

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS**  
**A REVIVAL BEFORE JUDGMENT?-PT 1**  
**2 KINGS 22:1-2; REVELATION 1-2; 3:14-22**

**Introduction**

The history of our **FAITH** is a history of **REVIVAL**. **SCRIPTURE** shows us times of refreshing and **REVIVAL** when **GOD'S** people would **REPENT** and get right with the **LORD** and then being fired up for **HIM** they lived right which brought about **JOY** and **BLESSING** in the **LORD!** (*We've seen that!*)

Then the **LORD'S** people would allow **someone** (*like a new king*) or **something** (*like not understanding why the LORD allowed something to take place*) to hinder them! Their love for the **LORD** would wane and soon they would find themselves away from the **LORD** once again inviting **HIS** chastening hand of judgment!

When they would seek the **LORD** again in the midst of judgment and repent, He would bless them with **REVIVAL** once again. That was true in the days of **HIS** dealing with **ISRAEL**, and it has been true in the history of the **CHURCH** as well!

When **GOD'S** people get away from **HIM** and become cold and indifferent, the **LORD** knows how to bring **HIS** people back to **HIM!**

What we see in our text is a paradox. We have previously seen that the **LORD GOD** had already called for severe judgment of **JUDAH** back in the first part of **MANASSEH'S** day when his wickedness was at its highest peak!

**MANASSEH** repented while imprisoned in **BABYLON** and the **LORD** restored him to his throne in **JUDAH**. He reversed his ways and tried to turn **JUDAH** back to the **LORD**, but judgment was still going to come. It wouldn't come in his day, but in the days of his descendants.

In just two short years, **MANASSEH'S** son **AMON** undid what his father did in the later part of his reign and had **JUDAH** away from the **LORD** again! **AMON** was so wicked that his own servants slew him in his own house! The people of the land killed those who had conspired against **AMON** which tells me that maybe the people liked the direction that **AMON** was taking them!

The people then installed **AMON'S** eight-year-old son, **JOSIAH** as king.

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**READ 2 KINGS 22:1-2**

We know that during the reign of one of **MANASSEH'S** descendants, judgment was going to fall because the **LORD** had decreed it and nothing was going to stop it! But the **JUDGMENT** that would come would be in the **LORD'S** timing!

However, before it came, the **LORD** allowed **JUDAH** to experience a **REVIVAL** under **JOSIAH** because **JOSIAH** sought the **LORD** and walked in the ways of **DAVID** without wavering in his walk!

**SCRIPTURE** records here one of the greatest **REVIVALS** in **JUDAH'S** history!

We know the nation of **JUDAH** had once **again** drifted far away from the **LORD!**

They had **again** given themselves over to idolatry and to the worship of vile, heathen gods.

They were **again** living in deep sin and they had **again** neglected the **LORD GOD** of their fathers!

They were **again** in great spiritual darkness and the imminent danger of the **LORD'S** judgment was hovering over them like a cloud whose storm could come at any time! They stood in need of a genuine spiritual **REVIVAL!**

So, **GOD** raised up this godly king named **JOSIAH!** **JOSIAH'S** passion for the **LORD** caused him to lead **JUDAH** back in the paths of righteousness! Under his leadership, the kingdom experienced a genuine **REVIVAL!**

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**Fast forward to our day:** We know that our **NATION** has drifted far from the **LORD!** We used to be known as a nation that feared the **LORD** and we were blessed by our roots and heritage that were founded in the **LORD!**

But things have changed drastically, especially in the last 60 years, as little by little **the things that once made our nation great have eroded and are looked down upon by an increasing number in our country (and sadly by many of those in leadership positions!)** We have very few, if any, statesmen!

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Those in political office by-and-large are only interested in padding their pockets with cash from special interest groups first and then making sure they are reelected by promising great things that they never deliver on!

Gone are the days when officials put **GOD and country** before themselves!  
We are in need of **REVIVAL** in both our **CHURCHES** and in our **NATION!**

We know that judgment is coming on our land for her many sins! And I don't know if we will ever see a **REVIVAL** in our **NATION...it is possible with GOD**. But here is a question to ponder: **Is REVIVAL possible in our CHURCHES today even in the midst of the judgment that is already here in our NATION and the judgment that is surely to come in our NATION?**

**Well, what we see in our SCRIPTURE here before us should give us hope!** It should give us hope considering the **spiritual climate** in which **JOSIAH** was able to lead **GOD'S PEOPLE**, the nation of **JUDAH**, in a **spiritual recovery** in his day...even if it was only in his day!

And I'm going to **"run a rabbit"** tonight and even into next Wednesday night before we get to the exposition of our passage in **2 KINGS**.

Now, the reason I'm going to **run this rabbit** is to show you that there is also hope from a **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH** standpoint that is found in the admonition of our **LORD** to the **CHURCHES IN ASIA**, but especially to the **LAODICIAN CHURCH!**

Have you ever heard the period of time that we live in referred to as the **"LAODICIAN AGE"**? **Do you know why that is?** It is primarily because **the dominate characteristics of CHURCHES today are similar to that of the LAODICIAN CHURCH** addressed in **Revelation 3:14-22**.

**Several things I want us note from this passage as we think about these two thoughts:**

**CAN THERE BE REVIVAL IN THE MIDST OF JUDGMENT?**  
**CAN THERE BE REVIVAL BEFORE THE GREATER JUDGMENT TO COME?**

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In **JUDAH'S** case the answer was **YES** on both counts **as we will see in the weeks to come!** But what about in the end time **CHURCH?** **It is possible, but it takes heeding what JESUS said here! It is on US! Let me lay a foundation this week and then come back next week and see some details.**

**I. WE SEE WHO WAS SPEAKING.** (*Revelation 2:1; Cf. 1:10-20*)  
Each of these seven messages in **Revelation 2-3** to these seven distinct **CHURCHES** came from the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** who instructed the **APOSTLE JOHN** to write and deliver these messages to the *angel* or *ministers* of these **CHURCHES**.

*"Angel" = "a messenger; one employed to communicate news or information from one person to another."*

*"A minister of the gospel, who is an ambassador of God."*

These letters are addressed to the *messengers* of the **CHURCHES**, but the *messages* are for these **CHURCHES** themselves.

Why was it given to the *messengers* then? Because, it is the *messengers'* responsibility to deliver the messages that they are given from the **LORD** to the **CHURCH!**

This is important, because it means that the **LORD** holds the minister responsible for the **CHURCH** and its welfare.

*Hebrews 13:7*—"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

*Hebrews 13:17*—"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Christ expects the minister to study and heed the message himself and to lead and exhort the **CHURCH** to heed the message.

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But the messenger cannot make the **CHURCH** heed the message!  
*“You can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink!”*

*WE SEE WHO IS SPEAKING...*

**II. WE SEE WHO THIS WAS SPOKEN TO.**

**A. Specifically In Time This Was Spoken To The CHURCHES Located In ASIA!**

Each of these seven **CHURCHES** were actual **CHURCHES** in seven different cities in **ASIA** and these letters were specifically and primarily addressed to these seven different **CHURCHES!**

**B. Additionally, Each Of These Messages Were To Whoever Had An Ear To Hear These Messages Unto These Churches!**

*“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches. . .,”* is found at the end of each of these messages. (*Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22*)

*i.e. If you have the capability of hearing what the SPIRIT says here, this is for you!*

We need to understand that **there are messages here for us in each of these messages that JESUS had for these seven CHURCHES in ASIA.**

**The characteristics that are found in these CHURCHES are the same kind of characteristics that are also found in CHURCHES in our day and time.**

The **principles** that are found in each letter are **principles** that can be helpful for any **CHURCH**. Listen,

1. We need a fresh awareness of **CHRIST** being in our midst as He was in the midst of these seven **CHURCHES.**

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2. We need a fresh awareness that **CHRIST HIMSELF knows us and is observing us!**
3. We need to **excel** where these **CHURCHES** excelled and were commended by **CHRIST!**
4. We also need to **examine ourselves** to see if any of the things for which they were **rebuked** by **CHRIST** are found in us! If so, the rebuke is for us as well!

The point is this: the messages to the seven **CHURCHES** were given **for personal application**. (Just as **ALL** of **SCRIPTURE** is for **our learning and application!**)

**JESUS CHRIST** expects us— all true **CHURCHES** and all true **BELIEVERS** making up the **CHURCHES** in this age—to apply the messages to our own situation. **JESUS CHRIST** expects us to search our hearts and to heed the messages given to these **CHURCHES.**

**Do we have ears to hear? Then we need to hear!**  
That’s the foundation I want to build upon in **Part 2** of this message, **LORD** willing, next week!

**Conclusion**

But that’s all we have time for in our **BIBLE STUDY** this evening.

Next week as we continue to *run this rabbit*, we’ll look at the message primarily to the **LAODICIAN CHURCH** and see how that **REVIVAL is still possible even in the midst of judgment in our land and even before the severe judgment that is to come in our land actually falls!**