



Spiritual Awakenings

in the Bible and Church History

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, Building D

Class 6, February 7

God shaped the world using Spiritual Awakenings. A study of awakenings (1) restores our faith, (2) gives us hope in the future, and (3) teaches us to seek God. We are desperately in need of a spiritual awakening today!

The Revival Under Ezra

Ezra was deeply spiritual, uncompromising in his convictions, and oblivious to public opinion. These are always marks of effective revival leaders.
(Firefall, McDow and Reid, page 234)

Judah was defeated by the Babylonians. Many Jews went into captivity, and those left behind were left in a poor condition. Mixed marriages led to widespread idolatry. The temple and the city of Jerusalem were neglected.

King Cyrus and the Persians defeated the Babylonians. Cyrus allowed exiles to return, appointed Jewish leaders, allowed Jehovah worship, returned items taken from the Temple, and gave funds and land. The Jews faced opposition to their resettlement and restoration. The results were mixed.

Later, King Artaxerxes allowed Ezra (a godly man and a scribe) to return to Jerusalem, and he was deeply dismayed by the spiritual condition of the Jews. His prayer shows his heart. This is just the first part in Ezra 9:6-7:

“I am too ashamed and disgraced, my God, to lift up my face to you, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens. From the days of our ancestors until now, our guilt has been great. Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today.

As Ezra prayed, many Jews gathered around him and wept and prayed and repented. A national assembly was arranged, and in a pouring rainstorm, they recommitted themselves to God, to the law, to His commands, and recommitted themselves to their covenant with God

Lessins from the Revival under Ezra

1. Spiritual awakenings almost always I _____.
2. Spiritual awakenings often b _____.
3. Spiritual awakenings often include s _____.

The Layman’s Prayer Revival, 1857-59

When God desires to do a fresh work, He sets His people to praying.
Mathew Henry

This revival is different than most we have studied. The primary leader was and still is mostly unknown—Jeremiah Lanphier. Here are some details:

1. **National Spiritual Conditions:**
 - a. Loss of s _____.
 - b. P _____ . National expansion, gold, railroad, telegraph, and the Industrial Revolution changed the nation.
 - c. E _____.
 - d. S _____.
 - e. R _____.
2. **Revival beginnings in C _____.**
3. **Dutch Reformed P _____.** Jeremiah Lanphier was a 40-year-old single lay preacher/missionary hired by the church in New York City. He prayed, “Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?” God led him to start a prayer meeting at noon for businessmen. The church was less than enthused, but approved it.
 - a. R _____ . First week, 6. Second week, 20, third week, 30-40. They went daily, 100 came. Within 6 months, 50,000 met daily for prayer in New York City alone.
 - b. Prayer was s _____ and o _____ and was primarily i _____ for the lost.
 - c. It s _____.
 - d. Nearly all churches saw I _____
 - i. Example 1: K _____.
 - ii. Example 2: B _____.
 - iii. Example 3: P _____.