



## Class 4, January 24

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!

### Our Biblical Example: The Revival Under King Asa

*“Reform focuses upon practices; revival focuses on people . . . Reform may or may not lead to revival; awakening always leads to reform. Reform is the correction of methods; revival is the restoration to fellowship with God. Both reform and revival are essential in Christian progress.”*

Malcom McDow in Firefall, page 45

1. **C** \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. **P** \_\_\_\_\_: Solomon’s spiritual decline continued under the next two kings of Judah—Rehoboam and Abijah.
  - b. **I** \_\_\_\_\_: All three kings promoted Jehovah at times; all three ultimately promoted pagan Gods.
  - c. **J** \_\_\_\_\_: Within 20 years, Solomon’s riches were taken by Egypt and the people of Judah were left in decline morally, spiritually, and economically.
2. **R** \_\_\_\_\_: King Asa tore down pagan altars, promoted Jehovah worship, and strengthened the nation economically and militarily.
3. **V** \_\_\_\_\_: Egypt attacked Judah’s army of 580,000 with 1,000,000; Asa called out to God and God gave Judah a great victory.
4. **R** \_\_\_\_\_: The prophet Azariah led them to revival when He called the people to God. *“Azariah did not preach what they wanted to hear, but what they needed to hear.”* (McDow, page 50)
5. **R** \_\_\_\_\_: Half-completed reforms were finished. The nation renewed their covenant with God. They had 20+ years of peace. The people celebrated and found joy in God—something new to them!

### Tentative Lessons from the Revival under King Asa

1. Even a nation “called by God” can l \_\_\_\_\_. Azariah said, *“The Lord is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”*
2. R \_\_\_\_\_ is easier after a r \_\_\_\_\_. Asa was right in instituting reform, but it wasn’t complete until he experienced a personal revival.
3. N \_\_\_\_\_ is immune from spiritual decline. Within a lifetime (60 years from David’s death to King Asa), the nation turned away from God. Even Asa shows spiritual decline in the years after the revival.

### The Second Great Awakening, 1787-1843

*“The noise was like the roar of Niagara. The vast sea of human beings seemed to be agitated as if by a storm. I counted seven ministers, all preaching at one time, some on stumps, others in wagons . . . Some of the people were singing, others praying, some crying for mercy in the most piteous accents, while others were shouting most vociferously.”*

An eyewitness, James Finley

1. **C** \_\_\_\_\_: The revolutionary war secured the beginning of a new nation of about 4,000,000 people, according to the 1790 census.
  - a. The f \_\_\_\_\_ of the first awakening mostly waned by 1750.
  - b. War s \_\_\_\_\_ churches and many closed.
  - c. *The E* \_\_\_\_\_ led to skepticism, deism, and atheism. Writings of Voltaire, Hume, and Rousseau and critics of Christianity in America (Thomas Paine, Ethan Allen) arose.
  - d. C \_\_\_\_\_, especially, were s \_\_\_\_\_ dead. Only 2 students at Princeton in 1782 professed to be Christian.
2. **Revival:**
  - a. It began in c \_\_\_\_\_. In 1787, revival came to Hampden-Sydney college in Virginia; to Yale in 1802, and a famous “Haystack Revival” at Williams College in Mass. in 1806.
  - b. Churches in the NE called for p \_\_\_\_\_ which revived churches there and in the middle seaboard states.
  - c. In 1800, in Kentucky, a weekend Communion service was extended when God began to work, leading to c \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. After a lull during the war of 1812, Charles Finney became a leader of the revivals and instituted “n \_\_\_\_\_,” later modified by evangelists up to our day.