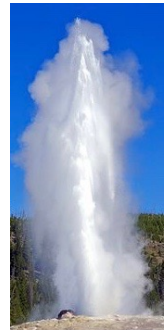


WHAT TIME IS IT?

TEXT: *Amos 9:13: Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.*

God's Promises are not exhausted when they are fulfilled, for when once they are performed, they stand just as good as they did before they were fulfilled. We may lay claim to them again and again. Man's promises, even at the best, are like a cistern which hold but a temporary supply; but God's Promises are as a fountain never running dry. This is true of this particular Promise before us. This is a Spiritual Promise more than a temporal one, and we may soon begin to witness its fulfillment. Even now, if we look about us observant enough and connect what is happening to God's Promises and Prophecies, we would be able to discern what God has already shown us in His Word.



We would see what puts revivals fires out, what stops the move of God dead cold, and what shortens the lifespan of a church. We would see what it takes to have a revival, and we would search out the Word to our own heart's longing. If we do not care truly for a revival, then we will neglect the Word and the Lord of the Word, and we will fight anyone who tries to stir us up out of our spiritual lethargy and sleep.

A revival is always preceded by a time of breaking up, which is painful, especially for the hard shells. The ground must be broken up for the sowing of the Good Seed of the Word, and also for the coming Latter Rain of the Spirit's outpouring from Heaven. God will even fertilize the ground to an abundant harvest if we will truly repent and consecrate our all to the Lord Jesus.

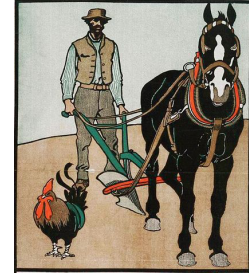


This harvest of which Amos is speaking comes with such needed preparations as we alone must make. This striking metaphor — the harvesters will be overtaken by the plowmen of another crop — is what happens when a real spiritual revival comes to a church. By the time the juice is squeezed from the grapes, another crop is about ready to be harvested and juiced.

The Bible is a spiritual book and is replete with illustrations of the move of God in

the supernatural. It is intended for all God's people for the stirring up of our hearts and for our encouragement. There is no need that the pulse of the Church should beat slowly, forever, for the Lord alone can quicken us by the outpouring of His Spirit of the Latter Rain.

There are no promised harvests, however, without the necessary labor and ground breaking. We must do this to our own souls. We must plow, and others must do the reaping, while still others tread the grapes, and their companions must prepare for another crop planting. All kinds of laborers are needed for the Lord's work, and there is a place for everyone, a place for you.



These workers do not have much time for banquets, socials, or entertainments, for the heavenly harvest is ripe and ready to harvest. It will be lost without steady workers. God uses human instrumentality in this world's great soul harvest. He will use us if we are pliable and obedient to Him, for God alone is the maker of the rich harvests. We must do the sowing by faith and the cultivating of the ground with patience.

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