

## Chapter Five – Revival

Because God is all-powerful and all-loving, He will make sure that anyone who would respond to the Gospel will have an opportunity to hear it. That is why it is likely that a great End-Times revival would occur during these difficult days, especially for the sake of those who have not heard the truth.

Admittedly, much of this report has been bad news about a weak and worldly church and a world in turmoil.

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;  
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;  
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*  
– Isaiah 5:20

The good news is that these very factors could lead to a much-needed spiritual revival. As a pastor I have always taught, “*As the night gets darker, the light shines brighter.*” In our recent study of Church history, and especially the Period of the Missionary Church (Mid-1700’s – 1900’s)<sup>i</sup>, we saw that the great revivals grew out of a sense of spiritual need. The most recent one, the so-called “Jesus People Movement,” came on the heels of the sexual revolution and drug culture of the ‘60’s and ‘70’s. When a godless life style leaves its victims empty, there is a golden opportunity for the Bible’s message of salvation to be welcomed and received.

In the Bible, The Lord always gave believers an opportunity to repent, and he often allowed the worst of pagans the opportunity to believe in Him.

He gave opportunity to Noah’s family, Lot’s family, and the believers in Jericho and Nineveh to repent and be spared. Why wouldn’t He do the same for the young people of our generation who have never really understood the Gospel?

*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.* – 2 Peter 3:9

Revival must come through God's Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4). Furthermore, His people must really want it!

We will consider some of the outstanding methods and events of our generation that are providing Bible truth in ways that will make sense, especially to young people. Most of this section is adapted from our book, *The Church in Prophecy and History: Commentary on Revelation chapters 1 to 3.*<sup>ii</sup>

Visualizing what could happen, and imagining how each of us could be involved in this "Next Great Awakening" may be the best contribution of this book.

### **Prayer Movements**

Our generation is complex. There are places like Central and South America, Korea, and parts of Africa where there are revivals going on now with amazing numbers of believers winning others to Christ. In China the underground church has grown exponentially and is spiritually strong in spite of persecution. Europe and North America, the bastions of the truth during the Missionary Age, have slowly grown apathetic. It is worse in Europe, where many of the churches have become taverns or mosques, but it seems that the United States is following in their footsteps.

How does God see our present world? We can be sure He still loves all of His creatures. Through His Son He has already provided salvation for all who will receive it.

Like the Laodicean Church, there is still an opportunity for lukewarm Christians to be revived. But will we?

We cannot schedule a revival, nor do anything great to make it happen. But we can repent of our worldliness and pray:

Revival is not the same as a great evangelistic harvest of conversions to Christ. Revival or "awakening" comes to those who are already believers, but who have been lulled into spiritual lethargy. Revival is for those who already belong to Christ but have become lukewarm.

*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. – 2 Chronicles 7:14*

But when revival takes place, these revived Christians become mighty missionaries to their own generation. They take the Gospel to the multitudes who have not yet been born again.

Critics might point out the fact that this verse was given in Solomon's days to the Chosen People. But can anyone doubt that God would treat His adopted children in the Church the same way (John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5)? Writing to the Corinthians, Paul made it clear that the things that happened to Israel are examples to us (1 Corinthians 10:6-11).

If we care about the souls of people—including our own relatives and friends—how can we not earnestly desire for them to come to know the Lord? How could we not pray for the right circumstances in their lives to point them to Christ? Why would we not pray for another mighty spiritual awakening for their sake?

There are many prayer movements today, such as Houses of Prayer, Lou Engle's TheCall, and the National Day of Prayer. Some of them are led by young people. This is especially significant since bright young adults have been leaders in past revivals, and it is primarily for their sake that we desire to experience such a renewal. Historically, major revivals have often come from college youth movements.

Here are some news summaries about revival:

[See the Topic: ["Revival"](#) in Prophecy Central]

#### [\*\*National Day of Prayer: Unity of 'one mind, one voice'\*\*](#)

May 1, 2014 - Today Christians recognize the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer. This year's theme is "One Voice, United in Prayer." (OneNewsNow)

#### [\*\*National Day of Prayer\*\*](#)

#### [\*\*Southern Baptist president calls 46,000 churches to "extraordinary prayer" for Great Awakening.\*\*](#)

Nov. 13, 2014 - Dr. Ronnie Floyd, The new president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has issued a call to intense prayer for revival in all Southern Baptist churches, devoting an entire month of messages on the subject in each church and providing extraordinary prayer gatherings. His message is available as a short free book that can be downloaded directly. He says,

The time is now for us to come together before God in clear agreement, visible union, and in extraordinary prayer for the next Great Awakening, and for the world to be reached for Christ. (Joel Rosenberg)

#### [\*\*Intercessors, Will You Respond to This Call From God?\*\*](#)

Dec. 19, 2014 - At the Governor's mansion in Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal met with more than 70 pastors and prayer leaders to make plans for a prayer event in Baton Rouge in January, 2015. The rally will be called "The Response: a Call to Prayer for a nation in Crisis."

There are many earnest prayer ministries that are waiting to see a great spiritual breakthrough. Some of them are Houses of Prayer all over the world. Lou Engle's The Call, One Cry, Cry Out America, Broken Before the Throne and the National Day of Prayer. (Charisma News)

## Missions

Even though missionary work has declined in our generation, there are tens of thousands of highly-trained, incredibly-devoted missionaries still taking the Gospel to the masses using all the methods that have been produced in the past, and utilizing advanced technology to finish the task of reaching to people everywhere and providing Scriptures in many languages. Most of the best results in our generation are the work of indigenous leaders in nearly every country of the world. Who knows when something very powerful might begin in some inconspicuous place that would lead to a wildfire of revival and evangelism?

Just before He ascended into Heaven the Lord Jesus gave His disciples a reminder of His "Great Commission" to take the Gospel to the whole world! (Acts 1:8; see also: Matthew 28:18-20) Then an angel told the disciples that Jesus would return the same way He left the earth (Acts 1:9-11). Christians are not supposed to abandon this missions mandate and retire to a mountaintop to wait for His return. Instead, they should "occupy," or "do business" until He returns (Luke 19:13).

We are living at the end of the greatest period of missionary activity in history. This was foretold in the message to the Church at Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13). During this time missionaries have followed Jesus' own example of meeting people's needs in order to earn the right to be heard. They have improved the living conditions of people around the world, fed the hungry, built hospitals, established schools, and provided water. Most importantly, they have given the Gospel, the best of all gifts.

One of the most encouraging recent developments is the dramatic come-back of a missionary enterprise for children. Child Evangelism Fellowship was encouraged to start hundreds of "Good News Clubs" on school campuses after school hours. A Supreme Court decision in 2001 declared that "the school could not deny equal access to these clubs for any time that is generally available for public use."<sup>iii</sup> Matt Staver, President of Liberty Counsel, used this ruling to encourage many Christian organizations to stand up for their First Amendment rights.<sup>iv</sup>

Ultimately, there will be representatives in Heaven of "every tribe and tongue and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). Jesus said,

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. - Matthew 24:14*

So far, the missionary enterprise has only been the privilege of human disciples of the Lord, but at a certain time, during the Tribulation period, God will allow angels to finish the work (Revelation 14:6-7).

Check out these sample headlines about missions:

[See the Topics: [“Missions”](#) and [“Revival”](#) in Prophecy Central]

### **Muslims Have Dreams and Visions of Jesus**

October 27, 2014 - It comes as a shock to many Christians to hear that Muslims, in places where they cannot be reached by missionaries, are sometimes experiencing dreams or visions of Jesus. I was surprised myself when I first heard it several years ago at a “Defending the Faith” conference we hosted at our church. Dr. J.P. Moreland, the Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, and Biola University in La Mirada, California mentioned this phenomenon in his message. I questioned him afterward, and he said he had actually received several credible reports that Jesus was appearing to some Muslims.

I was a little skeptical at first, but I respect Dr. Moreland, so I started checking it out. Some theologians claim that the Gospel must come from a human messenger. They cite Paul’s writings in Romans:

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:*

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!” – Romans 10:14-15*

However, Paul himself was converted by a vision of Jesus (Acts 9), and Cornelius was convinced in a vision to invite Peter (who had a corresponding vision) to give him the Gospel (Acts 10).

We have included a section in our extensive “Islam Links” on Prophecy Central about this growing phenomenon. You will find that this is a serious topic on Google and YouTube. (Ron’s Blog<sup>v</sup>)

**[Millions of former Muslims will celebrate Easter this year. Meet one, Hormoz Shariat, the “Billy Graham of Iran.”](#)**

Apr. 19, 2014 - In Joel Rosenberg's 2009 non-fiction book, *Inside the Revolution*, he told of "MBBs," Muslim Background Believers in Jesus. One example of the movement was Dr. Hormoz Shariat, who in 1979 had been a Shiite Muslim shouting "Death to America!" on the streets of Tehran. He later became a Christian, along with his wife, and they started planting churches of Iranian believers. Eventually they founded a satellite TV ministry. Today, there are over one million Iranians who love Jesus Christ, and millions of other former Muslims throughout the Middle East, North Africa, and central Asia who are celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Joel Rosenberg - Flashtraffic)

### [35 Years of the Jesus Film has changed millions of lives](#)

Nov. 23, 2014 -

The Jesus Film Project says that since the film debuted in 1979, it has been translated into about 1,200 languages with a viewership of more than 6 billion.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records it is "the most-translated film in history." It is estimated that over 200 million people worldwide have decided to follow Christ after viewing it. (WND)

### [Is America more religious than we think?](#)

Dec. 4, 2014 - A new Gallup Poll and other surveys show that Christianity continues to be an essential ingredient of Americans private and public lives.

"In an average week, one-in-five Americans share their religious faith online, about the same percentage that tune in to religious talk radio, watch religious TV programs or listen to Christian rock music," Pew researchers declare. (OneNewsNow)

## **The Internet**

The Internet has become the preferred source of information for many people. Web based videos now rival television's viewing audience. An almost unfathomable number of videos are now available via YouTube, God Tube, and other providers using smart phone service and the Internet. Some of these "go viral" and can suddenly and unexpectedly be seen by millions of viewers. Many of these spontaneous successes have been Christian stories or messages.

**Books**— Solomon said "Of making many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes 12:12). Printed books are less popular at the moment, but Amazon has started a new free book publishing service [CreateSpace.com] to stimulate the production of new literature. This upsurge in new Christian literature will appear, not only on paper, but it will be electronically

transmitted instantly and inexpensively to computers and smart phones all over the world.

Websites like our own "Prophecy Central" provide detailed, up-to-date information about major Bible study themes. Valuable information is available in seconds via the ubiquitous cell phone.

[See the Topics: ["Missions"](#) and ["Revival"](#) in Prophecy Central]

### **[Report: Jesus More Popular on China's Twitter Than Chairman Mao](#)**

Apr. 9, 2014 - Chinese censors are allowing more Christian terminology to be talked about on Weibo, China's version of Twitter. A study last week revealed:

- "Jesus," received more than 18 million mentions while Chinese President Xi Jinping received 4 million mentions.
- "Bible" received 17 million mentions while Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung's "The Little Red Book," received fewer than 60,000.
- "Christian congregation" was mentioned more than 41 million times, while "Communist Party" yielded just 5.3 million mentions.

China's 100,000 censors evidently continued to ban the term "underground church."

(Source: NewsMax)

## **Christian Music and Media**

Just as most of the great hymns of yesteryear were the product of revival movements, so inspiring new music, performed by exceptional young artists, are making an incredible impact on culture today.

People love heroes, especially in music, sports and entertainment. There are many dedicated, courageous Christians in the media. Some of them will have the platform to influence great numbers of young people for Christ.

The latest Dove Awards for Christian music was more like a beautiful worship service than a display of human achievement. It was truly a night of glorious praise and worship of our Great God and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Before announcing the award for "Best Artist of the Year"—Amy Grant said:

"I heard a lot of artists whose music was new to me, and I feel a kind of energy in the music of the Church that I have not felt in all the years of making music. It comes as no surprise that in Bible times, when wars were to be fought, the musicians were sent out in front. It's a powerful place to be." [See 2 Chronicles 20:20-23]

The winner was Hillsong United for the album that includes the incredible worship song, "Oceans."

Near the end of the event they announced the "Best Praise and Worship Album of the Year." It went to Kari Jobe, a vibrant young worship leader who is known for encouraging huge audiences to praise the Lord and experience His presence.<sup>vi</sup>

Movies and videos are a major influence. The Jesus Film Project, mentioned above, which has been seen by more than 6 billion viewers, is still being shown to approximately 3.8 million people per year in more than a thousand languages.

Actually some of the highest-grossing movies on the big screen have been Bible epics or faith-based stories. In 2004 Mel Gibson shocked the movie industry by making the blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ." It became the highest grossing R-rated film in the United States. (It was rated R because of the violence our Lord suffered.) The most popular 2013 TV series was "The Bible," with more than a million viewers. Mark Burnett and Roma Downey, the producers of that series have now released the biblically-accurate and moving "Son of God." And they are planning on a follow-up series called "A.D.: After the Bible." An independent film, "God's Not Dead," had surprising success at the box office and delivered a powerful Gospel message for young people and young adults. Several other Bible or faith-based movies are in process, and the trend is seen as a surprise movement from Hollywood.

Television and Radio keep improving with new applications and technological advancements. TBN, CBN, Sky Angel, Daystar and other TV satellite networks reach most of the planet with Christian programming.

Trans World Radio (TWR) is the largest media ministry, and it is still expanding. They project that by 2015 they will be able to deliver Christian content to nearly 60 percent of the people in the world in their own language.

Salem Broadcasting is another extensive provider of Christian content, but there are hundreds of smaller networks and Christian stations that also feed the mind and spirit of Christians. Some of these programs are Christian talk radio. These informative broadcasts help inform Christians of important events that could lead to revival, and mobilize the Christian community for action when necessary.

[See the Topic: ["Revival"](#) in Prophecy Central]

### **[Carrie Underwood's Christian-themed song 'Something in the Water' sets record](#)**

Oct. 8, 2014 - Carrie Underwood is raising the bar for herself with her new single "Something in the Water." The song marked the best-selling first week of her entire career!

The song is about her Christian faith and it ends with her singing a portion of "Amazing Grace." (Fox)

### **['Son of God': Church Leaders Buying Out Theaters For Screenings](#)**



Feb. 16, 2014 - Thousands of people will attend viewings of Son of God on Feb. 28, the night before the film's official release. Churches and groups are buying out screens, or even whole theaters all over the country.

Son of God is a version of the hit miniseries, "The Bible", featuring new and used footage, focused just on the story of Jesus Christ. "The Bible" averaged 11.4 million viewers during its five-week run on the History channel.

"The Bible" was the top-selling miniseries on DVD of all time. (Hollywood Reporter)

### [The religious drama 'God's Not Dead' surprises at box office](#)

Mar. 22, 2014 - "God's Not Dead" was shown on only 780 screens nationwide, but it took in more than \$2.8 million Friday. It may be the No. 3 movie for the weekend.

Meanwhile, "Son of God" is still drawing crowds and staying in the top ten this weekend. It is showing on 2,129 screens and has garnered \$53.6 million so far.

The article says this looks like the year that "Hollywood finds religion." "Noah," the controversial big budget film will be released next Friday, "Heaven Is for Real," will begin showing on April 16, and others are coming later this year including Ridley Scott's "Exodus," "Last Days in the Desert" and "Mary." (Susan King - Los Angeles Times)

### ['The Bible' sequel makes Christmas splash](#)

Dec. 21, 2014 - Following up the year's top cable TV sensation, "The Bible," with 100 million views, Executive Producer Roma Downey plans to bring a welcome sequel that covers the events of the Book of Acts. The new miniseries, "A.D.," will air on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015. Watch this video, featuring a stirring music video from Christian pop sensation For King & Country that powerfully illustrates Jesus' words to the young church, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). (WND)

### [God's forgiveness stars in WWII hero's story](#)

Dec. 24, 2014 - "Unbroken," Angelina Jolie's movie about Olympic star, WWII war hero, amazing survivor of Japanese prison camps, and evangelist Louis Zamperini, includes several references to his conversion and Christian faith. Later in life he attended a Billy Graham Crusade...

... where an internal struggle eventually broke him and brought him to his knees at the cross of Christ. Through his relationship with Christ, he was able to forgive his captors and tormentors. (Ted Baehr – WND)

**Preaching**

Even with the employment of advanced technologies that make the task of spreading the Gospel so much easier and more effective than ever, there is still a need for godly, Holy Spirit-anointed preaching of God's Word.

*<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. – 1 Corinthians 1:20-21*

*<sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? – Romans 10:14*

In our own generation we have been blessed with the Billy Graham Crusades and Greg Laurie's Harvest Crusades. In the '90's a men's movement called "Promise Keepers" was able to attract more than a million men to the Washington Mall to pray for revival.

Today we have the earnest hope of one more great revival to reach this generation of young people with the Gospel. Too many of them do not know what the Bible teaches. They don't know what they need to do in order to have a right relationship with Christ. In what he characterized as his last message to the world, Billy Graham, who has spoken to more people about Christ than any other person in history, and who is now 95 years old, just delivered a world-wide challenge calling on people everywhere to renewed hope, based on the Cross--the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on our behalf.<sup>vii</sup>

Outstanding churches, led by anointed, Bible-believing pastors kept evangelical Christianity viable during the difficult second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Here are some of them: J. Vernon McGee, Jack Hayford, Lloyd Ogilvie, Jerry Falwell, John Maxwell, John MacArthur, Adrian Rogers, Haddon Robinson, Chuck Swindoll, D. James Kennedy, John Piper, Charles Stanley, David Jeremiah, John Hagee, Tim Keller and Max Lucado. These all pastored large churches, wrote books, and used radio and/or television to reach a large audience.

One whole new family of churches grew out of the "Jesus People" revival: The Calvary Chapel movement. Chuck Smith, Greg Laurie, Raul Ries and Jack Hibbs are examples of their excellent pastors, but there are many other strong voices in this new fellowship of over 1000 churches worldwide.<sup>viii</sup>

We must pray that our new generation of bright young pastors will commit themselves to the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and be used in a remarkable way to focus on the Bible, the salvation message, and openness to another Great Awakening before the Lord returns!

[See the Topic: ["Revival"](#) in Prophecy Central]

### [Where is America in End Times prophecy?](#)

Sept. 7, 2014 - Evangelist Greg Laurie answers why America does not seem to be mentioned in End Times prophecy. He admits that no one can say for sure, but even though many modern countries can be identified in prophecies, there are two possible reasons that our country may not be mentioned. One of these reasons would be that we have been reduced in power and importance by God's **judgment** on the nation for straying from our historically biblical roots, and the other possibility would be that we have experienced another much-need **revival**.

In the judgment scenario, it is possible that the U.S. will have been crippled by a nuclear attack before the final End Times conflicts begin. It is also possible that the nation will have just lost its importance on the world scene, and will have declined like all the former empires in history.

Laurie's preferred theory is that there could be another great revival. He says,

“In some ways, things have never been worse morally. Yet there is great opportunity for the gospel. There is an open door for believers to go through to reach out to other people.”

If there is a great End Times revival the number of born-again Christians will increase. Then, when the Rapture takes place, the nation will suddenly be left without many of its best citizens, and could become less relevant on the world stage. (WND)

### [Rev. Graham: 'As I Read the News, I Can't Help But Wonder if We're in Last Hours'](#)

Sept. 5, 2014 - Franklin Graham writes that with all the bad news about wars, persecution, diseases, etc., he "Can't help but wonder if we're in last hours." He said that Jesus gave this answer when His disciples asked about the end of the age:

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake” (Matthew 24:9, KJV).

At the same time, he stressed that this is an opportune time for evangelism. In addition to stadium crusades, he says the Good News will be proclaimed to thousands and broadcast over the Internet to reach even more. In addition, a powerful new My Hope film will soon be released with a never-before-seen message from his father, Billy Graham, about Heaven. This will give Christians a reason to invite friends and loved ones to their homes and churches to hear the Gospel. (CSN News)

### **A “New Thing”**

A “new thing”—something we have not yet considered—might be the most likely form

that the Lord, the ultimate creative genius of the Universe, will use to launch an End Time revival. The Bible story is a continuous progression of new things from God's own hand. The Creation, the Flood, the call of Abraham, the birth of Isaac when Abraham was 100, Joseph's rise to power in Egypt, the burning bush, the Exodus, manna in the wilderness, supernatural conquests, the prophets dreams and visions, the star that led the Magi, the human birth of the Son of God, Jesus miracles, the apostle's miraculous ability to speak in other languages on the Day of Pentecost, and so many other innovations demonstrate the endless variety of God's dealing with mankind.

The whole chapter of Isaiah 43 reminds believers of God's creativity. Here are just two verses from that chapter:

*“Do not remember the former things,  
Nor consider the things of old.  
Behold, I will do a new thing,  
Now it shall spring forth;  
Shall you not know it?  
I will even make a road in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert. – Isaiah 43:18-19*

What will the Lord do in our times to bring about a revival? Will we be part of it? Please join me in asking the Lord to allow us to be involved in whatever He is going to do!

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<sup>i</sup> Ron Graff, The Church in Prophecy and History: Commentary on Revelation Chapters 1 to 3, <http://www.bible-prophecy.com/revelation/v1/>.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iii</sup> “Good News Club v. Milford Central School, Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good\\_News\\_Club\\_v.\\_Milford\\_Central\\_School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Good_News_Club_v._Milford_Central_School)

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.cefct.org/linked/legal%20brief.pdf>.

<sup>v</sup> Muslims Have Dreams and Visions, Ron's Blog, <http://www.bible-prophecy.com/wp/archives/1228>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.bible-prophecy.com/wp/archives/1214>

<sup>vii</sup> Ibid., p. 233.

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid., pp. 278-279