

REVIVAL, REFORMATION AND RESTORATION THE BOOK OF ACTS SERIES

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TEXT: Acts 3:19 “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing [revival] may come from the presence of the Lord; **20** and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, **21** whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

INTRO: One of the greatest revelations that God has given to me in 48 years of walking with the Lord is the Gospel of God’s Kingdom. The Bible does not say “the Gospel of Salvation” but “the Gospel of the Kingdom.” It is that Jesus died and rose again to be the Savior for all who accept Him as their Lord. And because He defeated the enemy through His death and resurrection (Colossians 2:15, Matthew 28:18), He has given us the authority to rule and reign with Him, over the earth as His sons and daughters. Our mission is to disciple nations by bringing His Kingdom rule on earth as it is in Heaven. Another way of saying this is that God in His sovereignty has delegated the establishing of His Kingdom on earth to His sons and daughters through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus God uses revival and reformation to bring about His purposes.

In Acts 2 and Acts 3, we see how Peter was used to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to advance God’s Kingdom. In his message in Acts 3:19, in one verse, he shares God’s heart for revival and reformation.

In this message I want to give a brief overview of what **(1) Revival and Reformation** is. Second, I want to talk about **(2) Restoration Theology**, how God wants to recover what was lost in the garden. Finally, I want to talk about what reformation looks like in society. How do we measure it? I want to submit to you that the key is seeing the **(3) Restoration of Righteousness and Justice** on earth as it is in heaven. Let’s unpack this.

I. REVIVAL AND REFORMATION



A. REVIVAL: Acts 3:19 “Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing [revival] may come from the presence of the Lord.”

1. We went over Peter’s first message on the day of Pentecost, when the crowd cried, “What must we do to be saved?” (Acts 2:37). Peter says, “Repent” (Acts 2:38). Here he says the same thing: “Repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away.”
2. The next sentence is promising revival or refreshing from the Presence of the Lord.
3. **WHAT IS REVIVAL?** Revival is the manifest presence and power of the Holy Spirit that causes the church to repent and return to her first love, plus the conviction of sin coming to unbelievers, resulting in a harvest of souls that brings about the transformation of society.

B. REFORMATION: Acts 3:20 “and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

1. **WHAT IS REFORMATION?** - Transformation of society with the specific decrease of evil and the increase of justice on the earth. E.g., ending the evils of slavery and biblical justice, equal rights and citizenship of African Americans. Today we would see transformation of our society by ending the evils of abortion and granting justice or equal rights to the unborn child.

II. RESTORATION THEOLOGY

A. “RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS...FROM ANCIENT TIMES” - ACTS 3:19b

1. **You must go backward before you can go forward.**
2. This is one of the major truths that I bring out in my new book, *Turning Our Nation Back to God Through Historic Revival*.
3. Because of the sinfulness of humanity and living on a broken planet, truths that God established get lost over time, but God in His mercy restores the truth through His people.
4. Martin Luther restored the truth of justification by grace through faith. This foundational truth got lost over time even though it is in the New Testament.
5. Our text tells us that God is going to restore all things that were lost from ancient times; we are talking about going back to the garden.

B. RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

1. **Genesis 1:28** God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

C. WHAT WAS LOST IN THE GARDEN? TWO INSTITUTIONS

1. **The family institution:** “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” It is no wonder the enemy has attacked the family institution through immorality, adultery, divorce, legalizing same-sex marriage, abortion, kidnapping and trafficking humans, especially children.
2. **The government institution:** “Subdue” it. The Hebrew word is *kabash*, to subdue the enemy. Satan was in the garden. All good government is to subdue evil in society. By doing so it is to protect the people of a given nation. When a government defunds the police, the homicide rate soars too. We don’t enforce the border where drug cartels (especially pentenyl) and human traffickers are bringing a wave of crime. When you have law and order, you have a just society.
3. **“Rule over”** – again, governmental words. God wanted His people to co-rule with Him from the beginning—by defeating Satan and his demonic cohorts and establishing God’s Kingdom on earth.
4. To summarize, God lost His family and His Kingdom in the garden, and He has been in the process of restoring these two institutions.
5. The question is: What does this look like? In general, it is restoring heaven to earth. The garden of Eden was paradise. It was like heaven, but heaven on earth. It was God’s Kingdom on earth. He ruled and invited Adam and Eve to co-rule with Him on earth.
6. But all that got lost because of sin. Evil entered the earth and man was driven out of the garden. But God’s purposes of having heaven on earth haven’t changed.
7. God will ultimately create a new heaven and new earth when Jesus returns at His second coming (Revelation 21:1). But until then, He wants us to establish His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. But what does that look like? I want us to go back to Genesis and the first family Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac and how God commanded Abraham to establish righteousness and justice on earth. Before we go into the commission of Abraham, we need to establish that God is righteous and just.

III. RESTORATION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE

A. GOD’S NATURE AND CHARACTER

1. **God is righteous and God is just.**

2. **Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You.**

B. RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE RESTORED THROUGH ABRAHAM AND JESUS

1. From the beginning in Genesis, God uses Abraham and his family, Sarah and Isaac, to restore righteousness and justice.
2. **Genesis 12:3 “And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”**
3. **Genesis 18:19 “For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”**
4. **Isaiah 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.**

C. RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. RIGHT CONDUCT – RIGHT WITH GOD AND RIGHT WITH OTHERS

2. **Matthew 6:33 Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**
3. **As believers we are positionally righteous before God (2 Corinthians 5:21).**
4. **But God wants us to do what is right before God and others.**
5. **Matthew 5:20 “Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”**
6. **Romans 6:13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.**

D. JUSTICE

1. OBEYING OR UPHOLDING GOD’S LAW

2. **You will be punished for not obeying the law. That is getting justice.**
3. When people are not punished for breaking the law, we call that injustice. E.g., “He got away with murder.”
4. **Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice (*krisis*) and mercy (*elios*) and faith (*pistis*);**

but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.

5. Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

6. The U.S. Constitution is the highest law of our country. NO ONE is above the Constitution, including the President and Gov. Newsom. All elected officials must swear on the Bible to defend and uphold the Constitution.

7. That is why we sued Gov. Newsom. He violated the 1st Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

8. We are seeing the misuse of justice with the truckers in Canada.

9. The Durham case came out this week showing evidence of Hillary Clinton's campaign illegally spying on President Trump.

10. We are going after the justice issue of our time: overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Every life is sacred. A baby in the womb is a person and should have all the rights of everyone in the USA.

11. This year, with the midterm elections in November, we must mobilize Evangelical Christians to vote and to vote for pro-life candidates on a local level and state level.

CONCLUSION: Let's make a fresh commitment to Jesus as Lord and obey Him by bringing revival and reformation to our world.