



# The Prayer of the Righteous

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“Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

James 5:16

# The Fight of Faith

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- 1 Timothy 6:11-12 - 11 “But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight.
- 2 timothy 4:7 – “I have finished the race. I have fought the good fight. Henceforth is laid up for me the crown of righteousness. “



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# War Displays the Worst in Mankind

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- We think of war as ugly and vile, and so it is.
- No war was ever fought without terror, barbarity, cruelty, the agony of death and the hopeless sobbing of bereaved men, women and children.
- TV brings us the horrors of war in living color.
- War displays the worst in man.
- We do well to work for peace.

# War Also Displays the Best in Mankind

- Yet the same wars that gave rise to atrocities and barbarism also produced the noblest and best in man. It doesn't justify war, but it is still a fact.
- Courage, self-sacrifice, devotion, loyalty and love, overcoming impossible odds, enduring beyond the limits of human strength - all are displayed in war.
- Thus, men like Washington, Lincoln, MacArthur, Eisenhower, and Churchill, become legends.





# God Condemns the Spirit of War

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- The New Testament condemns the spirit of war in James 4:1-2 - “What causes war and what causes fighting among you?” James asks. “Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and you do not have, so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and wage war.”
- Yet war is the very metaphor used by God to convey the nature of Christian living. It is very apt: the same courage, loyalty, endurance, and willingness to fight to the end, even at the cost of one’s own life – is this not like earthly warfare?

# War Illustrates Christian Living

- We actually have it backwards: Christian living is the real war. Earthly warfare is but a reflection of the real war that rages between God and Satan. Wars here on earth are just tremors of a distant earthquake. Christian war takes place at the epicenter. What we are dealing with is far more deadly than the hot wars around the globe.
- Ephesians 6 – “our war is not with flesh and blood, but with powers and principalities.” Behind the scenes, there are spiritual forces arrayed. Throughout the scriptures, Satan lurks. Not like the shadow, but like an anti-God and one day soon, the antichrist.
- Satan was there with Adam, with Jesus as soon as he was baptized, with Judas, attacking the disciples, with Ananias and Sapphira, and wherever Christianity or Judaism has flourished.



# So What Do We Do? We Pray.

- “Prayer is the power that moves the hand of God.” – Andrew Murray
- *1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) 14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*
- *This war is to be fought on our knees.*

# Prayer and the Will of God

“There is often great confusion as to the will of God. People think that what God wills must inevitably take place. This is by no means the case. God wills a great deal of blessing to His people, which never comes to them. He wills it most earnestly, but they do not will it, and it cannot come to them.

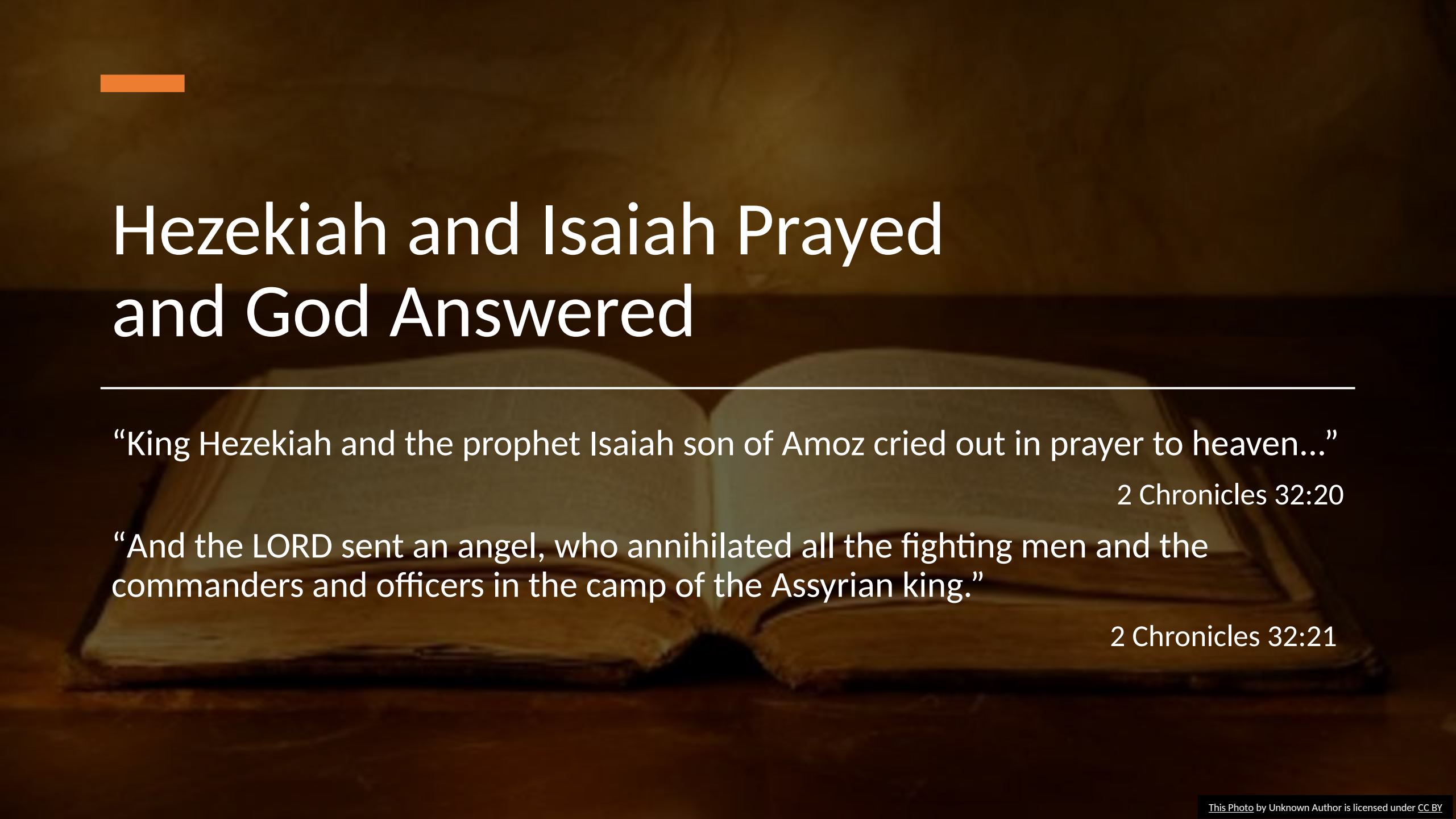
This is the great mystery of man’s creation with a free will, and also of the renewal of his will in redemption, that God has made the execution of His will, in many things, dependent on the will of man. Of God’s will revealed in His promises, so much will be fulfilled as our faith accepts.

Prayer is the power by which that comes to pass which otherwise would not take place. And faith, the power by which it is decided how much of God’s will shall be done in us. When once God reveals to a soul what He is willing to do for it, the responsibility for the execution of that will rests with us.”

Andrew Murray





An open book with aged, yellowed pages is the background of the slide. The text is overlaid on the book. In the top left corner, there is a small orange horizontal bar.

# Hezekiah and Isaiah Prayed and God Answered


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“King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven...”

2 Chronicles 32:20

“And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king.”

2 Chronicles 32:21



# Daniel Prayed and God Answered

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“I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes...I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed...”

“While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill — while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. He instructed me and said to me, “Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding. As soon as you began to pray, a word went out, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed.”

• Daniel 8 and 9 selected



# Nehemiah Prayed and God Answered

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“When I heard about [the horrible state of Jerusalem], I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said:

“LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God..., let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you...”

“And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests. So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king’s letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.”

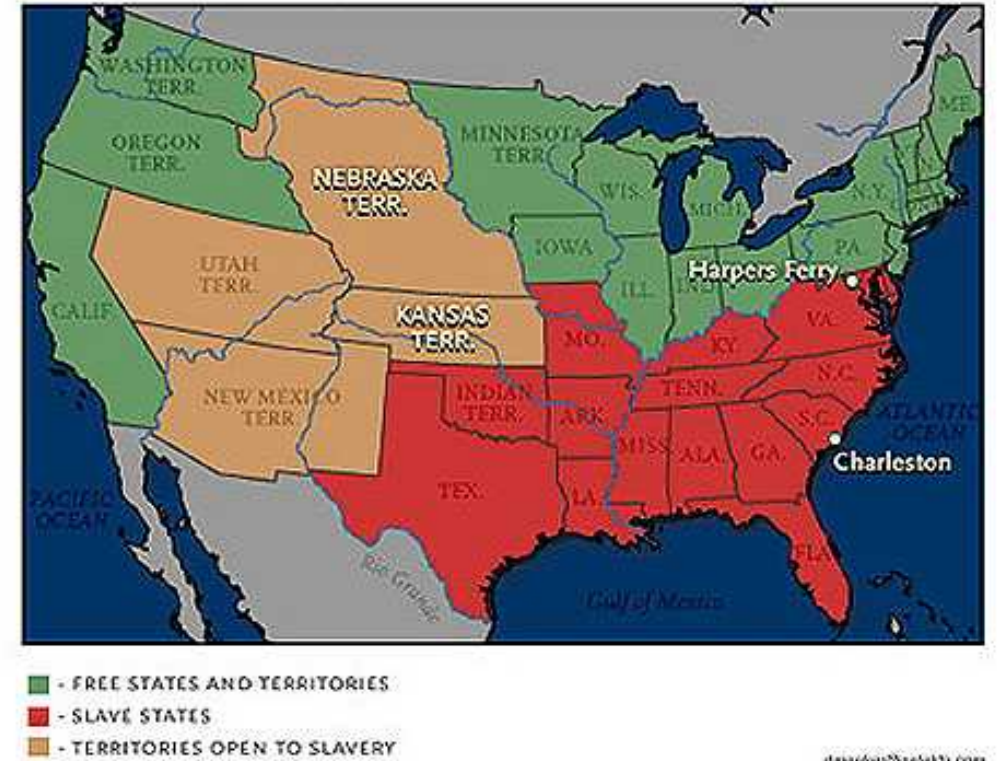
Nehemiah 1 and 2 selected

Just Such A Time  
Occurred in 1857  
America

# Political Division and Unrest

- America politically divided over slavery.
- The map of America was a patchwork with some states free, some slave.
- There was an Election Day riot in Washington with 8 dead.
- Civil war seemed near

Pre-Civil War Free vs. Slave States



# Spiritual Decline

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- Many people were disillusioned with spiritual things because of preachers who had repeatedly predicted the end of the world in the 1840's.
- Jesus did not return
- People sought to get rich in the California gold rush instead of pursuing godliness

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# Economic Decline – The Panic of 1857

- 1844 – Samuel Morse invents the telegraph
- The California gold rush meant the early 1850s were years of great prosperity. Banks, merchants, and farmers were highly leveraged.
- September, 1857 – The *SS Central America* sank in a hurricane with 30,000 pounds of gold headed to New York. Banks in New York began to fail.
- Because of the telegraph, the panic rapidly becomes the first worldwide economic crisis.
- October 10, 1857 – The stock market crashes.
- Panic of 1857 - Banks and insurance companies failed, railroads went bankrupt, factories closed, unemployment increased massively.
- America did not recover until the Civil War.



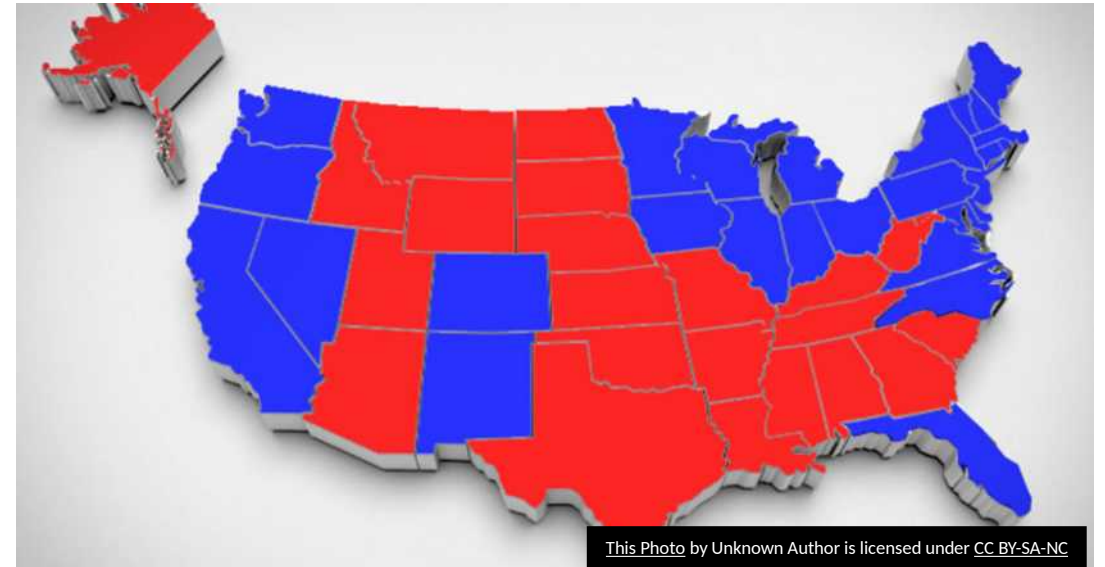
The Situation is Very  
Similar Today



# Political Division and Unrest

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- America politically divided over lockdowns, masks, vaccine mandates.
- The map of America is a patchwork with some states progressive, some conservative.
- There have been 506 riots around the country in the past year.
- Can a house divided against itself long stand?



# Spiritual Decline

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- After Covid, many people have not returned to church.
- Bible has been removed from public use
- Barna survey shows steep decline
- Less than 6% of the population has a Biblical worldview



# Economic Decline

- The Internet links us all together so all world markets are linked
- The incredible economic recovery has brought great wealth and a booming stock market.
- Bitcoin and crypto is the modern gold rush
- 2020 -21 – Covid causes panic worldwide.
- Lockdowns, masks, vaccines mandates cause businesses
- Massive inflation has begun
- Evergrande defaulting
- Many are predicting a stock market crash.



# God's Way of Getting Our Attention

*“God whispers to us in our pleasures,  
speaks to us in our conscience, but  
shouts in our pains It is His megaphone  
to rouse a deaf world.”*

C.S. Lewis

In 1857, God Got the  
Attention of a Righteous Man

His Prayer Changed Everything

# Jeremiah Lanphier Prayed

- “Jeremiah Lanphier had hoped for more. But six people were six people. And did not scripture say, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of you"? So on this day, September 23, 1857, at lunchtime, he did not moan about the small number who turned out in response to his advertisement. Instead, he knelt with the others in the rented hall in Fulton Street, New York.
- America sure needed prayer. The United States was in spiritual, political, and economic decline. Many people were disillusioned with spiritual things because of preachers who had repeatedly predicted the end of the world in the 1840's. Agitation over slavery was breeding political unrest, and civil war seemed near. Just this year, financial panic had hit. Banks failed, railroads went bankrupt, factories closed, unemployment increased.”

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1801-1900/jeremy-lanphier-led-prayer-revival-11630507.html>



# Prayer Spread After the Market Crashed

- On October 10, the stock market crashed. Suddenly people were flocking to the prayer meetings. Within six months 10,000 people were gathering daily for prayer in New York City alone.
- Other cities experienced a renewed interest in prayer, too. In Chicago, the Metropolitan Theater was filled every day with 2,000 praying people. In Louisville, several thousand came to the Masonic Temple for prayer each morning. 2,000 assembled for daily prayer in Cleveland, and St. Louis churches were filled for months at a time. In many places tents were set up for prayer. The newly formed YMCA also played an important role in holding prayer meetings and spreading the revival throughout the country.



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# The Media Participated

- In February, 1858, Gordon Bennett of the *New York Herald* gave extensive coverage to the prayer revival. Not to be outdone, the *New York Tribune* devoted an entire issue in April, 1858 to news of the revival. News of the revival traveled west by telegraph. This was the first revival which the media played an important role in spreading.
- Lay people, not church leaders led. Prayer, rather than preaching, was the main focus. The meetings themselves were informal -- any person might pray, speak, lead in a song, or give a word of testimony, with a five-minute limit placed on each speaker. In spite of loose organization, the prayer meetings avoided the emotionalism displayed in earlier revivals.

**GREAT REVIVAL OF RELIGION IN NEW YORK.**

**PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.**

**Remarkable Conversions Among the  
Unrighteous.**

**SINNERS BROUGHT TO THE WAY OF GRACE.**

**One of the "Forty Thieves"  
Repentant.**

**Wonderful Manifestations of Penitence  
and Piety.**

**REVIVALS ELSEWHERE,**

**&c.,**

**&c.,**

**&c.**

Our readers have been already informed about the prayer meetings which are held every day in the building adjoining and belonging to the old North Dutch church. These meetings take place daily between twelve



# And the Revival Spread

- Thus the small prayer meeting of Jeremy Lanphier on this day led to the Third Great Awakening. Because of the telegraph, this was the first revival beginning in America with a worldwide impact. The revival spread to Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Europe, South Africa, India, Australia, and the Pacific islands.
- All classes of people became interested in salvation, backsliders returned, conversions increased, and Christians desired a deeper instruction in spiritual truths. Families established daily devotions, and entire communities underwent a noticeable change in morals. Preaching, which in many places had become intellectual and lifeless, now concentrated on the truths of the gospel of Christ and His cross. As James Buchanan of Scotland summarized, it was a time when "new spiritual life was imparted to the dead, and new spiritual health imparted to the living."

**REVIVALS IN THE WEST.**

Another correspondent of the same paper says:—In B——, over one hundred have come out on the Lord's side. In S—— and G—— there is a great work of grace in progress among all denominations of evangelical Christians, such as I have never known before. In all these places the work has been chiefly in the Sunday schools. And here in S—— they count thirty-eight hopeful converts, sixteen of whom have already joined the Congregational church, and the rest will soon join this or some other church. All these converts except one are from the Sunday school.

There is at this time a revival of religion going on at A——. The anxious seats are crowded every night. I have been sent for to attend. Indeed I have been in one continual revival of religion all winter. I meet with no difficulty in prosecuting my work as a Sunday school missionary now. This is indeed the happiest winter of my life. While passing around among the Sunday schools I planted from two to seven years ago, and while witnessing the blessed fruits, how often has that precious promise from the Lord of the Harvest come with power and comfort to my soul, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy."

A group of people are silhouetted against a bright, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. They are standing in a line, holding hands, and their shadows are cast on the ground. The scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of community and prayer.

## And So in 2021 We are Called to Pray

- II Chronicles 7:14 - When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

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