



Class 8, February 21

A study of awakenings shows how God shaped the world. It will (1) restore our faith, (2) gives us hope in the future, and (3) teaches us to seek God.

The Revival Under John the Baptist

When John the Baptist appeared, Judaism was mired in a lifeless, hopeless system of rigid religious structure that produced spiritual oppression.

McDow and Reid, Firefall, page 70

In John's day, Jewish culture was religious but spiritually dry. Judaism had many groups vying for leadership. It helps to understand each of them.

- H _____. They directed the spiritual life of Judaism. By this time, it was an a _____.
- S _____. They functioned as the power behind the High Priests and as the judicial system among Jews.
- P _____. They were strict adherents to the written and oral law. They were small in number but exerted great influence.
- S _____. One of two parties in Jesus' day. They had a less strict interpretation of the law, traditions, and resurrection.
- E _____. They emphasized personal piety, discipline, and communal living. John may have been one or lived with them.
- S _____. Professionals charged with guarding and teaching the law, though they took the joy, love, and hope out of it.
- Z _____. They "zealously" devoted themselves to the honor and glory of God and the liberation of Israel.

Life was divided and argumentative and desperately in need of new life!

The Ministry of John the Baptist

Very little is known of John, but he began the "Jesus revival'." Within 70 years—without buildings, finances, or resources—Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. He focused on these things:

1. R _____.
2. B _____.
3. R _____.
4. H _____.
5. H _____.

He set the scene and prepared people for Jesus. Jesus said, "Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist."

The Global Awakening, 1901-1910 (Part One – Wales)

"The preaching, it is said, is able, scholarly interesting, and instructive; It is however accompanied with but little unction and anointing. But what is the remedy? The principal need of my country and dear nations at present is still spiritual revival through a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

A call to prayer by Dean David Howell, 1902, 1 month before he died

Pastor W.S. Jones (First Welsh Baptist Church, Scranton, PA) experienced personal revival and returned to Wales. He met with pastors for prayer in 1903. Pastor Joseph Jenkins began a *Young People's Meeting*. In 1904, he asked, "What does Jesus mean to you?" A shy young girl—Florrie Evans—spoke of her love for Jesus. Immediately dozens were converted; hundreds in coming weeks. Soon, services continued into the early morning hours.

Evan Roberts, devout even as a child, was a coal miner who felt led to tell everyone in Wales of Jesus. He began to teach his "four points."

1. You must _____.
2. You must _____.
3. You must _____.
4. You must _____.

In 1904, he asked a friend, "Do you believe that God can give 100,000 souls now?" Within six months, it happened!

A Summary of the Welsh Revival

1. It was a revival of y _____.
2. It was a revival of s _____.
3. It was a revival of p _____.
4. It was a revival of s _____.
5. It was a revival of p _____.