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*Ezra 10:1*  
*Ezra 9*  
"How long the Revival?

The Work of the Two Rival Fire Brigades".

Intro:- (1). Topic...I assure you..no desire to be flippant..sensational. This is no time for flippancy.

And no time for mere sensation. Sensation belongs to the flesh..and to "sense"..sensual..feelings. We need deeper... The shouted Amen often indicates far less than the groanings which cannot be uttered. Latter is where H.S. picks up work.

(2). Let's face this fact today. Greatest need of world-body of X'ns..the born-again..is a genuine quickening of the H.G. Agree? That ought make us "GROAN". with deep concern. What probs be solved! In Bible School..what? Diligence..discipline, of self..eager service..prayer-life.. holy appetite for Word of God, to know the Book thoroughly.. love that will not be offended..joy that cannot entertain a grumble or complaint or sulk. Dearth of young men, women offering lives for mission field be flooded out. Reason some not going, or even planning..not sold out to Saviour. You are a hold-out..not sold-out. Lack of money be swept away by tidal-wave of sacrificial giving. PRAY FOR REVIVAL

I Now the question. How long the revival? How long is it?

(a). Please und. me. If revival moving comes to us today.. hearts stirred to new cleansing..surrender..restitution.. dedication..prayer..How long wd. it continue? All night? BUT EVIDENT THAT COME TO END..somewhere..sometimes.

Illus:- Power Mag recalled what I remember some years ago.. Wheaton College...ordinary chapel time..but somehow stirred ..confession of wrongs..sins..praying..classes suspended..

Feb. 8th, 1950. For how long? Recorded as 38 hours. Then?

Northern Bap. Sem., Chicago..shortly after..for 8 hours.

Was that a revival? Here at Berean God has stirred from time to time. Most memorable some years ago..16 hours..all night..all next morn..no classes. Is a revival 16 hours?

(b). Think of wider movements. In Israel..Sol's day at ded of Temple. How long? Ezra'a revival stirred nation..for how long? Evident it ended. What about Pentecost? Mighty demonstration of power of Spirit...For how long? How long bef. churches in trouble..Corinth..Galatia..until Paul, "No man stood with me". What happened to Roman X'ns?

Uganda? For years..much still in evidence. For how long?

Hebrides? Marvellous..But today? We hear little..Fire died down? If so, why? Serious matters indeed.

II. Let me suggest two or three things for us to THINK about

(a). First:- That communal revival settles down into indiv. revival...and, although meetings stop..work can go on.

In other words:- What God does for you DURING a communal stirring can and should continue after communal meeting disbands, as it eventually must. You and I shd. never be same again after such.

(b). Secondly:- This is where work of two fire brigades come in. Two texts with same word in them..and with same meaning..OT..NT Numbers 11:1-2. Moses put the fire out..One man brigade.

Fire was "Quenched"..("sunk"). Moses prayed it out! What amazing story. Let me say this carefully..Satan is a fire-brig. But was not this fire of God? HERE IS THE INCREDIBLE SUBTLETY OF DEVIL. He stirs up men to sin. Why? Bec. he knows the holiness of God..and that He will then HAVE TO SMITE SINNER.

He forces God, on ground of God's own nature, to send judgment!

He makes God light the fires! Staggering thought..MY SIN!...

MY SIN..lit fires of Calvary for my Lord!

Now our business..when Devil stirs up sin..riot..rebellion..to start fires....our business to PRAY, resist..pray fire out!

Especially when concerns God's people..church. How Satan loves to get somebody on fire for himself! Pray the fires out!

(c). But other side most serious of all. Text is I Thess.5:19. Same word.."Quench"..But this time..the Holy Ghost. Who does this? You..me. How? By letting Satan enroll us in His diabol. fire brigade. AND HERE IS ISSUE AS TO WHETHER COMMUNAL STIRRING IS GOING TO CONTINUE WORK IN INDIVID LIVES. Satan will do best to put the fire out!

Conclus:-1.I think that's all want to say now.

Let it sink into our souls. Let H.S. have quiet way. Not at all nec. to shout..nor nec. sit silent. Let God have HIS way with all of us. He may make this most serious, solemn day of our lives. We come to the Eternal God..who knows the moment our heart is right.

2. Pray fires out. Fire of jealousy..envy..selfishness..pride of face or grace..Fire of lust..evil thought..intent..Hate..criticism (what a devil-fire that is!) PRAY THEM OUT BEF. GOD.

Pray the fires up..by new separation from world..to God..New desire for holiness..New consecration of life.

Today we do it communally. TOMORROW???? Refuse, rebuke Satan. My heart longs for more of God. You with me? Together....

Prayer Day at Berean - Feb 15/65