

Lessons Old Testament
Prophets Could Give
to America Today

Habakkuk

Introduction

- This book allows us to listen to the prayers of Habakkuk to God.
- We read his prayers and we then read God's answers to his prayers.
- It shows us how to handle questions and difficulties that life throws at us.
- Habakkuk begins with his complaint. By the end of the book, Habakkuk is a changed person. He has learned to wait and trust in God.
- Like Job, he questions God's justice but then realizes that God is sovereign and his justice is beyond comprehension.

12 Tribes				722	Assyria takes 10 tribes		2 Tribes of Judah		609	Babylon	539	Medo-Persia	
Obadiah	Joel	Jonah	Amos	Hosea	Nahum		-		Daniel			-	
Elisha		-		Micah	-	Zephaniah	Habakkuk		-	Ezekiel	-	★ Zechariah	
-				Isiah		Jeremiah			-			Haggai	Malachi

Obadiah

Zephaniah

Habakkuk

Pray About Your Problem
(1:1-17)

Prayer - Complaint (1-4)

- Habakkuk cannot understand what has happened to his country.
- A good king was killed by Egyptians. Then a series of bad kings led the country into sin and disobedience.
- He wants to know why God is not judging His people. Essentially, he is asking, “Why don’t you do something?”
- This is a question most of us ask at some time or another.
- We look at our world and wonder why the culture is going downhill and why elections don’t change things.

Lord's Answer (5-11)

- God answers Habakkuk in verses 5-11.
- He is doing something. He will bring the evil Chaldeans (Babylonians).
- They will be God's rod of chastisement on His people.
- (vs. 6) "I am raising up" - God uses nations for His own purposes.

Next Complaint (12-17)

- Habakkuk now complains, “Why are you answering my prayer this way?”
- First his complaint was that God was inactive.
- Now his complaint was that God was unjust - using wicked people to chastise the less wicked people of God.

Wait for God's Answer
(2:1-20)

Waiting for answer (1)

- There is a change in Habakkuk from chapters one and two.
- He is willing to wait on God to respond to his complaints.
- He has learned patience.
- He has confidence that God will judge sin and reward righteousness.

Live by faith (2-5)

- God's first instruction is to write the vision - certainty of coming judgment.
- (vs. 4-5) The righteous do not live by arrogance or accumulation of wealth.
- The righteous live by faith.
- They put their trust in God.

Five Woes (6-20)

- God pronounces five “woes” on the nation of Babylon.
- First woe is against robbery - armed robbery, pillaging, and extortion.
- Second woe is against injustice - God is against plotting and bribing and working the system.
- Third woe is against violence - God is against murder, violence, terrorism.

Five Woes (6-20)

- Fourth woe is against inhumanity - God hastes all things we do to exploit people, one example: slavery.
- Fifth woe is against idolatry - against figure and statues of wood and stone.
- When God is through with His rod of chastisement, He will break it in two.
- (vs. 14) His righteousness will cover the earth as waters cover the sea.
- God will stand against all evil, and God will right all wrongs.

Pray Some More About Your Problems
(3:1-19)

Answer to Prayer (1-16)

- Habakkuk's third prayer was not a prayer of complaint.
- Now he prays for God to revive His work in the midst of His chastisement.
- God will use the Babylonian captivity to bring revival to God's people.

Rejoice in Lord (17-19)

- Habakkuk says his thanksgiving will not be shallow or infrequent.
- His thanksgiving will be rooted in a profound and personal experience of God's salvation.
- And it is rooted in the assurance that God is his strength.

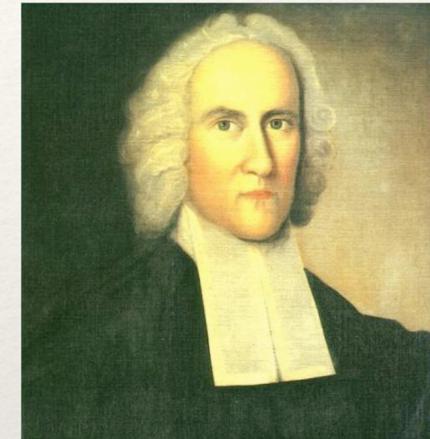
Prayer and Revivals

Introduction

- Revivals in America usually resulted from two events:
 - A significant crisis
 - Fervent prayer

First Great Awakening

- This spiritual awakening began in the 1730s as the result of preaching on the judgment of God (Jonathan Edwards).
- God also used the preaching of George Whitefield - he usually preached on the subject: "You must be born again."



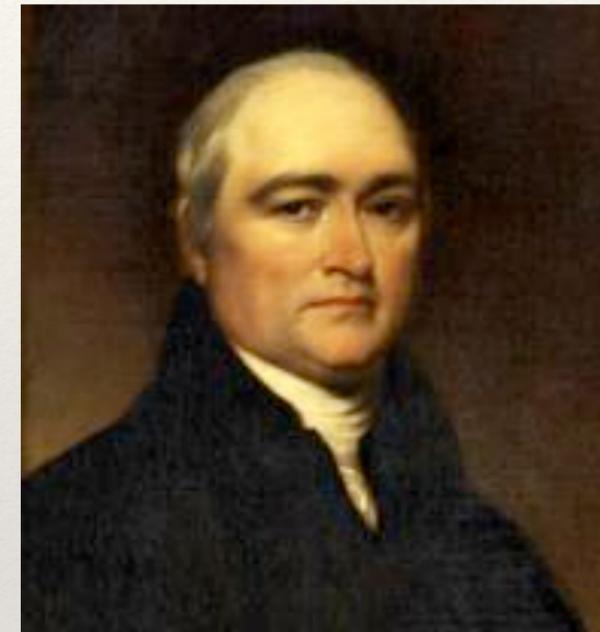
Camp Meeting Revivals

- This revival took place after the Revolutionary War as America was beginning to expand to the West.
- Families would come and set up camp to renew acquaintances. The preaching spread the gospel.



Second Great Awakening

- A second awakening began in New England as a response to the growing secularism.
- Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College, was the grandson of Jonathan Edwards.
- Few students believed in God, and only one went to church regularly.



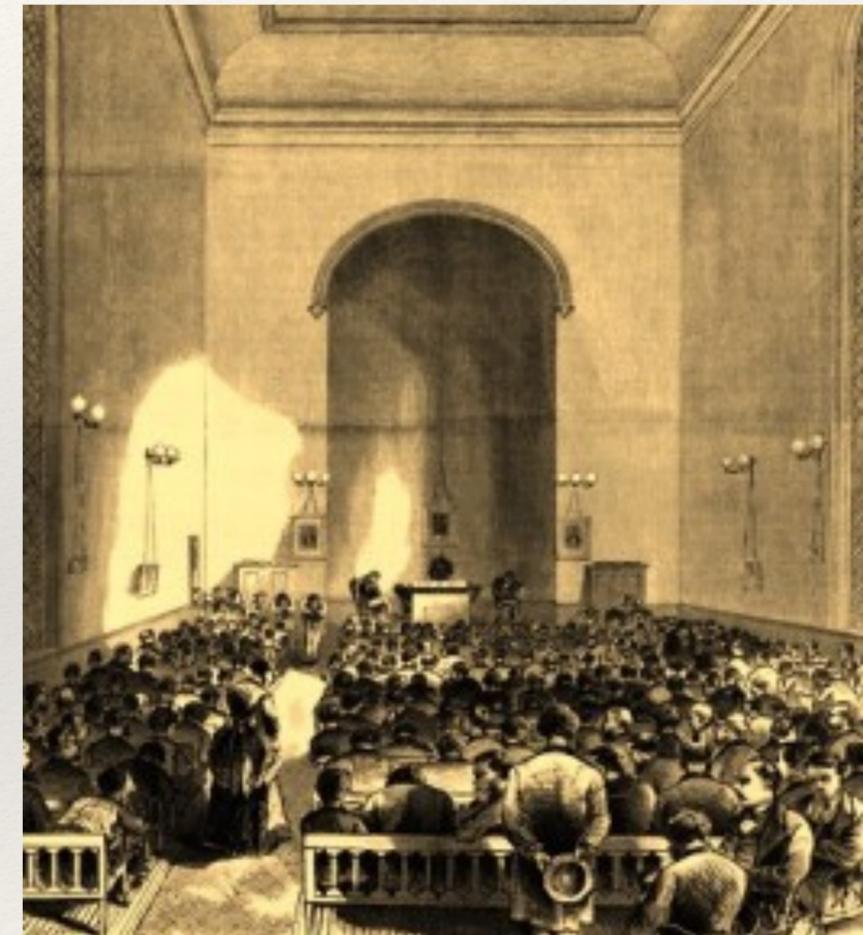
Charles Finney Revival

- A second awakening also had an impact on the Midwest due to Charles Finney.
- It was also called the New Measures Revival because of new methods used (public invitations, singing songs, cottage prayer meetings).



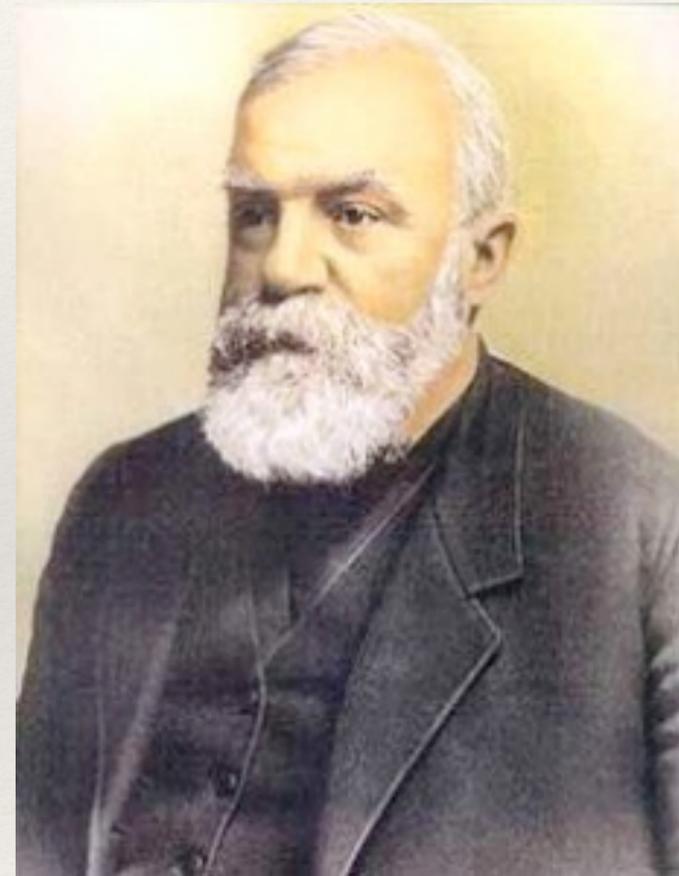
Fulton Street Revival

- A financial crisis in 1857 produced a financial panic.
- Noon prayer meetings were started in New York City in a church on Fulton Street.
- One half million people were prayed into the kingdom.



D.L. Moody Revival

- The Civil War was the greatest crisis of the 19th century.
- Homes and the country were shattered and divided.
- Moody's preaching of God's love was a healing message in a country recovering from the Civil War.



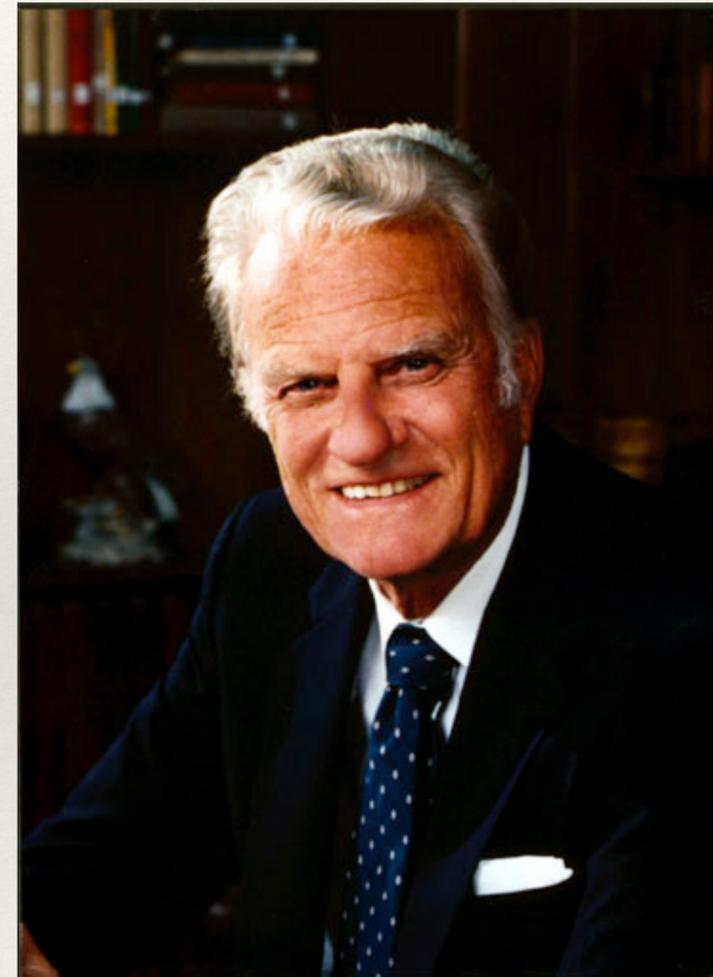
Billy Sunday Revival

- The Spanish-American War had its impact on America.
- Billy Sunday preached against the social ills in a community.
- He noticed lumbermen would sprinkle sawdust (“hit the sawdust trail” and go back home). Spread sawdust on the floor of the Billy Sunday Tabernacle.



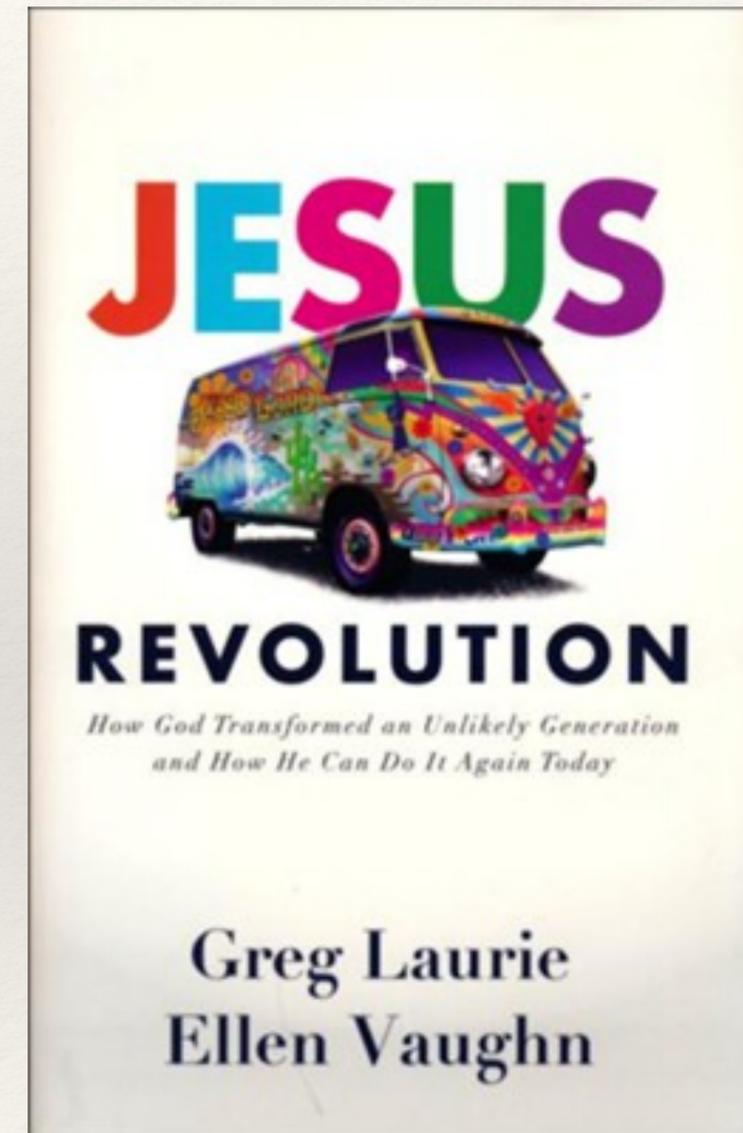
Billy Graham Crusades

- More than 2 billion saw him in person or through media.
- More than 3 million responded to his invitation to accept Christ.
- Many more have been influenced by the books, films, and associate crusades.



Jesus Revolution

- *Time* (1966) posed this question: “Is God Dead?”
- Five years later, *Time* described a spiritual awakening: “Jesus is alive and well and living in the radiant spiritual fervor of a growing number of young Americans.”



Conclusion

- America is in the midst of crisis and faces many challenges in the future.
- We have an important election this November.
- We should also be praying for revival and reformation.
- Like Habakkuk, we should be praying to God and asking for His will to be done.