

A Call for Revival on Jubilee

[Notes from speech given by Bob O'Dell at the Jerusalem Channel Passover Conference, at Christ Church in the Old City of Jerusalem, on April 23, 2016.]

What time of year is mankind's birthday? Pretend with me for a moment that you were God and you had all this love in your heart for the earth and mankind that you created. What time of year do you want mankind to say to you "thank you God for another year with you?" Well here is a hint. God put us in a garden. He wanted to teach us about agriculture, and to be part of the earth's seasons.

So if you were God, what agricultural season would you pick as mankind's annual birthday? Would you pick Winter when seeds have been in the ground for a few months? Spring when the very first crop barley comes in? Summer (more and more crops come in)? Or would you pick Fall? When the Fullness of the harvest has come in and you are just about to plant next year's seed.

Would you pick Fall? God did. And so Jews celebrate the beginning of the Jewish year in Fall. And Jews tell us that Adam and the earth were created just in time to step into this beautiful period of the Fall. And not just the Jews believed that. Did you know that for the first 1000 years after Noah, all cultures celebrated the beginning of their year in Fall.

And when God created man, in his heart he had already created His feasts. And He would put some of those glorious feasts in Fall. He picked a beautiful time of the year for that – not too hot, not too cold. And in His heart, he knew his decision about Fall was good.

But there was a problem. And that problem was us. We, mankind, chose to move apart from God. Before Noah, all the earth turned against God. After Noah, all the earth came together under Nimrod at the tower of Babel to turn against God again. And so God needed to create a new beginning for man. So He called a man out of Ur near, right near where the tower of Babel stood, and this man Abram, heard God's call, and by faith he obeyed the call and set out to the land that God said he would show him, and give him.

And this call was going to change everything. Abram was not the whole solution, but he would be part of the solution. Because from his loins would come a son and eventually a big family that God would call to himself. Now many things happened and this family had to move down to Egypt where they were mistreated and enslaved, but they became a great multitude there and then God called them out of Egypt in the Exodus.

This multitude, the Israelites, would be called out of Egypt into the wilderness for 40 years to learn the ways of God. Now from the beginning God had more than just the Israelites in mind, because that multitude that came out was not just the seed of Abraham, because the scripture says that it was a mixed multitude that came out of Egypt. (That means more than just women and children.) Not only was it the sons of Israel that came out, but it was also the sojourners – those who recognized that the One True God was with these people and they said “we are going to put in with them”. Where they go, we’re going to go. That’s you and me, is it not?! God was showing in the Exodus that we don’t have to be born as a son of a somebody, we can be a nobody that just wants to go along with God’s plan. Because God doesn’t want any to perish, Amen?

This was the Exodus. The Exodus was a new beginning that we celebrated last night! And when what day did this new beginning occur? 15th day of the month. And what month did this new beginning occur? The month of Nissan. God said about the month of Nissan “will be the beginning of the year for you”. And that beginning was in the Spring. The Spring! Not the fall, but the Spring! God said, the month of Nissan would not begin until the barley had ripened. Until the very first crop of the season had ripened!

This was a new work, a new thing. But there was an echo of it already. A pre-echo if you will. You see this wasn’t the first time God’s new beginning was in Spring! Because we also learn from scripture that Abram left his home in Spring, on the very same day of Nissan 15, some 430 years earlier. The very same day! Have you ever thought about Abraham having an Exodus from Ur? And when Abram left Haran to the Promised Land, people joined him! Not just Sarah, not just Lot, but

scripture says that there were other souls joined with them to leave Haran for the promised land. A mixed group!

Now let us continue with our story of the Exodus. 40 years after the Exodus, the children of Israel, crossed the Jordan to enter Canaan. When did they enter Canaan? Fall or Spring? And this was also in the Spring, on 10th day of Nissan, which was last Monday. Why not the 15th? They came over on the 10th so they would have time to prepare for their first Passover feast in the promised land on Nissan 15.

So can you see that God has given us a pattern of physical beginnings in the fall and spiritual beginnings in the spring?

Now let us move forward in time to the arrival of the Messiah. This Messiah was both man and God. Physical and Spiritual. Christ is both. So when would he come? Fall or spring? Here is how I see it. 1 Cor 15:45. He was not the first Adam, but the last Adam. In that sense he came to start over and do everything right. So I believe he was born in the Fall. But when it came time for Jesus to create a new beginning for the rest of us, for us to be born again, he would do that in the Spring. He would come to us physically in the Fall, and he would come to us spiritually as the resurrected Jesus in the Spring. So after 33 and ½ years on this earth he became our Passover lamb and was resurrected, and provide a way for us to be his people. That was the greatest new beginning of all history, Amen?.

So physical beginnings are in fall. Spiritual beginnings are in spring.

Have you ever noticed that spiritual new beginnings are not easy?

You might have noticed that there is always some death involved. We see that in Exodus with the death of the noble lamb the ignoble death of the Pharaoh's firstborn son. We even see that in Abram, it is hinted in scripture that death of Terah, Abrams father was a righteous death, but the death of Abram's brother Haran in Ur of the Chaldees, was a sad and untimely death of someone who died too soon. And we have the righteous death of Jesus on the cross, and the unrighteous death of Judas who hanged himself. Or once again we have a thief

who died a noble death and went to paradise, and another thief who did not. Great new beginnings always involve death.

And besides death, great new spiritual beginnings are always messy! Whenever they come, they are always strange, confusing, and misunderstood by the onlookers.

Now the death and resurrection of Christ was a great new beginning 2000 years ago. But you know what? We who are alive and remain today have not missed our chance at seeing some new beginnings even in our day. One we are seeing right now is the transition of the times of the Gentiles back to the times of Jerusalem. Scripture says “Jerusalem will be trodden under foot until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”. People argue about exactly when that moment is... I have come to believe it is not one exact moment but a period of phases of transition. And we are starting this year, another one of these new phases of transition. And it’s messy.

These transitions come in waves. There are various new beginnings set out in scripture. And they are like echos of the past, even as they foreshadow the future! One of these echos is the Shabbat. Every 7 days we celebrate the beginning of a new week, an echo of creation. Shabbat itself, the 7th day begins at sunset. And then half way through that 7th day you get the sunrise. Do you see the pattern? You can see it in Exodus. They ate the Seder meal at night, and then they left Egypt at morning’s light. Christ rose on the 3rd day, the day that began at sundown, but we didn’t see him on that day until the early morning light!

Now besides the weekly pattern of Shabbat, every 7 years the land gets to rest for a year. We celebrate a new beginning for the land. We call that seventh year the Shemitah year or the seven year Shemitah cycle.

Also, after every 7 Shemitah cycles in other words after 49 years, we celebrate for a whole year – the 50th year where we are restored to our Land and our Families. We call that year the Jubilee.

I believe that is the year we are in right now. This divine year of new beginnings in which we now reside has not just one starting point, but two! Do you see the pattern?!

In the Jubilee year one of those beginnings was last the fall, Rosh Hashana! That was the beginning for the restoration for the physical land. And after the long dark night of Winter we come to the other beginning in Spring: a spiritual new beginning. It corresponds to the restoration of us to our families and to God – that is a spiritual restoration. What is another name for spiritual restoration in Christian terms? How about Revival? How about Awakening?

This year 5776. I believe that this Jubilee year 2016 on Passover night marks a spiritual new beginning.

We are going to move out of the time of the Bible now and look at some recent history. Let us see what God has done on these Jubilee years in the past. I want you to see the pattern of new beginnings in the past, so you will have faith that this year will also be a time of new beginnings. So we are going to go back in time and look for physical beginnings regarding land of Israel, and spiritual beginnings regarding people and their families.

Israel 1869: New Jewish neighborhood was founded in Jerusalem outside the city walls. Nahalla Shiva.

A couple years before, Mark Twain visited Israel. He captured a look at a forsaken land in 1867. His book was published in 1869 just when that neighborhood got its start. And he found the scripture about the land being forsaken. And he said “yes, it’s true”. It is forsaken. And this American having fulfilled the prophecy that the land would be declared to be forsaken, this same book planted the seeds of sympathy and imagination of its readers, and prepared their hearts to be open to the idea of a Jewish return to that very homeland. And in that same year of 1869 God was birthing in the hearts of some Jews to migrate from Russia to Israel. It would take a few years -- 9 years later they would finally put their feet on the place of the first modern day Jewish settlement called Petah Tikvah, which literally means, the door of hope.

But 1869 was a year for revival in the Christian world.

Let me take you to Indonesia in 1869. A young Indonesian Muslim man who had recently accepted Christ, got a divine call to preach the Gospel to the Muslims. He would refer to that call as his own personal “Abrahamic call”. This man would become “Sadrach the apostle of Java.” This man would be the first man in human history to lead more than just a handful Muslims to Christ. He would lead 3000 in his first decade.

Also in 1869 the great missionary Hudson Taylor who had been struggling in China had a spiritual turning point where he understood that if he was going to do mission work in China, he needed to walk fully by faith! Does this sound familiar? It was just what Abram had been asked to do. That was also 1869 and China was never the same again.

Now let’s fast forward 49 Jewish calendar years to the next Jubilee in 1917 and let us look at the land of Israel.

In this year we have some well-known events. We have the amazing capture of Beersheva on October 31st by the Australian light horse brigade. Then a few days later we have the United Kingdom issuing the Balfour declaration – a homeland for the Jews. Then five weeks later General Allenby captures Jerusalem without firing a shot. As a Christian, he gets off his horse and walks in through the Jaffa gate.

But 1917 was a turning point in world missions too. We have the great missionary Cam Townsend who had a vision in this same year that caused him to go to Guatemala and translate the Bible for them. This became the start of the great world-wide work of Bible translation. That was 1917.

Now let’s fast forward 49 Jewish calendar years to the Jubilee year of 1967.

In Israel we have the famous 6-day war in June 1967. And the re-unification of Jerusalem.

And around the world 1967 would become known as the start of the Jesus movement. I'm not kidding you. We know it as being the 70s, but its start would be dated to 1967.

Also in 1967 we have the beginning of the Messianic movement. You see the reunification of Jerusalem usher in not just a physical change but a spiritual change. The reunification happened in the final 6 months of that year, not the first six months!

Now let us fast forward 49 Jewish calendar years to 2016 and Jewish year 5776 that began last fall. We are just over *half way* through it. What will be said of this year?

Well this year on September 14th, on the very first day of the Jewish year, was the day that gravitational waves from deep space passed through the earth and were detected for the very first time in human history. They had been predicted for decades but nobody had ever seen one. These waves prove Einstein's general theory of relativity. Happy birthday earth! Happy birthday universe!

What about the physical restoration of Israel so far? We have not had an event that rises to the level of the Balfour declaration in 1917 or the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. But we did just have just something very important. There was a declaration by the Israeli cabinet on last Sunday on Nissan 9, that the Golan is NEVER EVER going to be negotiated away. Netanyahu and his cabinet went to the Golan and had a cabinet meeting for the first time EVER on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. That government meeting was effectively on the OTHER side of the Jordan! They said the Golan in which this meeting is taking place will FOREVER be part of Israel, just as Jerusalem will FOREVER be its capital. In other words, Golan is to Israel what Jerusalem is to Israel. And the world hates it, and is not accepting it, just like they hated the declaration of Jerusalem as the capital.

What else has happened in Israel this year? Before we entered this year, Gidon said it first that he thought the Blood Moons were going to usher in the greatest period of cooperation between Jews and Christians. Then after the Blood Moons were over, in this Jubilee year 62 Rabbis have signed a declaration from Rabbi

Shlomo Riskin and David Nekrutman about Jews and Christians respecting each other.

What else will happen in Israel? We must wait and see.

What has been happening outside of Israel? What kind of Christian revival might begin this year? I will tell you what I think. Now before I do that I want to remind you, who knew about the Jesus movement in 1967? Not many people. Who had already heard of the Messianic movement in 1967? Not many people. But everyone has heard of these things today. So it is in that same way that we must look at 2016. I will tell you that I believe that this year will be the beginning of the next great revival of the Western world, the one for which we have been waiting, the one that has been prophesied for the last forty years.

But it is being prophesied by some people I trust, that this awakening will be different. No one person will be associated with it. It has been prophesied that this revival will come up like grass from everywhere. It's like those unnamed souls who came along with Abraham. It's like that unnamed mixed multitude that came along with the Exodus. It will be the revival led by nobody's. I don't know about you, but I don't feel like I'm a "somebody" in the church. But I do qualify as a nobody. Arthur Burt of Wales is one of my heroes. He lived to the age of 102 and his trademark expression was: "Every somebody has to become a nobody for the sake of the kingdom of God." He's right. But the Spirit today is also saying, that every nobody can be God's somebody! Amen?

Now before we close and pray...I want to tell you one last story...

There is another great revival in America's past, and this one did not start on a Jubilee year. It was a revival that started with a few nobodies. There were a few Americans who broke the tradition of the early 1900s and decided to meet together – black and white. And their leader was black, not white. William Seymour was his name. And they prayed and prayed for the coming of the holy spirit of God upon them. And the HS finally, finally, finally came. And when was this? The year was 1906. And the place was at a little house close to Azusa

street. And the Holy Spirit fell on them on Passover night in 1906! Yes, Passover night was the beginning of the Great Azusa street revival!

The Azusa revival meetings lasted 3 ½ years, and as those 3 ½ years were coming to a close, William Seymour prophesied that another great awakening would come in 100 years, but that it would be much greater than Azusa street, and would touch the whole world. And one hundred years later in 2006, revivals have touched China, and Africa, and in the last decade millions of Muslims have had dreams of Jesus, and in the last decade there has been a new beginning of interaction between Jews and Christians, but this prophesied revival of William Seymour has not quite caught fire in the Western nations yet, at least not to the level of the prophecy of William Seymour and the prophesy of many other saints of God that have followed him. More revival must yet come!

This year is the 110th anniversary of Azusa street. Last night was that 110th anniversary. And it seems fitting that this Jubilee year will be known as the beginning of the next great awakening in the Western world. We have reports of the H.S. falling on some meetings stronger than “in many, many years”. I myself and a few friends felt the presence of the Lord three times in February stronger than we have in many years. Prayer leaders in America are reporting in 2016 that they now see more prayer for revival this year, than at any time since the Jesus movement of the 1970s.

My friends in America, the ones on whom the HS fell three times in February, these men encouraged me to be bold here with you tonight. They encouraged me to be bold here in Jerusalem, to be bold here in the center of the world, and not just to inform you that revival is coming, not just to predict that awakening is coming, but asked me to ask you -- might we join together right now and call forth awakening on the world? Would you like to do that tonight? Do we qualify to do that? Are we humble enough that we can see ourselves as nobody's in the church, but do we also have faith that we can also be God's somebodies here in the center of the world tonight? Can we add all our voices together in Jerusalem tonight and can we call upon God to pour out his Spirit on all flesh tonight, out from this place tonight, upon Jerusalem, upon Judea, upon Samaria and the utter

most parts of the earth, and bring forth the greatest awakening the world has ever known?

Please stand if you are willing to join this tonight.

Would God the Father want to hear such a prayer? Would He not want to turn and answer such a prayer? If last night was the Passover then tonight is the night that Christ is still hidden in the earth, but guess what? The 3rd day just began at sundown! And if the 3rd day began at sundown and then we will first see him tomorrow morning at dawn! That is the pattern of the spiritual beginning is it not?

Can we bring in the Shofars please?

As the Shofars blows proclaim your loudest voices all at once! Let us shout to heaven all at once! As long they blow the shofar, we will:

Call out for revival of the world in this Jubilee year.

Call for renewal for Israel in this Jubilee year.

Call for revival and awakening for the whole world in this Jubilee year.

And if you run out of specific prayers to pray, then start praising and thanking the Lord for his work.

GO!

[After the shofars and prayer finished, we first gave a clapping and thanks offering to the Lord. Then the musicians played a song about dancing because the Jubilee is here, and we had clapped, sang and danced.]

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More information on Jubilee in our book Israel First at: <http://IsraelFirstBook.com>

More information on 49 vs. 50 year Jubilee cycle controversy at:

<http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/56844/the-mystery-of-the-lost-jubilee-part-vi-divine-dilemma-opinion/>