Revival and Apostasy?

Last Shabbat I talked about the anniversary of a revival that began 30 years ago on Father's Day in 1995, Brownsville AG in Pensecola, FL.

A desire to receive more of God, a restoration within and without.

The message leading to revival was simple...Repentance.

A message found throughout the Prophets...

- Neh_1:9 but if you return to me, observe my mitzvot and obey them, then, even if your scattered ones are in the most distant part of heaven, nevertheless, I will collect them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen for bearing my name.'
- <u>Isa 55:11</u> so is my word that goes out from my mouth—it will not <u>return to me</u> unfulfilled; but it will accomplish what I intend, and cause to succeed what I sent it to do."
- <u>Jer 3:1</u> [Adonai] says: "If a man divorces his wife, and she leaves him and marries another man, then if the first one marries her again, that land will be completely defiled. But you prostituted yourself to many lovers, yet you want to return to me?" says Adonai.
- <u>Jer_3:7</u> I said that after she had done all these things, she would <u>return to me</u>; but she hasn't returned. Meanwhile, her unfaithful sister Y'hudah has been watching.
- <u>Jer 4:1</u> "Isra'el, if you will return," says Adonai, "yes, return to me; and if you will banish your abominations from my presence without wandering astray again;
- <u>Jer_24:7</u> I will give them a heart to know me that I am Adonai. They will be my people, and I will be their God; for they will return to me with all their heart.'
- <u>Hag 2:17</u> I struck you with blasting winds, mildew and hail on everything your hands produced; but you still wouldn't return to me,' says Adonai.
- <u>Zec 1:3</u> Therefore, tell them that Adonai-Tzva'ot says this: ' "Return to me," says Adonai-Tzva'ot, "and I will return to you," says Adonai-Tzva'ot.
- Mal_3:7 Since the days of your forefathers you have turned from my laws and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says Adonai-Tzva'ot. "But you ask, 'In respect to what are we supposed to return?'

That if, we humble ourselves and return – T'shuvah, He will be faithful and return to us. In so doing there would be a hunger for more of Adonai and thus His Ruach, His Spirit.

- **Joe 3:1** "After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions;
- Joe 3:2 and also on male and female slaves in those days I will pour out my Spirit.
- Joe 3:3 I will show wonders in the sky and on earth—blood, fire and columns of smoke.
- Joe 3:4 The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai."
- Joe 3:5 At that time, whoever calls on the name of Adonai will be saved. For in Mount Tziyon and Yerushalayim there will be those who escape, as Adonai has promised; among the survivors will be those whom Adonai has called.

I have talked about two different types of revival. The first is the one that we pray for and in some way, shape and form Adonai responds in His own sovereign way. How, when, where, why He responds is entirely under His authority. He may not respond at all. Yet, what I will be sharing with you is a response.

The second type of revival is one that is promised by Him and Him alone. There is nothing we can do to prompt it and sooner than He has planned to do what He will do. This is what I call a "God Promised Revival"

Num 23:19 "God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind. When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it.

This promise of Yoel, Adonai pouring out His Spirit would occur in two stages...

To the Jew First...

- Act 2:14 Then Kefa stood up with the Eleven and raised his voice to address them: "You Judeans, and all of you staying here in Yerushalayim! Let me tell you what this means! Listen carefully to me!
- Act 2:15 "These people aren't drunk, as you suppose—it's only nine in the morning.
- Act 2:16 No, this is what was spoken about through the prophet Yo'el:
- Act 2:17 'Adonai says: "In the Last Days, I will pour out from my Spirit upon everyone. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

- Act 2:18 Even on my slaves, both men and women, will I pour out from my Spirit in those days; and they will prophesy.
- Act 2:19 I will perform miracles in the sky above and signs on the earth below—blood, fire and thick smoke.
- Act 2:20 The sun will become dark and the moon blood before the great and fearful Day of Adonai comes.

Who is Kefa speaking to?

- **Act 2:5** Now there were staying in Yerushalayim religious Jews from every nation under heaven.
- Act 2:6 When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered; they were confused, because each one heard the believers speaking in his own language.
- Act 2:7 Totally amazed, they asked, "How is this possible? Aren't all these people who are speaking from the Galil?
- Act 2:8 How is it that we hear them speaking in our native languages?
- Act 2:9 We are Parthians, Medes, Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Y'hudah, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia,
- Act 2:10 Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome;
- Act 2:11 Jews by birth and proselytes; Jews from Crete and from Arabia. . . ! How is it that we hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things God has done?"

And also to the Gentile...

- Act 10:44 Kefa was still saying these things when the Ruach HaKodesh fell on all who were hearing the message.
- Act 10:45 All the believers from the Circumcision faction who had accompanied Kefa were amazed that the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh was also being poured out
- Act 10:46 on the Goyim, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Kefa's response was,
- Act 10:47 "Is anyone prepared to prohibit these people from being immersed in water? After all, they have received the Ruach HaKodesh, just as we did."
- Act 10:48 And he ordered that they be immersed in the name of Yeshua the Messiah. Then they asked Kefa to stay on with them for a few days.

Had Kefa and company not seen for themselves that the Holy Spirit came on these non-Jews exactly as on themselves, with the manifestation of speaking in other languages (Act 2:4), they would not have immersed them. As with Kefa (Act 10:9-29), it took a supernatural act of God to dislodge their resistance to bringing Gentiles into the Body of the Messiah, accomplished and symbolized by immersion. Cornelius and his friends were the first full Gentiles to enter the Messianic Community without becoming Jews first.

As God will be pouring out His Ruach on all flesh, Jew and Gentile which began in these two places, Jerusalem at the time of Shavuot, and in the home of Cornelius...it would continue to happen and I believe it is related to the return of Messiah.

Act 2:19 I will perform miracles in the sky above and signs on the earth below—blood, fire and thick smoke.

Mat 24:29 "But immediately following the trouble of those times, the sun will grow dark, the moon will stop shining, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in heaven will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, all the tribes of the Land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with tremendous power and glory.

Mat 24:31 He will send out his angels with a great shofar; and they will gather together his chosen people from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Yoel, points to the return of Messiah. Yet before His return we must see these things happen...

Mat 17:10 The talmidim asked him, "Then why do the Torah-teachers say that Eliyahu must come first?"

Mat 17:11 He answered, "On the one hand, Eliyahu is coming and will restore all things;

Mat 17:12 on the other hand, I tell you that Eliyahu has come already, and people did not recognize him but did whatever they pleased to him. In the same way, the Son of Man too is about to suffer at their hands."

Mat 17:13 Then the talmidim understood that he was talking to them about Yochanan the Immerser.

Eliyahu must return before Yeshua can even step foot on the earth. Yeshua affirms the promise made through Malachi...

Mal 3:23 Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai.

Mal 3:24 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers; otherwise I will come and strike the land with

complete destruction." [Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai.]

The two witnesses must appear and there must be a temple for them to appear at. The temple will be the place where the Adversary once again will stand and stop the resumption of the sacrifices.

- Mat 24:15 "So when you see the abomination that causes desolation spoken about through the prophet Dani'el standing in the Holy Place" (let the reader understand the allusion),
- Mal 3:23 Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai.
- Mal 3:24 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers; otherwise I will come and strike the land with complete destruction." [Look, I will send to you Eliyahu the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible Day of Adonai.]
- Rev 11:2 But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the Goyim, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.
- Rev 11:3 "Also I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."
- Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two menorahs standing before the Lord of the earth.

Yet just as Adonai is pouring out His Spirit, another event will transpire just before Messiah's return...

- 2Th 2:1 But in connection with the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah and our gathering together to meet him, we ask you, brothers,
- 2Th 2:2 not to be easily shaken in your thinking or anxious because of a spirit or a spoken message or a letter supposedly from us claiming that the Day of the Lord has already come.
- **2Th 2:3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until after the **Apostasy** has come and the man who separates himself from Torah has been revealed, the one destined for doom.
- 2Th 2:4 He will oppose himself to everything that people call a god or make an object of worship; he will put himself above them all, so that he will sit in the Temple of God and proclaim that he himself is God.

Define Apostasy...

- Abandonment of one's religious faith, a political party, one's principles, or a cause.
- An abandonment of what one has voluntarily professed; a total desertion of departure from one's faith, principles, or party; esp., the renunciation of a religious faith.

"Julian's apostasy from Christianity"

- The <u>renunciation</u> of a <u>belief</u> or set of beliefs.
- Specifically, the renunciation of one's <u>religion</u> or <u>faith</u>.
- The state of having rejected your religious beliefs or your political party or a cause (often in favor of opposing beliefs or causes).

Before Messiah returns there will be both revival and rejection.