

America Revival or Ruin

by E.A. Johnston

America is facing ruin, and only a heaven-sent revival will save the nation, but it requires the church to humble itself and pray, seek God's face, and turn from its wicked ways.

Duration: 28:02

Scripture: 1 Kings 18:20-40, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 18:7, Matthew 18:19, Luke 6:39, Hebrews 12:14

Topics: "Revival"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of paying attention to God's warnings and judgments. He highlights the severity of God's judgments, such as pestilence, war, and financial collapse, that were sent to the disobedient people in the past. The preacher questions what it will take for America to turn back to God and warns of a potential national calamity. He urges listeners to take their relationship with God seriously and prioritize prayer, Bible study, and eternal matters over worldly pursuits.

Transcript

When I was a little boy in the 1950s, things were different in America back then. I remember this country when Hollywood had censors, politicians had a conscience, and America had a moral compass. Hemlines were lower, and morals were higher, and sin was called sin and not social disorders.

Of course, we didn't have the technology that we have today. Back then, if you said Microsoft, they thought you were referring to your mattress, and we didn't have Wi-Fi, we had Hi-Fi. It was a time when only women wore earrings, and only sailors had tattoos.

I remember America when it still had a strong work ethic, and business abounded in honesty and integrity, and a man's word and handshake was as good as gold. And I remember in America when a parent did not have to worry about what their children saw on TV, and marriage was between a man and a woman. There was such a thing as shame in society back then.

I remember America when the church still had authority, and there was still a fear of God in the land. I remember a nation that stood on biblical principles, and looked to God for guidance, and to the church for direction. It was okay to pray in public school back then, and the Ten Commandments were publicly displayed, and if any atheist cried out against it, there were more than enough Christians to shout that person down, because God held the majority in the nation back then.

And I remember an America that was looked up to by other nations, and we were a country that held on to the principles of our founding fathers, and Old Glory was never stomped on and set fire to because we respected too much what it stood for. Back then, there was such a thing as a weekly prayer meeting in the church, and people actually came to pray. And they weren't embarrassed to cry when they prayed, and they prayed loud and long, and did so until they grabbed hold of God, and the fire fell, and consumed the sacrifice.

The church back then didn't operate on money and manpower, but by God and Holy Ghost power. Back then, the church influenced society, instead of society influencing the church. And I remember preachers who preached about the blood and the cross, and they warned that hell was hot, and a future judgment awaited all mankind.

Those kind of preachers weren't afraid of men, but they sure feared the Almighty. I keep using the word remember, because all I have is my memory of these former things. Today, America is facing ruin, and only a heaven-sent revival will save this nation from complete destruction.

You see, Christianity was always meant to be counter-cultural. In the New Testament, when the church met the world, there was a clash, because the church went in one direction, and pagan society went in the other. Now they travel side by side, and there's just a rub between them.

We wanted to reach the world, so we brought the world into the church. Where has it gotten us? It has only corrupted the house of God. When the people of God begin to drift away from the heart of God, then God will send remedial judgments to call His people back to Him.

My message today is entitled, America, Revival or Ruin? It's about the remedial judgments of God, and we will begin in the book of Amos, Amos chapter 3 and 4. Amos was a fiery prophet of God whose main message was judgment. God's timetable was up, and the people of God would not return to Him, so He sent a series of judgments upon them, remedial judgments, and each one was stronger and harsher than the previous one. God was trying to get their attention, but they refused to listen.

Is God trying to get our attention today? Is America under the chastisement of the Almighty? Have we not turned our backs on God and this country today? You know, 9-11 was a wake-up call, but most everyone went back to sleep. God is still, in His mercy, trying to get our attention, but the timetable is quickly running out. This is the most critical time in the history of this nation because if things don't drastically change and there is a turning of this nation back to God, then there'll be no nation to turn.

It'll be gone. Look at ancient Rome and their military might that ruled the world with an iron fist. Do you fear an Italian army today? No, it's laughable.

America is not laughable in the eyes of the world. Well, look in your Bibles in Amos chapter 3 verse 3. What does it say? Can two walk together except they be agreed? Can you walk with God and still hang on to your wretched sins? Can you name the name of Christ and live like the devil? If you want to walk with God, you must turn from your sins and pursue a life of holiness. God is holy.

God's word declares without holiness no one shall see the Lord. The problem with Israel here in Amos, they had quit walking with God. They preferred their sins over God.

They turned their backside to God, yet they still believed they were all right in God's eyes, that God had somehow adjusted himself to their wicked ways, that he tolerated their sins because of his great love for

them. God was angry with the Jews and God is angry with the church member who claims to be a Christian and still hangs on to his sins. Can two walk together except they be agreed? Can they? Picture in your mind the story of Elijah and his contest with the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

He was up against 450 prophets of Baal. Remember that? Elijah built an altar and challenged the prophets of Baal to call on their gods to consume the sacrifice and their gods didn't show up. Finally, Elijah began to mock them and said that perhaps their God was on vacation.

But listen to what Elijah said to the assembled crowd that day. And Elijah came unto all the people and said, how long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him. But if Baal, then follow him.

In other words, if you want to walk with God, you can't have one foot with God and with the other play footsie with the world. Notice he said, if the Lord be God, is Jesus your Lord or is he just your insurance policy against hell? In Amos chapter three, verse six, the text reads, sure they'll be evil in a city and the Lord hath not done it. Another translation reads, shall there be calamity in a city and the Lord hath not done it.

Never in my lifetime has there been so many frequent natural disasters in this country. One right after another. Why do you think that is? Is it global warming or mother nature or is it God allowing Satan to wreak havoc on our society and on our land? In the book of Job, Satan brought a great wind to collapse the house of Job and remove his family and his wealth.

God gave Satan permission to do it. Satan's not on the same level as God. There is not an equal war between good and evil.

Satan is only a created being, a judged created being whose time is short and he knows it. In these last days, he'll be so terrible you will not want to be alive if God does not send revival. Well, let's look at how God sends remedial judgments to a people who have turned their backs on him.

Look at Amos chapter 4 beginning in verse 6. And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities and want of bread in all your places, yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Judgment number one was that God sent a famine in the land. In his mercy, he sent them a famine.

But how did they respond? Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Well, look at judgment number two. It's more severe in verse 7. And also I have withholding the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest and I caused it to rain upon one city and caused it not to rain upon another city.

One piece was rained upon and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. See, you can go a week without food but man cannot live long without water. God sends a drought to his disobedient people.

Well, do they turn back to him and repent and seek his face? No. Yet have you not returned to me. You see, back then the local Jewish weatherman told us here as it was just mother nature acting up again, a whim of nature.

They would just have to grin and bear it. They don't return to God. So he brings a even more severe judgment.

Look at judgment number three in verse 9. I have smitten you with blasting and mildew when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmer worm devoured them. Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. God sent a financial collapse.

Our economy is growing worse and worse and a global depression is on the horizon. Have we turned back to God? God is trying to get our attention. Are we paying attention or are we asleep? The remedial judgments of God when unheeded become the increasing judgments of God.

Look at how severe judgment number four is. Look at verse 10. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt.

Your young men have I slain with the sword and have taken away your horses and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils. Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. He has removed the young men of the city by death.

You know, take the young men out of community and your community has little future. God sends death to them, a pestilence, and war. What is it going to take in America? What kind of terrible national calamity will have to fall upon this nation before it turns back to God? Will it ever turn back to God? When the Christian leaders refuse to acknowledge that God is judging America and judging the churches in America, then you have the blind leading the blind.

Pastors of former generations were wiser and preached revival sermons to turn the hearts of the people back to God. Listen to a sermon preached by a leading pastor in Boston in 1755 when an earthquake shook that city. Listen to the title of his sermon.

Earthquakes, the work of God and tokens of his just displeasure being a discourse on that subject wherein is given a particular description of this awful event of providence made public at this time on occasion of the late dreadful earthquake which happened on the 18th of November 1755. The text of the sermon was Psalm 18 verse 7. Then the earth shook and trembled. The foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken because he was wroth.

The leading pastors of New England all preached similar sermons at that time. They called their congregations to fast and pray and repent of their sins and fall on their faces before the God of terrible majesty. Even the president of the United States had a fear of God back then and called the entire nation to a time of humiliation before an offended creator.

Listen to this notice in a newspaper from 1798, a discourse delivered in the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia on Wednesday, May 9, 1798, recommended by the president of the United States to be observed as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer throughout the United States of America. How much more urgent is the great need for America today? But we can't look to the White House to help us. We can't even look to the church house to help us.

Who will take a stand for God in this land today? Who? It is time for the people of God to turn from their wicked ways and fast and pray and seek his holy face and repentance and humiliation or there'll not be a nation left to pray in. When will the churches in this land stop playing church and get right with God and call a time of solemn assembly where the people of God cry out to God in nights of desperation and prayer? Why complain about the direction of this nation when you're not willing to do anything about it? God says, return to me and I will return to you. How bad do we want him? Listen to this warning from the

book of Romans.

The night is far spent. The day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.

Let us walk honestly as in the day, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying, but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make provision not for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof. Let me tell you what can happen to a church. Things can get between you and God.

Leonard Ravenhill used to tell a story about a friend of his who was on fire for God. Every time Ravenhill got around this man, he was more thirsty for Christ and things of eternal worth. Do you know people like that? People that make you thirsty for God? Well, this man was like that.

Every time he got around him, he wanted to talk about Jesus and winning souls. Then one day he began collecting stamps. As his collection grew, so did his enthusiasm for stamp collecting.

Leonard Ravenhill said, this man called me up one day and said, come on over and I will show you my new stamp collection of British Colonials that cost me \$50,000. Ravenhill said that pretty soon this man no longer wanted to talk about Jesus or the things of God. He just wanted to talk about stamps.

A harmless little thing like a stamp drew that man away from God. What is it with you? What is the thing, no matter how seemingly harmless, has stolen your affection from Jesus? Why is your Bible a closed book? Why is your prayer life so stale and so infrequent? Why is your walk with God so up and down? You see, a church has influence for God in a community as long as the church members have influence with God. A church is only a reflection of its members.

The members of a church will either draw people to God like a magnet or turn people away by their inconsistent and worldly lives. Let me share a story with you. A traveling preacher was passing through a certain city and he wanted to go by and visit a historic church that had a long reputation for doing good for the Lord.

And when he got into town, he stopped at a local restaurant to grab some lunch and ask directions to that famous church. The owner of the restaurant was well familiar with that church and when the traveling preacher went on and on about all the great things that church had done, the owner of the restaurant looked at him strangely and commented, yes, it used to be that way some time ago. If you want directions to that church, go up the road a piece and turn right at the next stop sign, then go up a hill and at the top of the hill there will be a sign telling you the way to that church.

What does the sign say, asked the traveling preacher. The man paused and with a sad look said, the sign says, caution children at play. I'm sorry to say I've known churches like that, too many, that once did great things for God, that God did great things through them and now there are signs out front that say caution children at play.

The hour is late, friends. It's time to get serious with God. Get serious with God and God will get serious with you.

If your free time is spent on anything other than prayer and Bible study and things of eternal worth, I feel sorry for you. There is a beamer seat for believers. And there we will receive gold, silver and precious stones or wood, hay and straw.

When the works of your life pass through the fire, what will remain? Will it be gold, silver and precious stones? Will your life for Christ shine like a brilliant jewel reflecting his glory? Or will you stand there knee deep in the ashes of a wasted life and bend over and press those ashes into his nail pierced hand? Do you want to be playing? Do you want to be found playing with the marbles of the world when Jesus appears at the rapture? If we really believe we are living in the last days, our lives don't reflect it. If we really believe that Christ was returning soon, we would not be so consumed with this world. Some of you within the sound of my voice may be living your last years.

How do you want to spend them? Chasing a little white ball around a golf course? I used to do that until God showed me what golf stood for. G-O-L-F. Golden opportunities lost forever.

What occupies your time? Are we redeeming the time because the days are evil? You may think I'm morbid, but I read the obituaries every day. I take time to read each one and contemplate on their life and how they lived it. You can learn a lot about a person from their obituary.

I often read, he was an avid golfer. He loved to ride motorcycles. He had a passion for bowling and he was a deacon at such and such Baptist church.

Seldom do I read an obituary that says about a man, he had a passion for God and he was consumed with things of eternal worth. He lived to bring the lost in. He loved Jesus with his whole heart.

No, it's usually he loved his antique cars, his bass boat, and so on. I read an obituary recently about a church member and her friend wrote the article and said the deceased loved martinis. Like I said, you can learn a lot about a person by what consumes their time here on earth.

My late mentor, Dr. Stephen F. Ulford, used to say, only one life will soon be passed. Only what's done for Christ will last. What will they write about your obituary? That you were a success in life, but a failure for God? As blood-bought, born-again believers, shouldn't we be consumed with things of eternal worth? Should I, should our motto be, eat, drink, and be merry, and live for today, for tomorrow we die? Or should our motto be, as believers, only one life soon will be passed.

Only what's done for Christ will last. And as I lay dying, how good it shall be if the lamp of my life has been burned out for thee. But I repeat, only a heaven-sent revival will save America from ruin, for these are indeed the end times.

Do you believe that? And the end is drawn closer and closer every day. We're living in the day of the spirit of antichrist right now. Our society grows darker and darker with each new day.

You better forget about your theory of relax and be raptured. I believe in the rapture of the church, but I believe the American church is going to go through the fire of persecution before Christ comes again. Persecution is on the way to America and it's right around the corner.

The chaff will be separated from the wheat. But there is hope of revival for America. The Word of God gives us a pathway to revival.

It's found in 2 Chronicles. Turn in your Bibles there now, 2 Chronicles 7 and verse 14. If my people which are called by my name shall 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 will heal their land.

Let me ask you a question. Does our land need healing? Let me ask you the next question. Are you willing to pay the price for revival and really do what this verse says and get serious with God and humble ourselves before him? Pray and seek his face in these dark days.

And are we willing to do the last part of this verse which God requires from us? And that is to turn from our wicked ways. Are you willing to repent of your sins and come clean with God, not only for your sake and the sake of your family, but for the sake of our nation? For the nation is merely a reflection of its people. America used to be a God-fearing nation because the Christians used to fear God and live holy lives toward him.

We are to be salt, the Bible says. You see, salt is a preservation. We are to be a preservation from evil for this nation, to do it good for the glory of God.

Listen, friends, God promises us in his word, return to me and I will return to you. Are we willing to do it with a sincere heart? The passage in 2 Chronicles mentions duties on our part that we must do to gain the ear of the almighty. I believe the average church member is willing to do the first two aspects of this text, humble themselves and pray, but very few are willing to comply with the most solemn aspect of this text, and that is repentance, turn from their wicked ways.

Listen to me, God will not move one inch until we comply with his demand of repentance on our part. If we humbly seek his face in prayer and supplication and turn from our wicked ways, he then promises to do two big things for us, hear and heal. You see, this is a if-but proposition in scripture.

If the people of God will do such and such, then God will do such and such. God says, if my people do these things, then I will hear their prayers and heal their land. You see, there was a revival in the days of King Hezekiah because he complied with the precepts of 2 Chronicles 7.14. King Hezekiah gathered his religious leaders together and told them, Hear me ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

Hezekiah was instructing them to do two things, number one, clean the temple of its idols, and number two, clean the altar of their hearts in repentance. We see this in 2 Chronicles 29.15-16. Listen to what the people of God did in response to the king's request of getting right with God. And the text reads, And they gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the Lord, to cleanse the house of the Lord.

And the priests went into the inner part of the house of the Lord to cleanse it, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the Lord into the court of the house of the Lord. And the Levites took it to carry it out abroad into the brook Kidron. This is what the people of God did.

They searched the temple to find unclean idols, and then brought them out, took them to the brook Kidron, and burned them there. They sanctified themselves, and God brought a mighty revival under King Hezekiah because he did which was right in the sight of the Lord. It's up to the church in America today to do the same, to search our sanctuaries to see what idols we have set up which displease and grieve God, and take those worldly idols back out of our churches and get rid of them.

Then we are to search our hearts under the bright spotlight of the Holy Spirit to see if there is anything grievous to God in our lives, and then we are to turn from it in repentance. Then and only then will our prayers have power with God to the degree that he will indeed hear and heal. Hear our prayers and heal

our land.

We don't hear much preaching today on the cross and the life of the believer, but if we want God to hear us and take us seriously, then we must crucify anything in our lives that is displeasing to Christ Jesus. When we get serious with God, he will get serious with us and answer our prayers and bring a Holy Ghost revival to America that will shake the gates of hell from coast to coast. This is a call to fall on our faces and seek him in sincerity of heart.

Will we do it? Will we do it? America revival or ruin? Will we heed the warnings? God help us if we don't.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/24/SID24320.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ea-johnston/america-revival-or-ruin/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net