiritual exile – you haven't felt His presence in a long time, you haven't encountered His glory, you feel dry and disconnected. I want you know today and prophesy that God is a God of revival! The days of the oppressor are numbered and revival is in your future!