



The Zion Letter

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Great Revivals in the Bible: God's Pattern Yesterday, Today and Forever!

When I moved to the South almost 20 years ago, I discovered something new to me, "Church Revival Meetings". I noticed that hundreds of churches would hold revivals, sometimes with national evangelists, yet I also noticed that the impact on the region was not widespread. The "revival" would take place, then another, and another, but life didn't really seem to change for the city: crime continued, homelessness still existed, drug abuse was rampant, etc. In studying the scriptures for over two decades I have noticed a pattern of Biblical revival that I believe still applies today if leaders and believers could see it and take hold of it too. I have personally led over a hundred people to the Lord in tent meetings on more than one occasion, and though those were awesome meetings, they did not spark widespread revival. God has a pattern for revival; read on and may you grasp it. More importantly, as you consider these things, may you and I do what God requires for real revival to happen on a Biblical scale.

The Pattern:

When Moses was on Mount Sinai, God gave him more than just the Torah (Instruction/law); He gave Moses the pattern of EXACTLY how to build the Tabernacle. Exodus 25:40 says, "**See that you make them after the pattern which was shown to you on the mountain,**" God told Moses. In Exodus 40:33-35 we read, "**Thus Moses finished the work. Then the Cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.**" So the first step in bringing the Glory and thus true revival is following God's pattern; without His Glory and without

His presence there can be no revival. We must follow the pattern. "That's Old Testament," you say? Hebrews 8:5 says, "**See that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the Mountain.**" This shows that following God's pattern of building His House is key to bringing the Glory.



Solomon's Revival:

Solomon's revival began upon completion of the Temple of God that his father, David, desired to build. The first thing we see is "*The Pattern*" in 1Chronicles 28:11; "**Then David gave to his son Solomon the plan of the porch of the Temple, its buildings, its storehouses, its upper rooms, its inner rooms and the room for the Mercy Seat and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts for the house of the Lord...**" etc. In 2 Chronicles chapter 2, Solomon decided to build the Temple designed by God and King David. Unlike the Tabernacle, we see some new things here.

Apart from taking up offerings for the House of the Lord, Solomon took a census and hired 153,600 Aliens (non-Jews, foreigners, Gentiles) living in the land of Israel to help build the House of God (2 Chronicles 2:17-18). Including Gentiles in building of God's house is an important part of the pattern. Even Moses left Egypt with "**A Mixed Multitude**" of Egyptians (In other words, Gentiles; see Ex. 12:38). In Solomon's case, the pagan Hiram, King of Tyre—which is Modern Lebanon, sent timber, other items, and skilled craftsmen to help Solomon. We can also see that Messianic Jews being included during the times of the Gentiles is equally part of the pattern.

Unity, Timing:

So Solomon "built all according to the plan God gave his father"; but the next two ingredients were perhaps the most important parts of all: (2 Chronicles 5:1) "**Thus all**

the work that Solomon performed for the house of the Lord was finished....” (2 Chronicles 5:3) *“And all the men of Israel assembled themselves to the king at the feast, that is in the seventh month (The 15th day of the 7th month to be specific).* Solomon dedicated the Temple on the 15th day of the 7th month on the Biblical calendar (known as Tishrei). This date falls in what we know as September or early October. God has a separate calendar, the Biblical calendar. Leviticus 23:39-40 says, *“On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the Feast of the Lord for Seven days, with a Sabbath on the first day and a Sabbath on the eighth day (v. 33 calls it the Feast of Booths, Tabernacles or Sukkot in Hebrew). Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, Palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for Seven days.”*

This sounds pretty simple, right? Just take a week off, put some palm branches together, join in a crowd of thousands, and wave the branches in the air while you worship God. Would that look strange to you? Imagine walking into a large synagogue on Sukkot (Feast of Booths/Tabernacles; Lev 23:39, John 7), there you see hundreds of people waving palm branches together while holding a funny looking lemony fruit called an “Etrog”, while reciting prayers in Hebrew and some in English. If you think this would look strange, you need to get used to it because you’re going to be doing it: Revelation 7:9-10 says, *“After these things I looked and behold a great multitude which no one could count, from EVERY nation and ALL tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands and they cry out with a loud voice saying, ‘Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”* This is in heaven. Zechariah 14:16-17 says (speaking of the millennial reign), *“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths (Sukkot). And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them.”* We will be celebrating Sukkot (complete with Lulavs/Palm branches Just like religious and Messianic Jews do on Sukkot) during the



millennium in Jerusalem... or you will have no rain.

I heard a Pastor say, the Sabbath pre-dated the Torah (Law) in Genesis; in Hebrews 4:9, we are told, *“There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God”*. The New Testament writer is speaking of a day of entering into Messiah’s rest. In other words The Sabbath was in the beginning, under Moses and even now in the New Covenant! I will not get into naming the day but suffice to say Matthew 28:1 tells you when the Sabbath is in the New Covenant.

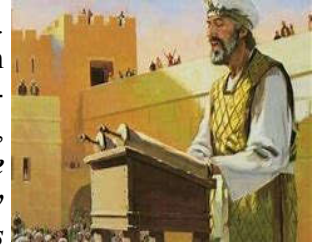
Lets go back to Solomon. In 2 Chronicles 5:11-14 we read how the priests, the Levites, the musicians and singers and the 120 priests were blowing trumpets, *“In unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with ONE VOICE to praise and to glorify the Lord... Then the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house.”* That word for “one voice” is not one singular voice, but rather it translates into many voices as one. In Hebrew the word is “echad” and it means perfect unity like a husband and wife are “echad” in one flesh.

We see the Glory of God filled the house in 2 Chr. 5:11-14 because the pattern was followed and there was unity with the people. We then see in chapter six that Solomon dedicated the temple with prayer. Next, in chapter seven verse three, the Glory of God fell on the Temple with fire from heaven and they could not enter God’s house; thus all of the people bowed down with their faces to the ground and worshiped. We are then told Solomon observed the feast for seven days and held a solemn assembly on the eighth day. *2Chr7:10 “Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that the Lord had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel,”* . Why does the day it finished matter? Because it lets us know that it was the last day of Sukkot/Booths, which always starts on the 15th day of the seventh month (Tishrei) and always finishes on the 23rd day of the same month. ; the last and greatest day. This is the day Yeshua/Jesus cried out, *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from His innermost being will flow rivers of living water,”* *John 7:37-38*. But there was no revival that day because the people didn’t recognize their King, their Messiah, the Glory of God incarnate.

Nehemiah’s Revival:

In chapter 8 of Nehemiah, the exiles who had returned

from Babylon to Jerusalem rediscovered the Torah (The Book of the Law) that had been lost. Ezra the priest read it half the day! The people wept when they heard God's word. It was on Rosh Hashanah (*The Day of the Blowing of Trumpets*). This falls on the first day of the Seventh month or Tishrei (See Leviticus 23:23). Nehemiah saw the people weeping and said, ***“Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength”***. ***“Then on the second day, the priests and heads of households and the Levites and Ezra found written in the Torah how the Lord had commanded, through Moses, that the Sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month (Sukkot, Booths, Tabernacles, see Lev 23:34,40,42).*** Then they proclaimed to the people; (Nehemiah 8:15-17,18) ***“Go out to the hills and bring olive branches and wild olive branches, myrtle branches, palm branches... to make booths, as it is written. So the people went out and made booths.... The entire assembly of those who returned from captivity made booths (sukkahs) and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing!”*** ... ***“He read (Ezra) from the Torah (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 solemn assembly according to the ordinance,”***. Are you seeing the pattern here? This is just one of eight feasts mentioned in Leviticus 23; there were great revivals on Passover and Shavuot (Pentecost/Weeks) too. I suggest that you reread this and the chapters along with it and see for yourselves. Again, if you are a Christian, you will be doing this in the millennial reign and in heaven.



Neither Jew nor Greek:

Galatians 3:28 tells us that In Christ ***there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua.*** If we, as a community, were truly walking this scripture out, then our Sukkot celebration we advertised to approximately 16,000 people should have been packed out. We had incredible worship from Deborah and Vince Iantorno as well as solid foundational teaching and preaching on a 100 acre farm at the feet of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee. We experienced a wonderful weekend of Jew and Gentile worshiping together in spirit and in truth. To see the unity of worship with lulavs (palm branches) was overwhelming. What more could you ask for? The Spirit moved, people's hearts were touched, and God ministered powerfully. I want to thank all the people who came. What a blessing they received and what a joyous time we had together! Nevertheless, I also want to challenge all the people who could have come but did not. Sadly we learned that some didn't come because it was a "Jewish thing." Others made it known that it was just too strange for them. I have had to bear this reproach all my life as a Jew, then as a Messianic Jew. If people refuse to come now, how will they respond when the Lord sets up his Kingdom in Israel? (see Zechariah 8). Zechariah 14:6 mentions this matter when he says that the families of the earth will go up to Jerusalem to celebrate this Feast after the Lord returns but that some of the families will have no rain for "not going up to "celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles" during the millennial reign.

Well the Lord showed up for Sukkot in the big sukkah under the stars right here in East Tennessee. Maybe some need to rethink their Christian practice and do what the Bible says? Perhaps some need to rethink the teachings you've digested all their life? If you really believe that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, then coming to worship with a few Jewish folks for a weekend shouldn't stand in your way. In my opinion for some this is a manifestation of the "wall of partition" (Ephesians 2:14), separating Jew and Gentile — the very wall Jesus died to tear down. The Bottom line however is that either you believe this is God's pattern for world revival or you don't. In Luke 14, verses 16-24, Yeshua spoke of people invited to a dinner, but they made excuses to not come to the dinner; so the slave went out to invite the guests personally but he returned to his master without the guests who grew angry and said, ***“Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in from the highways and along the hedges and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of My dinner.”*** Luke 14:21-24 Of course there were thousands celebrating the Feast elsewhere; Jews and Gentiles were waving palm branches joyfully together before the Lord from the fifteenth to the twenty-third of the seventh month (Tishrei), both in Jerusalem and all over the world; they were worshipping together in Spirit and in Truth. I am not offended by numbers of attendance. I just want to see revival! We understand that many simply could not come for valid reasons like taking care of elderly parents, or due to illness, or lacking finances; others may have had other valid reasons they couldn't be there, and for some it was just apathy or they didn't know about it. I am not seeking to judge, rather I am challenging everyone to check their own hearts. Read the Bible and pray about what I'm saying, and God will show you what is true.

God is a God of Second Chances:

There are a few examples in the Scriptures such as Hezekiah's Passover, when God allowed the people to celebrate His Feast one to three months late. In the story of Hanukkah, the Jews and their Temple were under Syrian siege during Sukkot in 165B.C. However, three months later they defeated the Syrian/Greek tyrant, Antiochus Epiphanes, took back the Temple, and celebrated Sukkot in winter and called it Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication, John 10:22); this was even a Feast Jesus celebrated! So if you missed Sukkot, Hanukkah is God's second chance! Why not come to Hanukkah? God had grace for His people then and He also has grace for us now. Perhaps that's what Yeshua meant in Matthew 28:19,20, "***Go ye therefore and teach all nations... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.***" I think He meant His Feasts in this verse as well.

Conclusion:

Dear friends, we love you and God loves you, however the time is growing short. I have done my best to give you God's pattern of real revival for this age as well as the future. Will you allow religion and tradition to keep you from God's best? Will you continue to settle for a fast food hamburger when God wants to feed you rack of Lamb or the finest steak? If I am tough, it is because I see the patterns in the Old and New Testaments in the ages past, the millennium, and heaven. Why should the age we live in be any different? If I am challenging you, then that is a good thing. Perhaps some of you need to be challenged. Who am I? I'm just a small town Messianic Jewish Rabbi, but Romans 3:2 says, **we (Jews) were entrusted with the oracles of God...God's very word!** Romans 11:29 says, "***For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable (without repentance).*** Maybe guys like me have something the Christians can really use, if they have ears to hear?

*In Messiah's love,
Rabbi Joe and Dawn*