

Judges Series

Lesson #93

March 21, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

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**Counterfeit Religion:  
The Question of Revivals  
Judges 17–18**

**JUDGES**  
2021

**When Chaos Was King**

**Deut. 12:1, “These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.**

**Deut. 12:2, “You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.**

**Deut. 12:3, “And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place.**

**Deut. 12:4, “You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.” [NKJV]**

**Deut. 12:5, “BUT you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.”**

**Deut. 12:6, “There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.” [NKJV]**

**Deut. 12:8, “You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—**

**Deut. 12:9, “for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you.”  
[NKJV]**

**Deut. 12:11, “then there will be the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the Lord.**

**Deut. 12:12, “And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you.**

**Deut. 12:13, “Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see;**

**Deut. 12:14, “but in the place which the Lord chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.” [NKJV]**

**Deut. 12:29, “When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,**

**Deut. 12:30, “take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Deut. 12:31, “You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.**

**Deut. 12:32, “Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”**  
**[NKJV]**



**Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 17:1, “Now there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah.”**

**TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION  
OF PALESTINE**

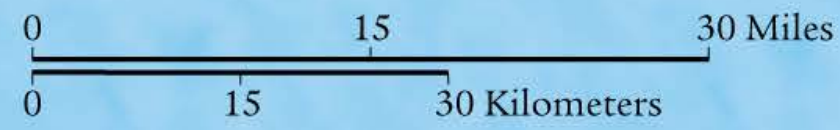
- City
- ▲ Mountain
- ▨ Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon

0 15 30 Miles  
0 15 30 Kilometers



# OF PALESTINE

- City
- ▲ Mountain
- ▨ Territory shared by the tribes of Judah and Simeon



MEDITERRANEAN  
SEA

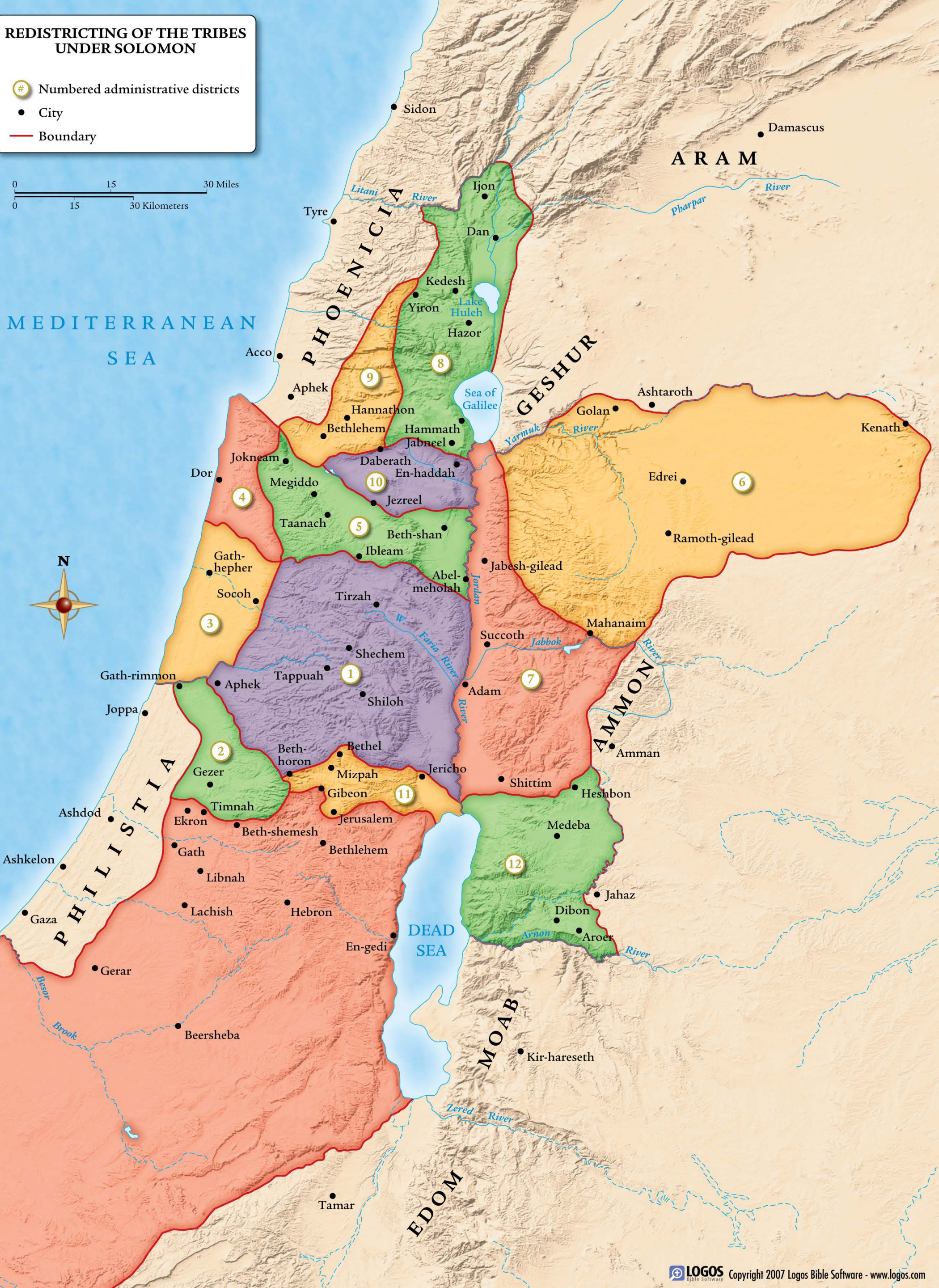




REDISTRICTING OF THE TRIBES UNDER SOLOMON

- Numbered administrative districts
- City
- Boundary

0 15 30 Miles  
0 15 30 Kilometers



15 30 Miles  
30 Kilometers

TERRANEAN SEA



**Judg. 17:1, “Now there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah.”**

**Judg. 17:13, “Then Micah said, ‘Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!’ ”**  
**[NKJV]**



**Judg. 17:13, “Then Micah said, ‘Now I know that the Lord will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!’ ”**  
**[NKJV]**

**Judg. 18:31, “So they set up for themselves Micah’s carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.”** [NKJV]

**Judg. 17:6, “In those days there was no king in Israel;  
everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 18:1, “In those days there was no king in Israel. And  
in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an  
inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their  
inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to  
them.” [NKJV]**

**Deut. 33:5, “And He [YHWH] was King in Jeshurun, when the leaders of the people were gathered, all the tribes of Israel together.” [NKJV]**

יְשׁוּרֻן *yeshurun* Jeshurun

**Name of honor for Israel (~HALOT)**

**From *yashar* “to be upright”**

**The name “Jeshurun” occurs only 4 times in the OT: Deut. 32:15; 33:5, 26; Isa. 44:2. (~TDOT)**

**In Houston we have the largest Congregational Shul (synagogue) in the US named *Beth Yeshurun*.**

## **Satan is the Master Counterfeiter**

**2 Cor. 11:13, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.**

**2 Cor. 11:14, “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**

**2 Cor. 11:15, “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 17:1, “Now there was a man of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Micah.”**

**Judg. 17:2, “And he said to his mother, ‘The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears—here is the silver with me; I took it.’ ”**

**“And his mother said, ‘May you be blessed by the Lord, my son!’ ” [NKJV]**

**Judg. 17:3, “So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said,**

**“ ‘I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the Lord for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you.’ ” [NKJV]**

# **What the Bible Teaches About**

## **Religion vs. Biblical Christianity**





**1. Religion here is a term for the religious views generated from the wicked human heart, rather than from the revelation of God in the 66 books of the Bible.**

**2. Religion is based on humans doing something that impresses God and He approves it.**

### **3. Religion denies or ignores sin.**

#### **Examples:**

- All people are good;**
- God helps those who help themselves;**
- Sin is old fashioned;**
- God overlooks these problems, they're just human nature;**
- Sin only describes socially unacceptable things, or things that violate social justice. But who sets the standards—society or God, humans or God?**

**4. Religion attempts to please God through human efforts, worship, sacrifice all perverted from legitimate forms of worship.**

## **5. Religion: There are many ways to God.**

**6. Religion says God is different for different people.**

**7. Religions have superstitions, good luck / bad luck, talismans, charms, etc.**

**8. Religion often masquerades with biblical terms, rituals, language.**



**Jer. 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?”**

**Jer. 17:10, “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.” [NKJV]**

**What the Bible Teaches  
About**

**Spiritual Renewals  
or  
“Awakenings”**



- 1. So-called revivals in history are often characterized by non-biblical worship, as Micah had established.**
  - a. It is based on a biblical theology of worship.**
  - b. Biblical worship is God-centered not man-centered. God defines worship—not tradition, emotion, or music.**
  - c. Biblical worship is defined by Truth, not by emotion. Though emotion may accompany biblical worship, it is not a criteria nor does it make it more spiritual.**

**d. Biblical worship in the Church Age is based on the Cross, and the gospel of faith alone in Christ alone is emphasized.**

**2. The word “revival” does not occur in this sense in the Scripture. Spiritual renewal for the believer, or for the nation of Israel, is characterized by “turning” away from idols and toward the living God.**

**Psa. 51:10, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”**

**Isa. 40:31, “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”**

### **3. Biblical examples of national renewal in the history of Israel.**

**King Asa: 1 Kings 15:9; 2 Chron. 14–15**

**1 Kings 15:11, “Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did his father David.**

**1 Kings 15:12, “And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.**

**1 Kings 15:13, “Also he removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.” [NKJV]**

**1 Kings 15:14, “But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless Asa’s heart was loyal to the Lord all his days.” [NKJV]**



**2 Chron. 14:2, “Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the *YHWH* his God,**

**2 Chron. 14:3, “for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images.**

**2 Chron. 14:4, “He commanded Judah to seek the *YHWH* God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.**

**2 Chron. 14:5, “He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.” [NKJV]**

# Principles

- 1. Uncompromising obedience to Scripture was at the center. He commanded the people to seek *YHWH Elohim* of their fathers and to observe the Law.**
- 2. He removed the visible idols from the cities of Judah.**
- 3. He failed to remove the high places. These were worship sites associated with the worship of the nature gods and fertility gods.**
- 4. He was loyal to God in that he himself, like David, did not succumb to idolatry as Solomon and others did.**
- 5. The Scripture says that God gave them rest during his time.**

**2 Chron. 15:12, “Then they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;**

**2 Chron. 15:13, “and whoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.**

**2 Chron. 15:14, “Then they took an oath before the Lord with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams’ horns.**

**2 Chron. 15:15, “And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the Lord gave them rest all around.” [NKJV]**

## **Elijah: 1 Kings 18**

**1 Kings 18:37**, “ ‘Hear me, O *YHWH*, hear me, that this people may know that You are the *YHWH* God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.’

**1 Kings 18:38**, “Then the fire of the *YHWH* fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

**1 Kings 18:39**, “Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, ‘The *YHWH*, He is God! The Lord, He is God!’

**1 Kings 18:40**, “And Elijah said to them, ‘Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!’ So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.” [NKJV]

# Jonah

**Jonah 3:4, “And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, ‘Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!’”**

**Jonah 3:5, “So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.”**

**Jonah 3:6, “Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.”**

**In all of these examples it is the Scripture (the Law of Moses, the Torah), or the word of a prophet (Word of God), or a direct revelation from God, that is at the forefront.**

**Hearing and applying the Word.**

## **Jehoshaphat: 2 Chron. 19–20**

**Jehoshaphat turned to God in prayer for the people, based on the Law, and through the Prophet Jahaziel the Lord answered telling them that He would deliver them.**

**2 Chron. 20:15, “And he said, ‘Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: “Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”**

**2 Chron. 20:16, “ ‘ “Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.**

**2 Chron. 20:17, “ ‘ “You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!” Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.’ ” [NKJV]**

**2 Chron. 20:20, “So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, ‘Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.’ ” [NKJV]**



## **Hezekiah, 2 Chron. 29–32**

**2 Chron. 29:1, “Hezekiah became king when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah.**

**2 Chron. 29:2, “And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.**

**2 Chron. 29:3, “In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them.” [NKJV]**

**2 Chron. 29:5, “and said to them: ‘Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place.**

**2 Chron. 29:6, “For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the Lord our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the Lord, and turned their backs on Him.” [NKJV]**

- 1. Again the Word of God, the Scripture, became the basis.**
- 2. There was a cleansing of the priests individually, and then the house of the Lord.**
- 3. There was submission to God and to His Word.**
- 4. The appropriate Levitical sacrifices were made.**

**2 Chron. 29:35, “Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and with the drink offerings for every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the Lord was set in order.**

**2 Chron. 29:36, “Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.” [NKJV]**

**5. They restored the observance of the Passover.**

# Josiah

1. At the time of Josiah 640–609 BC.

2 Chron. 34:1, “Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

2 Chron. 34:2, “And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.”

2 Chron. 34:3, “For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.”

[NKJV]

**2 Kings 22:8, “Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, ‘I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.’ And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.” [NKJV]**

**2 Chron. 34:21, “Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book.” [NKJV]**

## **Nehemiah 8**

**Neh. 8:6, “And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. Then all the people answered, ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”**

**Neh. 8:8, “So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.**

**Neh. 8:9, “And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.’ For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.’ ” [NKJV]**

**Neh. 9:2, “Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.”**

**Neh. 9:3, “And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the Lord their God.” [NKJV]**



- 1. God is at the center.**
- 2. Scripture is the basis.**
- 3. Sin is identified, sin is disobedience to God; identifying the sin so they can turn from it to God.**

## **“Revivals” in the History of the United States**

- 1. The First Great Awakening, 1734–1743\***
- 2. The Second Great Awakening, 1802–1830**
- 3. The Layman’s Prayer Revival, 1857–1858\***
- 4. The War Between the States—Revivals on both sides, 1861–1865\***
- 5. The Urban Revivals, 1875–1885, Moody-Sankey Revivals\***
- 6. Welsh Revivals in 1904–1905 (came to US; Billy Sunday)\***
- 7. Azusa Street Pentecostal Revival, 1905**
- 8. Post WW2 revivals; Billy Graham\*; Pentecostal Healing revivals (much heresy; emotionalism, sin, and deception)**
- 9. The Jesus Movement (1964–1974)**
- 10. Asbury College: 9 revivals since 1905 (hmmmm???)**

# 9 Asbury Revivals

**February 1905**

**February 1908**

**February 1921**

**February 1950**

**March 1958**

**February 3, 1970**

**March 1992**

**February 2006**

**February 2023**



## What We Have Learned

### 1. The Bible warns us of spiritual deception.

**1 Tim. 4:1, “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,**

**1 Tim. 4:2, “speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,**

**1 Tim. 4:3, “forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” [NKJV]**

**2 Tim. 3:12, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

**2 Tim. 3:13, “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.**

**2 Tim. 3:14, “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,**

**2 Tim. 3:15, “and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” [NKJV]**

**2 Tim. 4:3, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;**

**2 Tim. 4:4, “and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” [NKJV]**

## **2. We must be certain that Satan will deceive.**

**2 Cor. 11:3, “But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.**

**2 Cor. 11:4, “For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!” [NKJV]**

## **Satan is the Master Counterfeiter**

**2 Cor. 11:13, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.**

**2 Cor. 11:14, “And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.**

**2 Cor. 11:15, “Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” [NKJV]**



**3. We cannot be gullible. We must test the spirits against the revealed Word of God.**

**Prov. 14:15, “The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.” [NKJV]**

**1 John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”**

**4. The danger is the world, that is the *kosmos*, the *kosmic* system based on Satan's system of thinking: all of the world's religions, philosophies, worldviews that are not derived from, based on, and consistent with Scripture.**

**James 4:4, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”**

**James 3:14, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.**

**James 3:15, “This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly [worldly], soulish, demonic.**

**James 3:16, “For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.**

**James 3:17, “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”**

**5. In the final analysis, in some of these movements we can look back and see that much of it was a movement of the Holy Spirit, the Bible was the basis; the Cross was the focus, untold thousands were saved, Bible-based churches grew, and God was glorified and emotion was down-played. But some of these were merely the manipulation of people by false prophets and false teachers who led them back to corruption as a dog returns to its vomit. 2 Peter 2.**

**2 Pet. 2:22, “But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’ ”**