

REVIVE US AGAIN

SERMON OUTLINES
BY DR. TONY EVANS

MESSAGE 3:

SHAKING THINGS UP FOR REVIVAL

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Haggai 2:5-7 (NASB)

⁵ 'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!' ⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. ⁷ I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the Lord of hosts.

MESSAGE GOAL: The goal of this message on *Shaking Things Up for Revival* is to learn how to be prepared for the disruption that God brings in our lives, and to understand that even though God often shakes things up for us, He uses these troubles to produce great things in our lives.

INTRODUCTION: This message contains both bad and good news. Even the people of God sometimes focus too much on making sure things go smoothly and according to their plan and timetable. There's nothing wrong with having plans and schedules, but sometimes we need a disruption or even a trouble that forces us to focus on things we hadn't seen before.

We need these disruptions because God often shakes things up to bring about great change and even better results. We tend to panic and get frustrated when things get thrown out of whack, but it is in these times that God often is trying to tell us that He's about to do something big in our lives.

The prophet Haggai and the priest Zerubbabel, the leader of God's reorganization of His people, knew what the shake-up was all about. Once they changed their priorities and put the Lord first, things began to get stirred up. Even though this may have caused some uneasiness for the people, God's messengers knew that what they needed was on the other side of this God-driven upheaval.

Without God and His desire to grow us and be worshiped by us, things would just stay the same. Besides being really boring and having a lack of vision, we don't actually want things to stay the same forever. God's people need a fresh touch from the Lord, and we often need to have things readjusted so that He remains supreme in our lives and worship.

God may be a God who doesn't change, but His people should be ready for the change and shake-ups that He brings upon the earth. Being ready and obedient and faithful in the midst of changes show Him our true faith and bring us into a closeness with our Savior that we never even knew existed.

You can't draw closer to the Lord and move from where you are simply by staying in place. Let's be excited when God shakes up our lives and our schedules, because if we remain in Him throughout, great things are in front of us! For a true reviving work of the Spirit of God to take place, things have to be shaken first. We need to remember this and praise the Lord for His coming change.

SERMON POINTS:

1. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR US DESPITE THE TROUBLES:

His Spirit always abides with us

- He never forgets us, even in the turmoil of life
- Being pulled closer to God means there will be some movement

God's shakings are intentional and purposeful

- A shaking from God is usually something unexpected that disrupts life
- We need shaking to bring us back to God and prioritize Him (Colossians 1:18)
- God will shake us when He is not our priority

2. GOD OFTEN DOES THINGS WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE:

Going to a new place requires experiencing new things

- When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, they saw new things (Exodus 14)
- Abraham saw new things when he was willing to offer Isaac (Genesis 22:1-24)

Even if the situations are scary and shaky, God is with His people

- Going into the unknown requires great faith in the Guide
- Though pain may be involved, it produces great things

our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.



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- Christ may well be changing the world now to prepare for His return

3. TUNE IN TO GOD WHEN THINGS START TO SHAKE:

When bad weather approaches, we listen to the weatherman

- Although the weather interrupts us, we pay attention to it
- When breaking news pops up, it's because there is something that needs to be said

This shaking up is not just in the Old Testament

- Many New Testament passages share a picture of shake-ups (Hebrews 12:18-24)
- We need to pay attention to both past and future shake-ups (Hebrews 12:27-28)
- God's kingdom will shake the kingdoms of this world

4. GOD ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE ON THE WRONG PATH UNTIL THE NEED FOR CHANGE IS OBVIOUS:

When we see need for change, He can do something new in us

- God often wants to manifest His presence in a new way
- Sometimes He simply wants us to have better spiritual health
- Just because things around us are shaking doesn't mean we need to shake

The world is insecure, but God's kingdom is secure

- Rahab was a biblical example of security amidst shakiness (Joshua 2)
- Change sometimes requires caving in our current world

5. BELIEVERS ARE PART OF AN UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM:

We see constant upheaval and distress around us

- Remaining calm and assured is difficult in this cut-throat, fast-paced world
- Even if things are difficult, we can always see God's blessings (Psalm 37:25)
- Christ wants us to see that He's God even when all hell breaks loose

Your priority of Christ (or lack thereof) is the deciding factor in your security

- He will shake things up to get your top priority back to Himself
- He will also shake things up when He's number 1 to show you even better things
- Nothing on the earth or above it or below it is beyond His shaking reach

6. GOD'S PERFECT TIMING IS IN CONTROL OF ALL SITUATIONS:

Timers let you know that something is ready

- Our lives are not on our own timers, they're on His timer
- If something is not ready for change, then changing it could be disastrous

Our timers are subject to our finite minds and abilities

- When God's timer is followed, we know He can see the whole process
- God's timing and our timing are not always the same (Isaiah 55:8-9)

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

BIRTHING PAINS OF CHANGE:

Much like the birth process, the process of huge change is not always comfortable. It often involves pain and inconvenience. Labor pains are the mother's body and the baby saying that something new and wonderful is about to emerge—but the painful process must take place first. Sometimes when God changes things, the process is difficult and even painful, but we know the end result will be something new and beautiful.

MAKING US THINK OF SPIRITUAL THINGS:

Have you ever been shaken up by the death of a loved one? Often, when we attend a funeral for a loved one, we start to think of things a little differently. We reflect on things that are spiritual and eternal, and they seem much closer and more real all of a sudden. When death or some other disruption occurs, the temporal life and the eternal life collide and cause us to think of what really matters. Death often forces us to see the unseen. Even in the normal times of life, God does not want us to forget to look at things from the eternal perspective.

**our mission field is not merely across the sea.
it is across the street.**



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BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

RETURN OF CHRIST:

(Revelation 19) There are a few hints of things that must change or come about before the rapture and before the return of Christ. Three of them are the return of the nation of Israel to its land, which happened in 1948 (Ezekiel, Isaiah, Amos, etc.); the coming together of Europe into one system (Daniel); and the rise of Babylon in modern day Iraq (Daniel and Revelation). When we see all of these happen, we know that the time may be drawing close for the rapture and return of Christ to establish His eternal kingdom.

NEW TESTAMENT SHAKE-UP:

(Hebrews 12:18-24) The author of Hebrews tells us that we need to look back and remember God's workings and holiness, and that there will be more shaking in the completion of the new covenant. These verses describe the removal of the things that can be shaken, and the eternity of the things that cannot be shaken. It is intended for us to think of the Old Testament passage the author quotes, which is our main text in Haggai 2.

RAHAB:

(Joshua 2) Rahab was a prostitute who lived in Jericho. She was neither a Jew nor a righteous woman, but her faith in the one true God earned much for her. Knowing that the God of the Israelites was the true God, she hid the spies who were scouting Jericho. Later in the story, as Joshua and the Israelites conquered Jericho (with the marching and horn-blowing), the wall crumbled, but not Rahab and her house. Even though her house was a part of the crumbled wall, her small part stayed intact because of her faithfulness. Rahab is a true story of faith and being on sure footing despite everything around her shaking and crumbling, which is why she is included in God's "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11.

SERMON LINES:

This message will give you a solid biblical example of the good reasons behind God's often puzzling way of shaking things up for His people, shaking us to turn things around.

It will also reveal the truth that when God shakes things up in our lives, He wants to reveal what is often invisible to us in the normal routines of life.

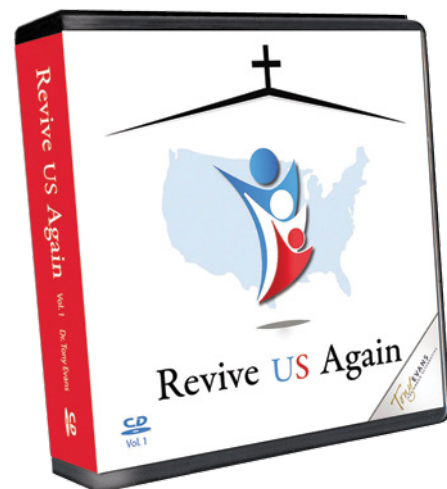
QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:

"When God is getting ready to deliver something great, He creates labor pains—a shaky situation that forces us to deal with the new place He's taking us to."

"God does not want His people so attached to earth that they lose sight of heaven. He does not want us to be so attached to time that we lose sight of eternity."

"The great tragedy today is that God will shake stuff up and people don't know it's God who is shaking things up, so they don't make the connection to the purposes of God."

"There is no greater experience you can have with God than when everything around you is shaking, and you're unshakable."



GO, therefore

