

These meetings of young people and children were kept up for several months, and until more elderly people, who wished to participate with them in their devotional exercises, came in among them, and so rendered them common for those of every age. But it is hoped that the religious impressions made, at this time, upon the young and tender minds of a number, will never be wholly effaced, but will remain through time, and be like a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.

Daily Devotional

June 24–30, 2013

Orwell Bible Church

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This Daily Devotional Consists of—

- 1) A passage to read from the Bible with a summary of the chapter and questions to help you think about it
- 2) Items for prayer
- 3) A selection from a book about the Second Great Awakening (a widespread, sovereign, and gracious work of God from the late 1700s into the early 1800s that resulted in many conversions and renewing of Christians and churches)

Monday, June 24

Judges 10—*Despite the Lord's deliverance through several judges, Israel engages in idolatry and is thus oppressed.*

- ☞ In verse 11, how would the Lord have spoken to Israel? Through what means did He do so in that day and age?
- ☞ How did Israel show their repentance (v. 16)?
- ☞ Note how God's compassion is expressed in verse 16 and meditate on that.

Judges 11—*Jephthah leads Israel's defense; he attempts peace with Ammon but they resist. Jephthah sacrifices his daughter because of his rash vow.*

- ☞ Ammon's stated reason for fighting Israel (v. 13) is from Numbers 21:24.
- ☞ Regarding Jephthah's foolish vow (vv. 29ff), consider what this says about the prevailing morality in that day! And yet, Hebrews 11:32!
- ☞ While thinking about these two things, finish this sentence: "Believers can do great things by faith yet..."

Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Joshua, Emma, and Genevieve Baker: Australia—Pray for strength and wisdom for Dan and Amy as they raise their children
- Robin Barker
- Persecuted Brothers and Sisters in Christ (Heb 13:3)

greatest number have been from the class of married people. Of the unmarried, twenty-one are females.

I shall now give some further particulars relating to this revival of religion.

About four or five months after the attention began, two lads or young men, who lived near each other, having finished their daily labor in the field, met in a school-house nearby, and spent the evening in religious conversation. They had not spent more than two evenings in this manner, before their being together, and the design thereof, was known to some in the neighborhood, who, the next time they met, joined their company.

About this time I heard of their meeting, although it was not generally known. A doubt, at once, arose with respect to the propriety of encouraging so young a class, of the different sexes, meeting by themselves, for religious purposes, without some one of more age and experience, to superintend their meetings, and preserve regularity among them, as also to instruct them in things pertaining to the kingdom of God, and their own salvation.

At their next meeting, I went among them, and found nearly forty males and females, from about eight to eighteen years of age, convened for the purpose of praying together, reading, singing psalms, and talking upon religious subjects. Being now desired by them, I met with them weekly for several months. The second time I met with them, there were about double the number there were the first time; and the third time, there were, I judged, about one hundred and forty. Although it was now the busiest season of the year with farmers, being about harvest time, and the evenings short, young men and women and children came from a distance of several miles; and much the greatest part appeared to have their minds impressed with seriousness; for in every part of the house, tears were seen, and sighs and sobs heard; although endeavors were used to suppress the one, and to conceal the other.

Tuesday, June 25

small voice, and saying what have you been doing? And where are you going? Consider what you do, and what your end is like to be. After praying and singing, the people were addressed from these words—"Escape for thy life; look not behind thee; neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." A solemn silence reigned among the hearers, who appeared to hear as for their lives; and many were to be seen in various parts of the house, weeping and trembling under a sense of their guilt and danger; and saying to themselves, "What must I do to be saved?" For at this time, but few spake out the feelings and exercises of their hearts; but at the close of the meeting, they returned to their homes, in pensive sadness.

From that time to the present, there have been almost every week from two to five, and sometimes six religious meetings, beside the two upon the Sabbath; as I have invariably attended them myself, I can witness to the order and decency, the silence and solemnity, with which, and the numbers by which, these meetings have been attended. The silence observed among those who were going to, or returning from these meetings, was very impressive, and frequently noticed with surprise and pleasure. Little or no tumult or noise, and the appearance of most, much as if they had been going to, or were returning from the funeral of some near relative or friend. And while in the house, nothing was said but by the minister; for so little disposed were the people to take an active part in any religious exercise, except singing, that it was difficult to get one publicly to propose or ask a question. Many were swift to hear, but all slow to speak.

In this time of God's pouring out of his Spirit and reviving his work among us, sixty-one have been added to the church, and baptism administered to about one hundred. Among the baptized are sixteen households or families.

At one time, a number of households, containing about twenty souls, were baptized.

Those who have, in this time of awakening, joined the church, are most, if not all of them, between fourteen and forty years of age. The

Judges 12—*Civil war ensues between Gilead and Ephraim. Jephthah dies; successive judges are listed.*

☞ Remember the refrain of Judges (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). How would having a godly king have helped in this situation?

Judges 13—*The Angel of the Lord informs and instructs Manoah and his wife of the son they would have, and instructs them to raise him as a Nazirite. He is born and named Samson.*

- ☞ Do you remember who the "angel of the Lord" is? (Look at vv. 3, 8, 16, 18-20, 22.)
- ☞ As a Nazirite (v. 5) Manoah's son was dedicated to the Lord his entire life (see Num 6:1-8).
- ☞ What was the source and origin of Samson's greatness?

Items for Prayer

- Central Asia: Pray for protection as they minister
- Rich and Kim Blair
- Peniel Bible Camp- Pastors' Conference/Mother-Daughter Retreat
- Those who have trusted Christ would be baptized and join the church

Wednesday, June 26

Judges 14—*Samson kills a lion; he marries a Philistine; he challenges the Philistine with a riddle; they coerce his wife to get the answer.*

- ☞ In verses 3-4 the Lord did not create evil or tempt with sin but sovereignly used Samson's weakness for His purposes.
- ☞ Samson *was* greatly used of the Lord despite his sinful desires and actions. Should that be an excuse for you—that since God can work despite your sin you can just go ahead and sin?

Items for Prayer

- Daniel, Rosamma, Dany, Merlin, and David Kumar: India—Pray for those who attended the class on the rapture
- Rodger, Irene, and BJ Branson
- Wednesday Night Bible Study/Prayer Meeting

CHAPTER VI

An account of a Revival of Religion in Plymouth, Conn., in the year 1799. By Rev. Samuel Waterman.

Towards the end of the year 1798, there was an appearance of more attention to religion than had been common among us, although it was not noticed at the time. Our assemblies on the Sabbath were more full, and the attention of the congregation to the Word preached, and other parts of social worship, more fixed than had been usual. Nothing farther very specially appeared, until the month of February, 1799, when the Spirit came like a mighty rushing wind, and seemed to breathe on many at one and the same time.

The first visible indication of this, was on a lecture day, previous to the Lord's Supper. These lectures had heretofore usually been attended but by few, besides professors, and too many of these were negligent in their attendance. But at this time there were, probably, three, if not four times the number which had ordinarily attended on such occasions, especially of the young people, and the countenances of many indicated sadness of heart. Indeed the whole congregation appeared solemn; but some in different parts of the house, by their tears which they could not conceal, manifested that their minds were tenderly, impressed.

At the close of this meeting in the daytime, an evening lecture was appointed, which, it is believed, was the first evening religious meeting which had ever been publicly notified, or attended, in the town. At this meeting, a much greater number attended than in the daytime. A brother in the ministry being present, preached from these words—"He flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful." The assembly was solemn, the hearers attentive, and the Word preached seemed to be accompanied with divine power.

A religious meeting was now appointed on the Wednesday evening of the next week; and although the season, and the traveling, were both uncomfortable, many came from almost every quarter; and it seemed as if God was present of a truth, speaking to sinners in a still

Sunday, June 30

Judges 20—*Israel gathers and fights against Benjamin and defeats them.*

Items for Prayer

- Dan, Amy, Joshua, Emma, and Genevieve Baker: Australia—Pray for health and safety while traveling
- Mike and Dawn Farrell
- Sunday Services- Sinners will be convicted and trust Christ
- We would minister to one another for the unity, maturity, protection, and growth of our church (Eph 4:12-16)

Thursday, June 27

Judges 15—*Samson's vengeance on the Philistines.*

- ☞ Note verses 11-13. This shows how sad a state Israel was in, subjected to the Canaanites and turning over one of their God-given deliverers. Compare Deuteronomy 28:7, 13 & 25, 43-44.
- ☞ What evidence is there in this chapter of Samson's faith?

Judges 16—*Samson reveals his secret to Delilah; his hair is shorn and he is imprisoned; he dies destroying thousands of Philistines.*

- ☞ Compare verse one with Exodus 20:14.
- ☞ What did the Law say about Samson pursuing a non-Israelite woman (v. 4)?

Items for Prayer

- Izaak, Kim, Ashlyn, Brenna, and Carson VanderSchel: Camp—Pray for the safety of all those at Camp
- Donna and Don Burlinski
- Financial Stability
- Prayer and financial support of missionaries

Friday, June 28

Judges 17—*Micah and his mom engage in syncretistic idolatry, making an idol, house of worship, and establishing a priest.*

- ☞ As you read this chapter, note how twisted Israel's thinking is.
- ☞ Verse 6 is the first time this assessment is made in the book, reflecting the basic purpose of Judges—to show the need for a godly king. How does godly leadership affect life?
- ☞ What did Micah think once he had a priest? How biblical was his thinking?

Items for Prayer

- Joseph, Louann, Peter, and Joanna Abraham: England—Pray for Louann as she disciples women in the church
- Robin D'Abate
- Spiritual Growth
- Obtain land for a permanent meeting house

Saturday, June 29

Judges 19—*A Levite's concubine is raped and dies; he dismembers her body and distributes the pieces to each tribe.*

- ☞ In verses 15, 22, and 25, note the Gibeonites' transgression of the Mosaic Law.
- ☞ Who were the ones pounding on the door in verse 22? Sons of Israel! How sad!

Items for Prayer

- Nathaniel, Katie, Emmaline, and Gracyn Pringle: Cincinnati OH—Pray for us and the team from Mentor as we interact with the community and that many would receive the Word shared with them
- Jon and Jan Engdahl
- Numerical Growth
- OBC men would grow in godliness and be leaders in homes and the church