**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Ekklesia Sermon Series

*Awakenings are Biblical*

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March 1st In the Year of Our Lord 2020

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted.)

We have been talking about Great Awakenings in America. Is there a Biblical example of a Great Awakening? Yes, there is. What was the catalyst for this Biblical Awakening?

 One leader was walking in the way of the Lord. It does not have to be a leader. A regular, ordinary person can be used by God. The twelve men Jesus chose to be His disciples were ordinary men.

**Matthew 4:18-20**

18 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

 **“Awakenings are the Church becoming spiritually alive/active to produce/carry-out God’s Great Commission. “**

**2 Kings 22:1-13**

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name *was* Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.

 2 He did right in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left.

 3 Now in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan, the son of Azaliah the son of Meshullam the scribe, to the house of the LORD saying,

 4 "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest that he may count the money brought in to the house of the LORD which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.

 5 "Let them deliver it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD, and let them give it to the workmen who are in the house of the LORD to repair the damages of the house,

 6 to the carpenters and the builders and the masons and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair the house.

 7 "Only no accounting shall be made with them for the money delivered into their hands, for they deal faithfully."

 8 Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan who read it.

 9 Shaphan the scribe came to the king and brought back word to the king and said, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD."

 10 Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.

 11 When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.

 12 Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Micaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king's servant saying,

 13 "Go, inquire of the LORD for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the LORD that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

**Awakened and Enlightened**

The First Great Awakening took place during the Age of Enlightenment/Age of Reason. We see the mixture of the two in America’s founding documents. God is acknowledged in the Declaration of Independence. However, in the Constitution, the document is signed noting the date “In the Year of Our Lord” being the reference to God. The Constitution is the law of the land, whereas the Declaration of Independence is not.

 During the founding era, the miracles of the Bible had long been questioned. Thus, the numbers had grown regarding people who styled themselves Deist, meaning that God created all things then stepped back and watched. This is in contrast to a Theist, who recognizes that God interacts with the affairs of people. This interaction produces miracles. We can see why the historical designation of the Age of Reason was attached. Miracles were not reasonable. In addition, the claims of the State-Church in all areas of life and government had come ‘crashing down’ during the Reformation. Anyone who was able to obtain a Bible and read for themselves soon came to the conclusion that there wasn’t any infant baptism, treasury of merits, purchase of indulgences, purgatory, transubstantiation or demand for celibate priests, and that list could continue. All of these were not “reasonable” to the biblically literate, if you will, “enlightened” person.

 So, it is my opinion that the First Great Awakening had a tremendous impact upon the founding of America. Many pushed back against the Age of Reason/Enlightenment movement. America would not experience what the French called for with their Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789) that did not claim laws or rights of people derived from God. In America, to a large degree, there was somewhat of a balance between state and church. We see this in the Bill of Rights with the first Ten Amendments.

 Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;

 or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;

or the right of the people peaceably to assemble,

and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

America was launched with skeptical reservation that people could rule themselves. Be it, at the time, basically only white male land owners could vote. As we have noted, many details, at a great price, had to be worked-out over time. Slavery, women’s and the common person’s right to vote to name a few*. It is my view that America was designed from the beginning to be governed by people with a biblical moral compass, and who prayed to “The God” who interacted with the affairs of people.* This is why George Washington’s closing address is so important. We should not forget that Washington straightly stated that Americans would not be secure with their property or life if the principles of religion were ignored. Here is the paragraph where Washington highlights the foundation upon which America was formed.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked: Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

**Ezra 9:8** "But now for a brief moment grace has been *shown* from the LORD our God, to leave us an escaped remnant and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our bondage.

**Job 33:29-30** 29 "Behold, God does all these oftentimes with men,

30 To bring back his soul from the pit, That he may be enlightened with the light of life.

**Ephesians 1:18** *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

After the founding era, historians record that there was a subsidence in the overall religious landscape. Then there was the war in 1812 with the British. Times were challenging for people to settle-in and live life to somewhat of a peaceful existence. To a large degree, America in our lifetime has provided an environment in which to be successful. The wars we fought were overseas. Yes, there was Pearl Harbor for older Americans and, in more recent times, 911. The point being is the Church overall had a better environment to grow in more recent times. It is observed that the Church has grown very well in hard times and times of persecution.

The Second Great Awakening (SGA) came just in time. Historians note that the beginning of the SGA can be seen as early as the 1790’s with the American Frontier being a place of a less formal approach to spirituality taking place. What are called Camp Meetings started to address those people not so close to the more populated areas, and the Camp Meetings provided a place where people took more liberty in expressing their spiritual life. The high spiral staircase preachers that climbed to peer-down upon congregates were not present.

**Second** **Great Awakening Leaders** (c. 1790–1840) Charles Finney, Barton Stone, James McGready, Timothy Dwight, Lyman Beecher

 Second Great Awakening

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT, UNITED STATES

WRITTEN BY:

* [The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/editor/The-Editors-of-Encyclopaedia-Britannica/4419)

[See Article History](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Second-Great-Awakening#accordion-article-history)

**Second Great Awakening**, [Protestant](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Protestantism) religious revival in the [United States](https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States) from about 1795 to 1835. During this revival, meetings were held in small towns and large cities throughout the country, and the unique frontier institution known as the [camp meeting](https://www.britannica.com/topic/camp-meeting) began. Many churches experienced a great increase in membership, particularly among [Methodist](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Methodism) and [Baptist](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Baptist) churches. The Second Great Awakening made soul-winning the primary function of ministry and stimulated several [moral](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/moral) and philanthropic reforms, including [temperance](https://www.britannica.com/topic/temperance-movement) and the emancipation of women. Generally considered less emotional than the [Great Awakening](https://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Awakening) of the early 18th century, the second wave of evangelical [revivalism](https://www.britannica.com/topic/revivalism-Christianity) led to the founding of numerous colleges and seminaries and to the organization of mission societies across the country.

The Second Great Awakening can be divided into three phases. The first phase (1795–1810) was associated with frontier camp meetings conducted by American preachers [James McGready](https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-McGready), John McGee, and [Barton W. Stone](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Barton-W-Stone) in [Kentucky](https://www.britannica.com/place/Kentucky) and [Tennessee](https://www.britannica.com/place/Tennessee). The second and more [conservative](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conservative) phase of the awakening (1810–25) centred in the [Congregational churches](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Congregationalism) of [New England](https://www.britannica.com/place/New-England) under the leadership of theologians [Timothy Dwight](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Timothy-Dwight), [Lyman Beecher](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lyman-Beecher), Nathaniel W. Taylor, and Asahel Nettleton. The third and final phase (1825–35) stemmed from the activities of evangelist [Charles Grandison Finney](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Grandison-Finney), who began his revivalism in small towns in western [New York](https://www.britannica.com/place/New-York-state) in the 1820s but eventually conducted revival meetings in the largest cities in the United States and Britain.

During the Second Great Awakening revivalistic theology in many denominations shifted from [Calvinism](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Calvinism) to a practical [Arminianism](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Arminianism) as preachers emphasized the ability of sinners to make an immediate decision for their [salvation](https://www.britannica.com/topic/salvation-religion); theological differences almost disappeared among evangelical churches. Moreover, under Finney’s aegis a rationale for carefully contrived revival techniques evolved. After 1835 an irregular corps of professional revival experts traveled through the towns and cities of America and Britain organizing annual revival meetings at the invitation of local pastors who wanted to reinvigorate their churches. Although many American Protestants lost interest in revivalism in the first half of the 20th century, tent revivals as well as annual revivals in churches in [the South](https://www.britannica.com/place/the-South-region) and [Midwest](https://www.britannica.com/place/Middle-West) continued to be an important feature of Protestant church life.

[*The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica*](https://www.britannica.com/editor/The-Editors-of-Encyclopaedia-Britannica/4419)*This article was most recently revised and updated by*[*Melissa Petruzzello*](https://www.britannica.com/editor/Melissa-Petruzzello/9400228)*, Assistant Editor.*

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Second-Great-Awakening>

**Camp Meetings** started. This movement was not limited to but saw heavy Methodist and Baptist participation. Camp meetings were held in city and rural areas. The frontier of America was a ripe setting for Camp Meetings. People would travel from far away to attend these week long or so meetings. There were days of prayer, preaching and song.

  [James McGready](https://www.britannica.com/biography/James-McGready) (c. 1760–1817), a Presbyterian, with inaugurating the first typical camp meetings in 1799–1801 in Logan county, Kentucky. Other ministers who associated with McGready subsequently spread his methods throughout the southwestern [United States](https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States).

As the name implies, those who attended such meetings came prepared to camp out, gathering at the prearranged time and place from distances as great as 30 to 40 miles (50 to 65 km) away. Families pitched their tents around a forest clearing where log benches and a rude preaching platform [constituted](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/constituted) an outdoor [church](https://www.britannica.com/topic/church-Christianity) that remained in almost constant session for three or four days. As many as 10,000 to 20,000 people were reported at some meetings. People came partly out of curiosity, partly out of a desire for social contact and festivity, but primarily out of their yearning for religious [worship](https://www.britannica.com/topic/worship). Activities included preaching, [prayer](https://www.britannica.com/topic/prayer) meetings, [hymn](https://www.britannica.com/topic/hymn) singing, weddings, and baptisms. The theology of the preachers varied, but a sudden conversion experience was usually emphasized.

Often the occasion for wild enthusiasm and [hysteria](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hysteria) in the early years, camp meetings acquired a bad reputation among [conservative](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conservative) churchmen. The Presbyterian church refused to participate after 1805. Nevertheless, camp meetings were an important part of the frontier ministries of the Methodists, Baptists, Shakers, [Disciples](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Disciples), and Cumberland Presbyterians. The [Methodist church](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Methodism) profited most by their popularity and gradually institutionalized them into its system of evangelism. By 1811 the Methodist bishop [Francis Asbury](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Francis-Asbury) reported in his journal that over 400 camp meetings were held annually along the frontier from Georgia to Michigan.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/camp-meeting>

 Also, men like Joseph Smith claimed special revelations from God and established the Mormon Church. Here is a reference in Wikipedia.

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| **Classification** | [Latter Day Saint movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter_Day_Saint_movement) |
| **Theology** | * [Nontrinitarian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nontrinitarianism)
* [Mormonism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mormonism)
 |
| [**Governance**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecclesiastical_polity) | [Hierarchical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Episcopal_polity) |
| **President** | [Russell M. Nelson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russell_M._Nelson) |
| **Region** | 176 nations & territories |
| **Headquarters** | [Salt Lake City, Utah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt_Lake_City), United States |
| **Founder** | [Joseph Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Smith)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#cite_note-THBJ-1) |
| **Origin** | 6 April 1830; 189 years ago[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#cite_note-2) as [Church of Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Christ_%28Latter_Day_Saints%29)[Fayette, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fayette%2C_New_York), United States |
| **Separations** | [LDS denominations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_denominations_in_the_Latter_Day_Saint_movement) |
| **Congregations** | 30,536 (2018)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#cite_note-Statistics_2019-3) |
| **Members** | 16,313,735 (2018)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#cite_note-Statistics_2019-3) |
| [**Missionaries**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missionary) | 65,137 (2018)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#cite_note-Statistics_2019-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#cite_note-4) |
| **Aid organization** | [Latter-day Saint Charities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter-day_Saint_Charities) |
| [**Tertiary institutions**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_education) | [4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Educational_System#Higher_education)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints#cite_note-MormonNewsroom.org_Education-5) |
| **Other name(s)** | * LDS Church
* Mormon Church
 |
| **Official website** | [churchofjesuschrist.org](http://churchofjesuschrist.org/) |

A few of their distinctive beliefs provided by the Baptist North American Mission Board.

<https://www.namb.net/apologetics-blog/comparison-chart-mormonism-and-christianity/>

God (Heavenly Father) is an exalted man with a physical body of flesh and bone. LDS founder Joseph Smith said, "If the veil were rent today, and the great God who holds this world in its orbit, and who upholds all worlds and all things by his power, was to make himself visible-I say, if you were to see him today, you would see him like a man in form" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345).

Recognizes the LDS Four Standard Works as authoritative. These include the Bible "as far as it is translated correctly" (Articles of Faith 1:8). It also includes The Book of Mormon (BOM) which Joseph Smith declared is "the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts, than by any other book" (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 194).

One of three levels of glory:

1. Exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom for faithful Mormons where people may become gods or angels; "Then shall they be gods" (*D&C* 132:20).

2. Terrestrial Kingdom for righteous non-Mormons; "These are they who are honorable men of the earth, who were blinded by the craftiness of men. These are they who receive of his glory, but not of his fullness" (*D&C* 76:75-76).

3. Telestial Kingdom for wicked and ungodly (not hell); "These are they who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers . . . who suffer the wrath of God on earth"(*D&C* 76:103-104). (See also D&C 76:57-119; 131:1-4.)

People are the preexisted spiritual offspring of the Heavenly Father and Mother. "All men and women are . . . literally the sons and daughters of Deity . . . Man, as a spirit, was begotten and born of heavenly parents, and reared to maturity in the eternal mansions of the Father, prior to coming upon the earth in a temporal (physical) body" (Joseph F. Smith, "The Origin of Man," Improvement Era, Nov. 1909, pp. 78,80, as quoted in GP, p. 11).They are born basically good and are "gods in embryo." A commonly quoted Mormon aphorism (attributed to fifth LDS president Lorenzo Snow) says "As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become."

Asserts that the LDS is the one true church on the face of the earth. Joseph Smith claimed Jesus Christ told him to join none of the existing denominations because "they were all wrong . . . that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt" (PGP: Joseph Smith-History 1:19-20). Mormons claim only the LDS possesses the divine authority of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood as restored by God to Joseph Smith in 1829. (D&C 13; 27:8- 13; 107:1-20; PGP: Joseph Smith-History 1:68-73)

**Anticipation of Spiritual Awakening:**

Consider these steps to becoming a contagious Believer/Christian.

1. Praying and Walking in the Lord

2. Preparing through Bible study

3. Being spiritual attuned to others

**Revelation 22:10-17**

 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

 11 "Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

 13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

 16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

 17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. **AMEN**