

Anatomy of Revival Part 7

16 “Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”

This is the supernatural power of one demon. One man leaped on seven and overcame the strength of seven. One man prevailed against seven and tore their clothes off before they could reach the front door of the house.

17 “This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear (reverence) fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.”

The sons of Sceva were exposed and now everyone knew they were working for Satan himself. The scales were lifted from their eyes and great fear, reverence for the true God fell on the entire city and the name of Jesus was magnified. What was intended to hurt Christianity helped it. Many unsaved people and backslidden Christians came to the Lord. The ripples of this event went all over Asia.

18 “And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.”

Believers who were out of fellowship with the Lord came and repented of their fear and apathy toward the things of God. Many who had been saved but still dabbled in witchcraft and confessed their sins of involvement with witchcraft and sorcery.

19 “Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.”

These books taught witchcraft, demon worship, seances, and occult operations. This burning was *monument* to their renewed life. There were no printing presses then. These were hand-written on scrolls.

20 “So, (in the same way) the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed (gained strength).”

The word of God started out far behind the power and might of Diana and the religion of Ephesus. Through the period of three years, the word continued to grow until it overcame and prevailed. The analogy is to the demon who overcame odds seven times worse than himself. He first jumped on the seven, overcame them, and then prevailed. The word of God began against incredible odds, but over a period of time, had the upper hand in Asia. The signs and wonders were to add power to get the word out. The purpose of signs and wonders is to

confirm the word. Now, the people are willing to do what is necessary to change their lives and of others. They are ready for discipleship.

21 *“When these things were accomplished, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”*

Paul’s ministry was not ended in Ephesus. He would return in a few months and admonish the pastors of the churches in this city (chapter 20). What had been fulfilled was the signs and wonders. The pastors did their job by promoting the word to the place of overcoming the opposition of religion, demons, and Satan.

Although the miracles, signs, and wonders had been fulfilled, they were not over. Many more miracles and signs were performed in the days to come, but they were being accomplished by the individual saints in the churches. God’s best is for believers to perform the miracles, not only the evangelist or prophet. God’s best is for the people to receive their needs met by standing on the word for themselves. This is taught by the local churches who instruct the people in the word.

Paul knew his own time was coming to an end and he would have to leave for a while. He purposed, by the Holy Spirit, to go to Jerusalem and then to Rome, but not to Jerusalem. This will sidetrack Paul for over five years because he went to jail in Caesarea and Rome before he is released. God confirmed to Paul that Rome is in His will (Acts 23:11). It was also confirmed by an angel of the Lord in Acts 27:23-24. God tried to tell Paul that going to Jerusalem was not in His will (Acts 21:3-4, 8-13).

22 *“So he sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.”*

Erastus is a Corinthian believer. He came to see the Corinthian situation and report back to Paul resulting in the letters sent there. Romans 16:23 tells us Erastus was a treasurer of the city, a member of the city council in Corinth. Paul will stay in Ephesus for a short time to bring a short period of comfort to the saints who will be experiencing opposition and tribulation for the sake of the gospel.

23 *“And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way.”*

During this “same time” the word is increasing. The opposition of Satan is also increasing (Mark 4:17). The word is always attacked in the life of a believer, a church, or a city. The “Way” was a name for Christianity.