

Ron J. Bigalke, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 244, Rincon, GA 31326-0244
(912) 659-4212
ron.bigalke@capitolcom.org

Revive Our Hearts

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY 153rd General Assembly

- **TUESDAY @ 7:30 AM** in 123 CAP
- **TUESDAY @ 9:00 AM** in 417 CAP
- **TUESDAY @ 12 NOON** in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held every week on Tuesdays. *Three times are available for Bible study:* (1) an early morning Bible Study from 7:30-8:00am in 123 CAP (*during the month of February*); (2) a legislative Bible study from 9:00-9:30am in 417 CAP; and, (3) an open-to-all Bible study from 12:00-12:45pm in 123 CAP (*where we have ministry donors provide lunch*). The *weekly* Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. My sole intent is to serve you, and to be a resource to you for pastoral care, counsel, and prayer. **Please accept my study in the Word of God, as evidence of my desire to serve you.**

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

are

Tuesday, 23 February 2016

First Kings 8 – “Revive Our Hearts”

Who does not desire revival in our land? Have you thought why we should seek revival? The reason for revival is because it is crucial that people know that God rules sovereignly and is active in our history, and also that He longs to manifest his goodness. The Bible emphasizes this truth in Psalm 85:6, where the psalmist asked, “Will You not Yourself revive us again, that your people may rejoice in You?” He was reminiscing when God had been favorable to the land and had “restored the captivity of Jacob.” He continued (v. 2), “You forgave the iniquity of Your people. You covered all their sin. You withdrew all Your fury; You turned away from Your burning anger.”

The psalmist recalled the time when God delivered Israel from captivity, which (understandably was a time of crisis for the nation). God also forgave the iniquity of the people, and — in sovereign grace — restrained the severity of his indignation. Almost invariably, crises will compel us to pray because we recognize are help will come only from the Lord.

Sometimes the effects of such outcries to the Lord are vigorously transforming, yet more often, the reorientation to God is only temporary, that is, a transitory spiritual tremor that elapses just as rapidly as the crisis. Throughout history, there has never been a significant biblical revival that did not result in political and social reforms. In this regard, we could affirm that the abolition of slavery and the end of child labor was subsequent to a revival.

Indeed, prior to Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield preaching their passionate messages of revival and reform, people were working ninety hours a week; however, as a direct consequence of this movement of the Holy Spirit, sixty working hours became the standard, and the first trade unions were organized (in all their purity of motivation and “trust,” and messages of democracy and freedom). Moreover, well-known movements like the Salvation Army, the YMCA, missionary societies, and most charitable organizations and educational institutions were another consequence from such spiritual revival. One could also add the following to the list: slum clearance programs, Sunday School work, and a multitude of other honorable and practical reforms in economic, religious, and social life. History demonstrates that revival impacts the entire disposition of a people as a consequence of God’s work in the lives of his people.

Revival can be described as occurring when a person or assembly is inundated with the glory of God because nothing else matters (except the person and glory of Jesus) when the Lord permeates a life or a community. Revival is not some emotional excitement; it is rather an invasion from heaven that culminates in a mindful consciousness of God. The psalmist implied this mindful consciousness of God. He referred to such awareness as God’s pleasure toward his people, when he asked, “Will You not Yourself revive us again?” *May we all pray that God would let Light “shine out of darkness” and to shine “in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ” (2 Cor 4:6).*

Revival is crucial to our lives because if God did not intervene we would drift into apathy or apostasy. From the human perspective, revival involves God’s people recognizing their only hope is the Lord. From the divine perspective, revival is a time when God renews and restores his people. Revival is essential “so that we do not drift” (cf. Heb 2:1-4), resulting in reformation, which is a transformation of our lifestyles and practices.

First Kings 8 records Solomon’s dedication of the Temple, which would be “a house of prayer for all nations” (Isa 56:7; Matt 21:13). Solomon’s words are applicable to all times of prayer, yet especially during a time of crisis when God’s people realize that the Lord alone is the all-sufficient answer to their need.



Capitol Commission Bible Studies

Tuesday (23rd of February) @ 7:30am – 8:00am, 123 CAP
Tuesday (23rd of February) @ 9:00am – 9:30am, 417 CAP
Tuesday (23rd of February) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP
lunch provided from sponsorship by Georgia Transmission



Enhancing Trust

A MATTER OF THE HEART

(1 Kgs 8:1-66) Solomon invested seven years and an astonishing quantity of energy and money to build the Temple. When the Temple was completed, Solomon waited eleven months until he dedicated it. The delay was intentional so that a weeklong celebration could be held during the holiest month of the year in which all the people would be present (8:1-2, 65-66). During “the seventh month,” Rosh Hashanah (New Year), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), and Sukkoth (Festival of Tabernacles) are celebrated.

To commence the joyous celebration, the elders of Israel gathered with the family and tribal leaders, the priests brought the Ark of the Covenant, together with the tent of meeting (tabernacle) and all the holy utensils, to their place in the Temple. When the Ark was placed within the Holy of Holies, the glory of the Lord resided there in the form of a profuse cloud (vv. 10-11), which was crucial for demonstrating that God was truly present among his people.

AS THE PEOPLE JOURNEYED HOME WITH GLAD AND JOYFUL HEARTS, “THEY BLESSED THE KING” FOR HIS EXAMPLE AND PRAISED GOD FOR ALL HIS GOODNESS (V. 66).

Solomon responded to the presence of God with both praise and worship (vv. 12-13). He then blessed the people by reminding them concerning the faithfulness and omnipotence of God (vv. 14-21). The writer of Hebrews associated God’s promises with Jesus, who is the greater Son of David with whom is built an eternal household, which includes God’s people from among the nations (Heb 1:1-12).

Subsequent to his benediction upon the people, Solomon “spread out his hands toward heaven,” acknowledging God’s faithfulness to his promises, in spite of the people’s unfaithfulness to the terms of the covenant (1 Kgs 8:22-53; cf. Deut 28:1-68; 30:1-20). Moses taught that God would bring crises upon his people when they deviated from the Lord’s purpose and will for them. When this occurred and God’s people sought Him in repentance, the Lord would be merciful, forgive their sin, and bring restoration and renewal. According to 2 Chronicles 7:14, the Lord God answered Solomon with the subsequent familiar promise: “If . . . My people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

Solomon blessed the people again (1 Kgs 8:54-61) and together they offered dedicatory sacrifices to the Lord (vv. 62-64), which was followed by a time of celebration and feasting before the Lord (v. 65). As the people journeyed home with glad and joyful hearts, “they blessed the king” for his example and praised God for all his goodness (v. 66).

“Why should we seek revival?” The answer is simple yet greater than being uncomplicated, our response is vital. Revival will result in the relenting of God’s indignation, revival will manifest the lovingkindness and salvation of God, and revival will manifest the goodness of the Lord. With consideration of these biblical truths,

are we not compelled to pray again, “Will You not Yourself revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?”

GOD DESIRES EACH OF US TO HAVE HEARTS “WHOLLY DEVOTED” TO HIM IN ALL THAT WE DO (V. 61).

If you desire reviving, and if you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord God and Savior, and only means of receiving God’s grace and hope of eternity, then ask God directly by drawing “near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:16). As a result of this encounter, God will provide for our needs and lead us in right paths. For us today, the meeting place can only be by God’s grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is by the Holy Spirit that our minds are illumined to trust and obey Scripture, and therefore to receive the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

A revived state is not a thing you need to intensify in your own life, or need others to help you achieve, or need to go anywhere to have operated upon you. Jesus can effect it anywhere and does effect it everywhere whenever a man or woman, or men and women, ask it in preparedness. “Ask, and you will receive” (John 16:24).

The emphasis of 1 Kings 8 is upon the heart, especially with “each knowing the affliction of his own heart” (1 Kgs 8:38) and that God alone knows “the hearts of all the sons of men” (v. 39). God wants us to return to Him with all our heart (v. 48) for He must “incline our hearts to Himself” (v. 58). God desires each of us to have hearts “wholly devoted” to Him in all that we do (v. 61).

Are you prepared to ask for revival? Are you prepared to seek revival? Are you prepared in repentance, faith, and obedience to meet the divine conditions for revival? If so, pray with the psalmist, “Will You not Yourself revive us again?”

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the nobility to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Scripture calls the church to pray for the salvation of our leaders, resulting in them having knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:1-4). As churches are faithful in prayer and proclaiming the gospel of God’s grace, our society and government *will be impacted*. Capitol Commission, in partnership with the church, is committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ and promoting the biblical mandate to pray for those in authority in the capitol communities throughout the United States and the world.

Romans 10:14-15 affirms, “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent. . . ?” Please notice the reverse progression. If we desire anyone, including our government leaders, to (5) *call* upon the Lord and to seek Him and his Word for life decisions, they must prior to that (4) *believe* in Him, which means they must previously have (3) *heard* the Word of God, which means prior to that someone needs to (2) *preach* to them, which requires that others have first (1) *sent* someone to preach.

Capitol Commission is devoted to the second aspect: *preaching* (proclaiming) the good news of salvation. Of course, that cannot occur without someone doing the first part: *sending*. All funding and prayer for this work comes from people who want the light of the gospel of God’s grace brought into our State Capitol. As you do #1 and we do #2, we can rejoice together as the Lord accomplishes in the Capitol what only He can produce in someone: #3, #4, and #5.

What an exciting co-mission! Please join us in this ministry!