

TIMES OF REFRESHING

Part 1

Traditional Times of Renewal

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

(Acts 3:19)

According to Charles Haddon Spurgeon what we call a “revival” is more accurately and scripturally referred to as “Times of Refreshing from the Presence of the Lord.” Indeed, it is the Lord that must be present in the fullness of His glory if we are to reap the benefits of what we have come to call a revival. In essence this verse is a companion of 2 Chronicles 7:14 which establishes the conditions that must be met if we want to see the miracles of God manifested among us. Quite simply it means we won’t see “times of refreshing” if we don’t have “times of renewal” among the people of God.

In Part One of “Times of Refreshing,” Bishop Stinnett looks at “Traditional Periods of Renewal” that are observed annually by both Christians and Jews in their struggle against times of darkness.

In Part Two of “Times of Refreshing,” Bishop Stinnett looks at the events of “Palm Sunday” and shows how it is “Not Just Another Visit from the King.” It is the one out of a hundred revivals that believers actually met the four conditions for a Great Revival.

WHAT DOES HANUKKAH AND CHRISTMAS HAVE IN COMMON? Both are festivals of lights that speak of the astronomical/spiritual struggle between light and darkness.

Dec 12 - 20 Hanukkah (Dedication), Feast of Lights (8 Days): Victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian Greek army and the subsequent miracle of re-dedicating the Temple and restoring it's menorah or lamp. It also commemorates the miracle of the oil (1 day's supply lasted 8 days). Why nine candles? The ninth candle, the “shamash” (helper or servant candle) is used to light all other candles and provide extra light - New Meaning to Go, light your candle.

Dec 25 Christmas: The darkest night in the year, Dec 21st. For approximately 3 days there is no noticeable change in the light. But, on December 25th the nights seem to be getting shorter each day until the spring solstice, March 20th when day and night appear to be equal in length. This also marks the time when many animals that hibernate begin to awaken and new life begins to appear everywhere. This time also coincides with Easter which is the celebration of the Resurrection and the New Life which it brought forth.

JUDEO/CHRISTIAN Times of Renewal:

So, **Why shouldn't this be a time of renewal and dedication by the people of God?**

- **Lent** (Fasting, Repentance, Moderation and Spiritual Renewal): Ash Wednesday - Easter
- **Jewish/Apostolic Tradition** - Passover - Pentecost (Mar 31 - June 4).

- **Christ's 100th visit to Jerusalem.** As a male Jesus was required to visit Jerusalem 3 times per year. (Passover, Pentecost & Tabernacles).
- **The Beginning of Holy Week:** Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Easter marks the end. The Passover, Good Friday and the Resurrection all occur during this week.

Times of Refreshing
Part 2
Not Just Another Visit from the King

Mat 21:5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

- **John the Baptist** - A voice in the wilderness. "Who shall believe our report." (Despised and rejected. We hid our faces from him. We esteemed him not. No beauty or comeliness that we should desire him. (Isa 53)
- **Triumphant Entry:** What a contrast - Christ earned it. It wasn't given to him by the devil.

MOTIVATION: Our King still visits His people. Every service we meet in Jesus name. But, there are times of refreshing that we might call Great Revivals or Religious Awakenings, like the Great Awakenings of the 16th and 17th centuries. Or, like the 1906 Azusa street Revival held by a one-eyed black preacher.

INTRODUCTION: Four Things that Must Precede "Times of Refreshing from the Presence of the Lord" *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (Acts 3:19)*

- I. **A QUICKENING OF BELIEVERS.** Lazarus Resurrection compared to revival of the church.
 - A. 2Ch 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
 - B. Remove the stone, "if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"
 - C. Come forth Lazarus

Joh 11:44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

D. Loose him and let him go.

II. OBEDIENCE OF BELIEVERS

A. He tells two to go and find the ass and colt.

B. All this was done to prepare for the visitation

Mat 21:4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

Mat 21:5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

III. SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL BY BELIEVERS

A. The owner of the colt surrendered the colt because the Lord had need of it.

B. Spirit of Giving tithes and offerings - Prove me herewith.....

IV. ENTHUSIASTIC RECEIVING OF OUR KING

A. The people received him with enthusiasm.

B. Don't tell em how to get the Holy Ghost - Show them.

Conclusion: We get like Martha in our ministry. Don't miss the good part.

Four things that must precede a time of visitation of the presence of the Lord.