

# A World Aflame

BY PASTOR BRIAN BRODERSEN



*Revive us, and we will call upon Your name.* Psalm 80:18b

## Maybe, Maybe Not

Is personal revival going to result in a worldwide revival? We don't know. Will it ultimately transform our national life? We can't be certain. But of this we can be sure: Personal revival will result in the transformation of our lives and in the transformation of lives around us as well. It will result in the transformation and restoration of families. It will instill a fresh sense of God's presence in our churches. And as that begins to happen, it will flow over to our communities, and they will be transformed. Then perhaps God might spread that work, touching the whole nation and going around the world.

The great revivals throughout history have not been isolated to one location. As each revival grew, it would start in one place and move out from there. Simultaneous outpourings of the Spirit of God were seen in various places all over the world.

Revival has to start somewhere, and it can start with us. Matthew Henry said, "When God intends great mercy for his people the first thing he does is to set them a praying."<sup>1</sup>

Do you remember the situation back in the time of Elijah the prophet? There was a great drought upon the land, literally and spiritually. When Elijah came to Ahab, king of Israel, after three and a half years of drought, he said, "I hear the sound of an abundance of rain" (see 1 Kings 18:41). Although he was speaking literally, I believe there is a spiritual lesson intended as well, as oftentimes in the Scripture rain and water speak symbolically of the Holy Spirit.

When Elijah said he heard "the sound of an abundance of rain," there wasn't a cloud in the sky. But as he continued to pray, it says in verse 44 that there appeared a cloud the

size of a man's hand. Elijah then said, "Tell Ahab to come down from Mount Carmel because a storm is coming." And it wasn't long before that little cloud, the size of a man's hand, turned into a downpour that soaked the land and brought life back to the nation.

Oh, how we need an abundance of that same spiritual rain upon the Church and our land today. May God in His abundant mercy open the windows of heaven and pour upon us blessings we can't contain! Amen.

## Personal revival will result in the transformation of our lives and in the transformation of lives around us as well.

### A Note from the Author

I hope you enjoyed reading these articles on the subject of revival. It seems the need for revival grows greater with each passing day. With things around us getting darker and darker, we sometimes can become discouraged and even be tempted to give up praying for revival, thinking, *What's the use? Things are too far gone.* I must confess that I feel that way myself at times. But I recently had an experience that reminded me not to give up and to persevere in faith and prayer for revival.

Here's what happened: I was in a prayer meeting with a couple of friends, and one of them felt impressed to read a passage from the prophecy of Zechariah, specifically the tenth chapter. He read it quickly and with a strong Irish accent, which caused me to have to strain my ear to catch all that the text said. When he finished, we weren't exactly sure what the Lord was saying to us through the text.

Later that evening, as I was thinking over the day, I remembered my friend's reading of Zechariah 10. I decided to read it over again to see if there was indeed something the Lord wanted to speak to me about that I had somehow missed. As I opened the Bible and began to read, the first verse leapt off the page. It says, "Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain ... He will give them showers of rain." At that moment, the Lord reminded me of the books I'd read, the sermons I'd preached, and the book I'd written on this subject of revival. With that reminder, there came also a word of encouragement from the Spirit to keep praying and believing that God is again going to do a great work among the nations.

I believe that to be true. I believe that because I believe God still speaks to people today, and that is what I believe He's spoken to me. I also believe it because, in some ways, it's already happening. In the next series of articles, I will be talking about some of the amazing things that are happening all around the world that indicate the Lord is indeed pouring out His Spirit, as He promised to do in the last days. ✨

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry. (from *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.) [Commenting on Zechariah 12:9].