



Class 1, January 3

God has shaped this world and His church using Spiritual Awakenings. It was true in the Old and New Testament eras and in the many years since. It has been especially true in our own country. The purpose of this study is to look at the history of awakenings. A study of those awakenings (1) restores our faith in God, (2) gives us hope for the future, and (3) instructs us on our role in the work of God.

We are desperately in need of a spiritual awakening in our country!

What Is A Spiritual Awakening (or Revival)?

“Sometimes heaven seems to come down to Earth. Men and women with lives devastated by sin find in Jesus the grace to repent and the power to change. Wrongs are made right. Broken homes reunite. The church, made beautiful in holiness, reaches out in love to serve a hurting and lost world. This is revival.”

*Robert Coleman in the forward to **Firefall**, by Malcolm McDow and Alvin Reid.*

This happens, of course, to individuals regularly. In awakenings, it happens almost simultaneously to thousands and even millions. That’s what we pray for. That’s what we long for.

They occur irregularly and are often spontaneous, so we can’t plan for them or predict them. It’s been 100+ years since the last major awakening in our country and 50+ years since the last one. We need one, and I pray it comes soon and that we will be part of it!

The Cycle

There is a regular cycle we can see in the Old Testament *Period of Judges* and during the *Periods of the United and Divided Kingdoms*. It’s been easy to see in church history and in our own country. This cycle will continue into the future—with one notable exception. (In the end times, sin will continue until there is a final ending and judgment.)

- Great F _____: Life as God wants it.
 A _____: “Life is good” so faith in God, worship, and prayer decline.
 R _____: God’s commands are ignored and disobeyed.
 J _____: Sin brings consequences. God brings judgment.
 R _____: God’s people repent and call out for help.
 S _____: Large numbers turn to God and live their faith.

The question for us: W _____?

Scripture – 2 Chronicles 7:11-14

When Solomon had finished the temple of the Lord and the royal palace, and had succeeded in carrying out all he had in mind to do in the temple of the Lord and in his own palace, the Lord appeared to him at night and said: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices.”

¹³ “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴ if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Teachings From This Passage

1. The promise is to I _____; The principles applies to a _____ .
2. God can and will b _____ .
3. When it happens, we know what to do:
 - a. It s _____ .
 - b. We h _____ .
 - c. We p _____ .
 - d. We s _____ .
 - e. We r _____ .
4. Then God will f _____ .

First Example from the Period of the Judges, Judges 3:7-11

During Joshua’s time, the nation of Israel generally followed God. They then grew apathetic and ignored God’s laws—they accepted other Gods and intermarried with other faiths. The nation was defeated and lived in subjection for eight years. The people cried out to God, who raised up the judge Othniel. He defeated the king and they had peace for 40 years.