

# Church Revitalisation

A 10 Week Online Training Course  
Session Two : the Biblical Basis for Revitalisation

# The concept of revitalisation runs through the Old Testament

*“Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us”*

(Romans 15.4)

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# The concept of revitalisation runs through the Old Testament

- The role of the prophets in Biblical revelation
- “The next generation” : Judges 2.10 (a pattern followed by the cycle of kings throughout the OT)
- “A heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 11.19, 36.26) / “a circumcised heart” (Dt 10.16, Jeremiah 4.4, 9.25).
- Ezekiel 37 the dry bones (v3 “Can these bones live?”)

# The concept of revitalisation runs through the Old Testament

- The 1st return from Exile to rebuild the temple of Jerusalem 537 BC under the leadership of Jeshua and Zerubbabel
  - Inspired by the prophets Haggai and Zechariah (in 520 BC)
  - ❖ “My house remains a ruin while each of you is busy with his own house” (Haggai 1.3)
  - ❖ “Return to me and I will return to you” (Zechariah 1.3)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> return to build the city walls under the leadership of Ezra (in 458 BC) and Nehemiah (in 445 and 435 BC)
  - Inspired by the prophet Malachi (in 460 BC)

# Revitalisation in the New Testament is emphasised in the 7 letters to the churches in the book of Revelation

- ❖ Smyrna and Philadelphia told to be “faithful” and to “hold on”
- ❖ The others are told to repent
  - Ephesus : loss of their first love (2.4)
  - Pergamum : the need to fight against error (2.14-15)
  - Thyatira : the need to fight against sin and immorality (2.20)
  - Sardis : the church has the reputation of being alive but it is dead (3.1)
  - Laodicea : the church is lukewarm (3.15)

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## The Ephesus Church (*Revelation 2.5*)

- ❖ Remember
- ❖ Repent
- ❖ Recover the first things

## The Sardis Church (*Revelation 3.1-3*)

- ❖ Wake up ! Strengthen what remains
- ❖ Remember
- ❖ Obey and repent

# The need for repentance

Repentance = a new way of thinking (which will lead to a new way of acting).

What is our mental picture and how should it change ? “We take every thought captive to make it obedient to God” (2 Corinthians 10.3-6)

# Repentance is necessary

- for our conversion (“Repent and believe”)
- for our Christian life (“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” - Romans 12.2)
- for our corporate life (the church)

