

and to expect great things, seeing it is in *that day* our lot is cast. There is (4) The circumstances of the revival. Times of *peace* after war. "*I will step by step destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*" A time of universal peace has come to the world, the sword of persecution is in our day broken in Europe and elsewhere, just as in the Roman world, when the Pentecostal shower specially referred to in Zechariah, came on the Church of Christ. A time of war and strife may be a good preparation for a season of revival, but its congenial season is a season of peace.

THE EFFECTS OF A TRUE REVIVAL.

The test our Lord has given for testing teachers of religion is the true test of revivals, "By their fruits ye shall know them." In the passage quoted above, we have given us not only the *nature*, but the *effects* of an out-pouring of the Spirit. 1. *Christ is in the heart.* "They shall look on Me whom they have pierced," signifying that Christ in His atoning work, suffering for His people, is the central object of the revival. 2. *Arrows are in the conscience.* It is not Christ pierced by others, in which case we would pity Him, but Christ pierced by us, in which case we *condemn ourselves.* 3. *Holiness is in the life.* The Spirit is to them a spirit of *grace*, which word sometimes signifies something in the *heart* of God, then something in the *hand* of God, then something from the heart and hand of God, in the heart of His people; and lastly, which is its meaning here, something beautiful, holy, in the lives of Christians. 4. *Prayers on the lips.* Spirit of *supplications* it is, to show in the plural, the intensity of desire, the frequency and variety of the exercise of prayer—closet, family, social, public. 5. *Tears in the eyes.* They shall mourn. The greater the nearness to Christ, the more joyful and the more sad is the believer, so that we meet nowhere

in history an eminent saint, but we find him like his Master, a man of sorrow and of tears, though in these tears there is more of gladness than in the noisy laughter of the fool. 6. *An altar in each family.* "Every family apart." The family is the foundation of the Church and of the State. True godliness burns brightest there, as fagots piled together burn better than when apart. 7. *A closet in every house.* "Their wives apart." From the public duties of religion people retire to family duties, and from family duties to the closet, on which latter spot, more than on any other one thing, depends the progress and permanence of a reviv- ing work

HISTORY OF REVIVALS.

The first revival of which we read, was about 200 years after the fall, in the days of Enoch, when it is said "men began to call on the name of the Lord;" the fruit of which revival we find in Enoch, who walked so closely with God, that "God took him." 2. A wonderful revival of religion took place in the wilderness under Moses, continued afterwards under Joshua, among the generation that were under twenty years of age, when they came of age, and those that were born in the wilderness—a revival that is often referred to afterwards, as Israel's first love, the "love of her espousals." 3. Passing over two remarkable revivals, one under Hezekiah, and another under Josiah, we come to a revival under Ezra, some of whose fruits,—the supremacy of the Bible, and the synagogue system,—continue till this day. 4. The revival on the day of Pentecost, which ushered in the Christian dispensation, and which need only be mentioned. 5. In the days of Constantine there was a general revival, but it lacked the depth of the revival that saved the Church in the sixteenth century. Since then, there have been remarkable local out-pourings of God's Spirit in various