

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... turn us back to You, O Lord ...”**  
*Lamentations 5:21*

Lamentations was written by the “weeping prophet,” Jeremiah. His message is very simple and to the point. Repent! Jeremiah used a great deal of literary device to get his message across to the children of Israel. Each of the five chapters, except for chapter three, has 22 verses. The 22 verses correspond to the 22 characters in the Hebrew alphabet. This order made it easier for the reader to remember what the author was saying. However chapter three has 66 verses which is three times the amount of characters in the Hebrew Alphabet. There are several possible reasons for this. It demonstrates what is known as a chiasmic form (I’ll leave it to you to research what chiasm means). It also makes chapter three stand out from chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5, making chapter three somewhat of a climax or central point to the message. From mere observation, written far before the canonization of the whole Bible (both the OT and the NT), chapter three bears as many verses as there are books in the Christian Bible, and chapters in the book of Isaiah (this may or may not be related, but it is interesting). Isaiah was a contemporary of Jeremiah’s (some 100 years removed) prophesying to the southern kingdom of Judah.

Whereas repentance precedes revival, revival doesn’t always bring repentance. Every nation, state, community and individual needs revival from time to time. The revival may or may not be of a spiritual nature. It might be a political, economical, industrial, educational, philosophical, or social revival, but one will be experienced and perhaps on multiple fronts simultaneously. Usually when a spiritual revival takes place it does affect multiple fronts (read up on the great awakenings). Again, usually, however, repentance precedes revival.

I have experienced the spirit of revival in the church only once in my 33 years. What an experience it was. The single dominating factor was repentance. The lost, such as I was at the time, repented of their sins to God and were regenerated and reconciled to Him through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The wayward Christians repented to God of their backslidden ways, were forgiven, and rededicated themselves to renewed service and devotion. The faithful Christians of the sins to God as a matter of spiritual discipline and continued in their praise and worship of God, were enriched more deeply, and served with greater honor. However, as always, at the same time there were some who fell away from the church. Whether they were truly saved or not is not for me to say, but if they were saved, they will always be saved, and one day perhaps they will return to the church. If they weren’t saved, then they were never saved in the first place, and they are in need Christ just like many others who are merely attending church.

Are you saved? Are you in need of spiritual revival, individually, or in your church? Are you faithfully praying for individual, community, state, and national spiritual revival? Christ is soon to return, are you ready, serving faithfully, winning souls, and doing ministry? Every faithful believer, everywhere, everyday should be praying, “turn us back to You, O Lord!”