

"WHEN THE REVIVAL BEGINS"**Introduction**

1. This prophecy looks forward to revival
2. God does not hold his anger forever
3. In dark days, look forward, as here

1. GOD NOW LOOKS FORWARD TO THE COMING REVIVAL

- 1) v.4: "In those days...time": the time when blessing + restoration will come.

OBSERVE: It was true historically – see the books of Ezra + Zechariah.

APPLICATION: It is true prophetically – for us also.

- 2) Why does God send judgements on his own People?

ANSWER: Because of sin. See:

- (i) 9:1-5. Professing God's religion too!
- (ii) 14:7-9. God – a stranger in his own land

SUM:

- false preachers
- idolatry
- bad morals
- Sabbath breaking, etc

APPLICATION: It is an old story – UK not the first nation to backslide in this way.

2. BUT GOD GIVES TIMES OF RESTORATION

- 1) The picture is that of society returning to God: v.4:

- (i) the old enmity is healed: "together"
- (ii) "weeping": because of repentance
- (iii) "seek": they want God's pardon

APPLICATION: A lovely sight! Sinners weeping!

Q. Did you ever weep for your sins?

- 2) They want to make a Covenant with God: Explain (e.g. Scotland's Covenants).

APPLICATION: Those who really seek God are not content with anything but the Gospel Covenant.

- 3) It is a "perpetual" Covenant, i.e. it is "ordered in all things and sure".

- (i) It has the authority of God
- (ii) It is based on Christ's work
- (iii) It is entered into heartily

APPLICATION: Repentant sinners will give all their heart + soul to be right with God.

3. GOD EXPLAINS WHAT HAS GONE WRONG

- 1) The Q. might well be asked: "How did this people fall into such misery?" (Scotland).

- 2) God here tells us: v.6-7

- (i) Bad Preachers: this is always true
APPLICATION: value God's word above gold
- (ii) The people forgot:
APPLICATION: People forget their past history.
- (iii) The wicked took advantage of them:
APPLICATION: Casino-owners / Politicians

- (iv) The enemy excused his cruelty
APPLICATION: They gladly excuse themselves as the instruments of God!

4. A TIME OF REVIVING PRODUCES LEADERS

- 1) They are told now to leave Babylon.

APPLICATION: So must our society if it is to be blessed – Babylon is a symbol.

- 2) "As the he-goats": **ILLUSTRATION**: of male animals
APPLICATION: We greatly need leaders – they come when God's time comes to favour Zion.

ILLUSTRATION: Luther – Knox – Whitefield – Chalmers. Who next?

CONCLUSION

O that God would turn the captivity of Scotland!

PSALM
80: 3 – 7
80: 12 – 16
80: 17 -19