



Spiritual Awakenings

in the Bible and Church History

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, Building D

Class 5, January 31

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 King Josiah, 2 Kings 22-23

Kings Manasseh and Amon led the nation to idolatry and immorality. Manasseh even sacrificed a son to Moloch. The temple was used for other gods. The books of the law were lost. Jehovah was nearly forgotten.

King Josiah became king at age 8. At age 16, he committed himself to God. He began to reform the kingdom, destroyed idolatry, and restored the Temple. During the restoration, the books of the Law were found.

Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

Under Josiah’s leadership, the people renewed their covenant to one God, restored temple worship, revered God’s Word, restored the priesthood, and once again celebrated the Passover. And the impending judgment of God on the nation was delayed until after Josiah’s death.

Lessons from the Revival under King Josiah

1. Once again, we see how f_____ a people (including a nation or a family) can t_____.
2. God often works through t_____. Josiah dedicated himself to God at 16, started reforms at 20, and led a revival by 26.

3. This revival was highly dependent upon G_____. A commitment to the Bible is both a c_____.

The Second Great Awakening, 1787-1843, Continued

Methodist Preacher Peter Cartwright describes a frontier community prior to a spiritual awakening. (*Firefall, McDow and Reid, page 234*)

In my father’s day, it was called “Rogues Harbor.” Refugees came from all parts of the Union to escape justice, for law could not be executed, and it was a desperate state of society. Murderers, horse-thieves, counterfeiters, and highway robbers fled there, until they combined and formed a majority.

1. **Review of Spiritual Conditions:** The first awakening waned by 1750. War sidetracked and closed churches. *The Enlightenment* led to *deism*, skepticism, and atheism. Popular writers (Hume, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Paine) criticized belief in God. Colleges were spiritually dead.
2. **Review of initial awakenings:** Revival began in colleges in early 1800’s. Churches in the northeast called for prayer meetings which led to revival in churches there and in the middle seaboard states.
3. **In the south and the west,** spontaneous c_____ occurred in which thousands gathered, with many decisions for Christ. These were often h_____, which led to criticism by more “cultured” churches in the east.
4. **After a lull** during the 1812 war, C_____ F_____ became a leader. A spiritual awakening in R_____ was well known. He was s_____ in his approach to awakenings, and his “n_____ m_____” were controversial, but most are still in use:
 - a. A_____.
 - b. H_____.
 - c. A_____.
 - d. P_____.
 - e. P_____.
5. D_____ d_____. “Displays of emotion” were criticized, and a theological/practical question arose. Is a spiritual awakening an a_____ or the r_____?
6. Results of the second Great Awakening:
 - a. C_____.
 - b. S_____.
 - c. M_____.
 - d. C_____.