

(*) until suddenly a decree from Cyrus!

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE CLASS.

Nov. 6/55

"In the days of No Revival".

Scrip. Reading:- I Sam. 7:1-12

Introd:- (1). Life is so precious that one of most diff. things is just to WAIT. And one of most dangerous things. Waiting can lead to despair..to lethargy..carelessness..indiff. If take text today..be Matt. 25:5. Sometimes He tarries..and we can do nothing but WAIT. 159 times in Bible. Many exhort...e.g. Ps. 27:14...37:7. Two phases..waiting on and waiting for. While waiting for Lord..wait ON..Listen (2). Sometimes in impatience we forget what waiting the saints of God have had to do. In Bab. Capt. Judah had to wait 70 yrs for God to move. (Daniel) Moses waited 40 yrs in wilderness..until suddenly, a burning bush! Man waited 38 yrs by pool of Bethesda..suddenly..shadow fell.."Arise". We read of Israel..20 yrs..and suddenly the call of Samuel. After ascension of X..10 days..until suddenly Acts 2:2.

I Perhaps many of us have had wrong concept of prog. of rev (a). Often looked for long upward struggle..mounting to a crescendo of excitement. That right or not? I think not. Revival seems break out in darkest hours..ev'thing dead wrong. Did in Ethiopia. Not gradually..suddenly. Striking thing about Elijah's lonely praying..I Kings 18:41-43. 7 times.."There is NOTHING". Not a sign of rain. Yet only one prayer away..and suddenly heavens black.."A great rain" (b). Sometimes, in these waiting days..we ask ourselves, "How near are we to revival?" And sometimes, in discouragement say, "How far away" "How long, O Lord, How long?" And only God knows. It MAY BE JUST ONE PRAYER AWAY! Bless God!

II. Now let me put a pertinent, vital question before you.

(a). What should be done in the waiting days? Pertinent bec. we are NOW IN THOSE DAYS. Beyond ques. Revival not here..needed..people thirsty..longing for God to move. What do? SO EASY TO DOZE! Easy live neutral life..unmoved (b). Obvious answer is "Pray". Certainly Daniel did. And disciples as waited for Pentecost. Yet not over-stressed. More to it than that. Let me turn you to one of loveliest stories of O.T..II Chron. 29:1-2. Wonderful man of God..Son of wicked Ahaz..yet turned to God. Now follow prog.: Read vs. 7. Hezek. lists four iniquities of people that had to be corrected..1. Shut doors..No invitation being given. 2. Lamps out..No witness shining. 3. No incense..prayer had stopped. 4. No burnt offering..no sac. giving. EVERY CONGREG. TODAY OUGHT ASK GOD CHECK LIVES..THESE 4. (c). Now look at wonderful end of it all..vs. 27 With restoration of fourth..rejoicing began..songs in God's House..then vs 36

The stirring of God came SUDDENLY!

Conclus:- (1). But there is yet one other basic thing I want us all to see. When Levites undertook to put these four things into operation..encountered a serious difficulty. When opened doors of Temple..found UNCLEANNESS: Listen to this: Vs.16-17. For 16 days they searched, and dug and swept..in "the inner parts". Only when that cleared up could there be proper invit.. witness..prayer..giving. Until then everything defiled.

(2). Finished. Leave it in your hearts..to ponder..and apply. How much of our inviting, our witnessing, our praying, our giving even..defiled because Temple of H.G. not clean in His Holy sight? Believe our greatest need in these dangerous waiting days..is time on face before God..that there may come a purging and cleansing of these Temples. God grant it! Listen:- Seraphim not cry "Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent is the Lord our God". They cry "Holy, Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts". God give us such a vision of Himself..until we abhor ourselves in dust and ashes. Then ready pray "until".

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