Calling the



Sound Mind Ministries
DIANA KETTERMAN



SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

Solemn Assembly
Message #3

- Most Christians have never heard of a **solemn assembly**.
- Of the small number who have, most consider it an Old Testament practice with **no particular relevance today**.
- We can see from the examples in the Old Testament that prior to a solemn assembly there were at least **four factors proceeding the event**.
- 1. **A Tragic Deterioration** – Every solemn assembly in the Old Testament is preceded by **a period of moral and spiritual decline** among the people of God.
- In Exodus 32-33, the decline included the **building of the golden calf** and its **worship**.
- Later, the **Ark of the Covenant was out of its rightful place** in Jerusalem for more than six decades.



- 2. **A Righteous Judgement** from God – without any exception, the Old Testament solemn assemblies were preceded by some kind of a **righteous judgment** from God.
- While some of these judgments were **immediate** and **final**, resulting in **deaths** among the **wicked**; others are **gracious** and **remedial**, resulting in **brokenness, prayer**, **repentance** and **extraordinary seeking of God's face**.



- The Raising Up of an Immensely **Burdened Leader(s)**
  - **Moses** – Exodus 32
  - **Samuel** – Samuel 7
  - **David** – Samuel 6, 7
  - **Asa** – Chronicles 14-16
  - **Jehoshaphat** – Chronicles 17-20
  - **Jehoiada** – Chronicles 23-24
  - **Hezekiah** – Chronicles 29-32
  - **Zerubbabel** – Ezra 1-6
  - **Ezra** – Ezra 7-10
  - **Nehemiah** – Nehemiah 1-13
  - **Joel** – Joel 1:1-2:27
- Obviously **in each case**, God raised up a leader who was under the **HEAVY BURDEN** of the **MORAL** and SPIRITUAL needs of His people.
- The words of Moses in Exodus 32:32 forcefully emphasize this:
  - **Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--**; and if not, **blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.**



- 4. Some **Extraordinary Action** – While this action varies from incident to incident, the **most common action** taken was that of a **SOLEMN ASSEMBLY**.
  - Exodus 33:7-11 – **Moses** took the tent and pitched it outside the camp, **a good distance from the camp.** He called it the **place of the meeting** and **required everyone who sought the Lord to go outside the camp, away from the place of sin, to the tabernacle to meet the Lord.**
    - And Moses took the tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the **Tabernacle of the congregation**. And it came to pass, *that* **every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which *was* without the camp.**
    - And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, *that* **all the people rose up**, and stood every man *at* his tent door, and looked after Moses, **until he was gone into the tabernacle**.
    - And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood *at* the door of the tabernacle, and ***the LORD* talked with Moses**.
    - And **all the people saw the cloudy pillar** stand *at* the tabernacle door: and **all the people rose up and worshipped, every man *in* his tent door.**
    - And **the LORD spake unto Moses face to face**, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle. Exodus 33:7-11



- **Samuel** required **all of Israel** to gather at Mizpah in a Solemn Assembly where **he prayed for them** and **they fasted** and **confessed** their sins.
  - And Samuel said, **Gather all Israel** to Mizpeh, and **I will pray for you unto the LORD.**
  - And they **gathered together** to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured *it* out before the LORD, and **fasted** on that day, and said there, **We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel** in Mizpeh. 1 Samuel 7:5-6



- After a bad start in sinning against the Lord by moving the Ark of the Covenant on a new cart, **David** and the people moved it according to the Word of the Lord and in joyful humiliation, he **danced before the Lord with all his might in a linen ephod** – having laid aside his crown and royal robes, he acted as a common man among common men.
    - And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.
    - And David **assembled the children** of Aaron, and the Levites: …And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab,
    - And said unto them, Ye *are* the chief of the fathers of the Levites: **sanctify yourselves**, ***both*** **ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto *the place that* I have prepared for it.**
    - **For because ye *did it* not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us**, for that we sought him not after the due order.
    - So the priests and the Levites **sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God** of Israel.
    - And the children of the Levites **bare the ark of God upon their shoulders** with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD. 1 Chronicles 15:3-15



- **Asa** called a **solemn assembly** in Jerusalem where the people entered into a **covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers** with all their **hearts** and with all their souls.
    - And **he gathered all Judah and Benjamin**, **and the strangers with them** out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God *was* with him.
    - So **they gathered themselves together** at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.
    - And they **offered** unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil *which* they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.
    - And they entered into a covenant **to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;**
    - That **whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death**, whether small or great, whether man or woman.
    - And they **sware unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets**.
    - And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: **for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about**. 2 Chronicles 15:9-15



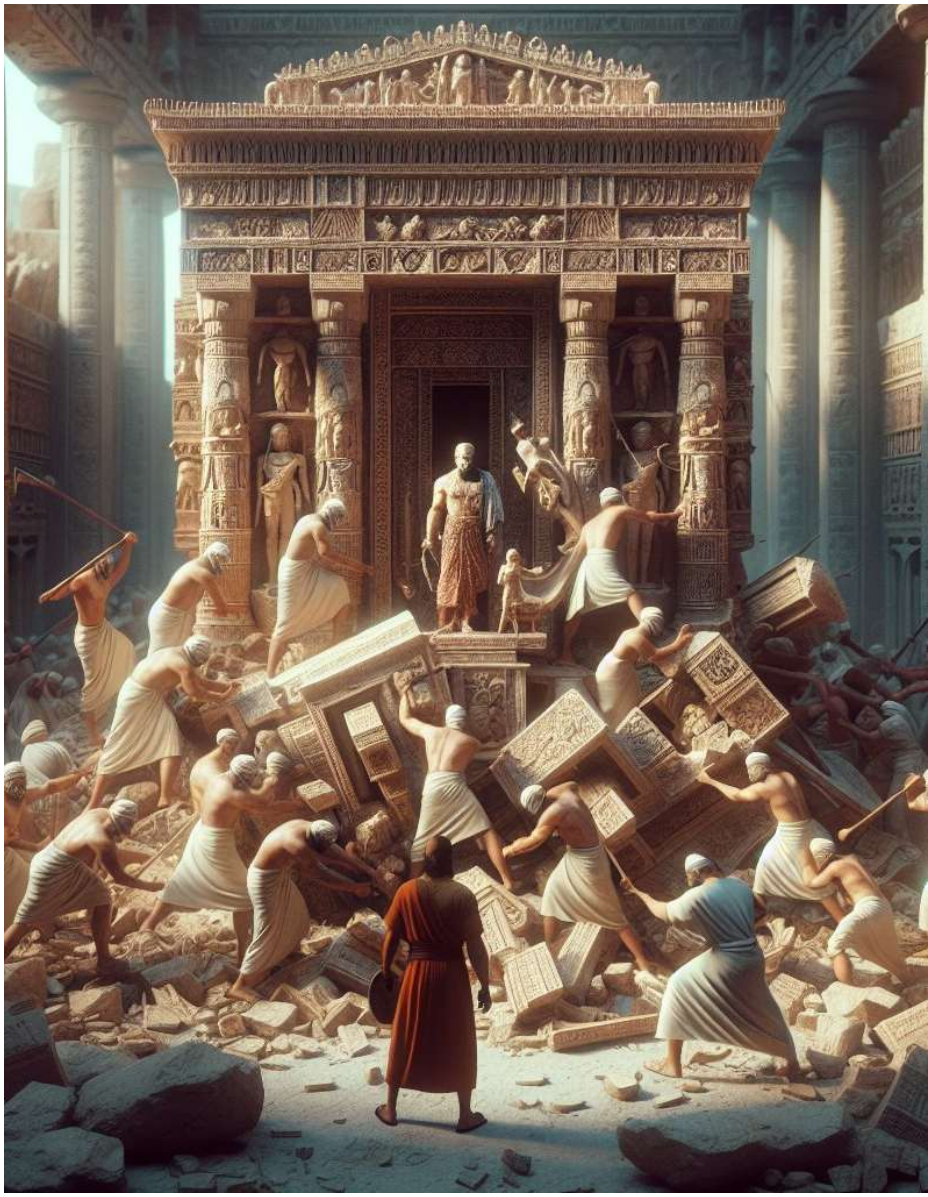
- **Jehoshaphat** called a solemn assembly throughout all Judah and Jerusalem and the people fasted and sought the Lord.
    - And **Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah**.
    - And Judah **gathered themselves together, to ask *help* of the LORD**: even out of all the cities of Judah **they came to seek the LORD.**
    - And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,
    - And said, O LORD God of our fathers, *art* not thou God in heaven? and rulest *not* thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and **in thine hand *is there not* power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee**?
    - *Art* not thou our God, *who* didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?
    - And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,
    - **If, *when* evil cometh upon us, *as* the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence,** (for thy name *is* in this house,) **and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help**.
    - And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, **but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;**
    - Behold, *I say, how* they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.
    - **O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes *are* upon thee.**
    - **And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children**. 2 Chronicles 20:3-13



Richard Roberts

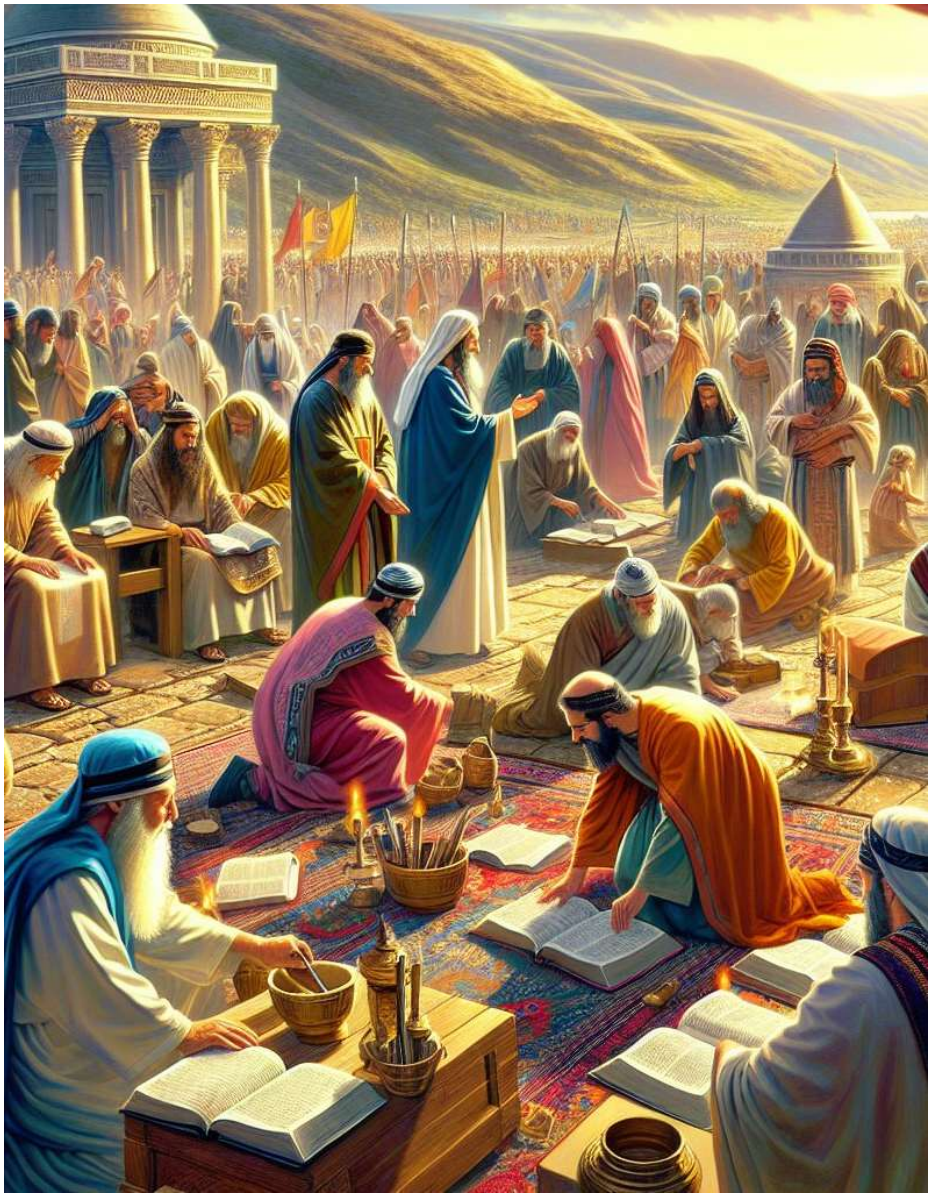
- **Jehoiada**, in a solemn assembly, made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they should be the Lord's people. They then proceeded **to cleanse the land of the evil**.
  - And **Jehoiada made a covenant between him,** and between all the people, and between the king, **that they should be the LORD'S people**.
  - **Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.**
  - Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to **offer the burnt offerings** of the LORD, as *it is* written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, *as it was ordained* by David. 2 Chronicles 23:16-18

Richard Roberts



- **Hezekiah** and the leaders **established a decree** which was very extensively **circulated requiring all the people to gather for a solemn assembly** and the celebration of the Passover. An entire fourteen days were **devoted to seeking the Lord and worshiping Him**.
    - And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, **sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God** of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy *place*.
    - For our fathers have trespassed, and done *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and **have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned *their* backs**.
    - Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and **have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy *place* unto the God of Israel.**
    - Wherefore **the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem**, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.
    - For, lo, our fathers have **fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives *are* in captivity for this**.
    - Now *it is* in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that **his fierce wrath may turn away from us**.
    - My sons, be not now negligent: **for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.**
    - Then the Levites arose, … and they **gathered their brethren**, and **sanctified themselves**, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the LORD, **to cleanse the house of the LORD.**
    - And the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD, to cleanse *it*, and **brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD** into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took *it*, to carry *it* out abroad into the brook Kidron. 2 Chronicles 29:5-16

Richard Roberts



- **Josiah gathered the people** together in a solemn assembly, and they entered into a **covenant** with the Lord **to walk in all his ways** and to **perform all the words** of the covenant written in the Book.
    - And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, **to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies**, and **his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words** of the covenant which are written in this book.
    - And **he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand *to it*.** And the inhabitants of Jerusalem **did according to the covenant** of God, the God of their fathers.
    - And **Josiah took away all the abominations out of all the countries** that *pertained* to the children of Israel, and **made all that were present in Israel to serve, *even* to serve the LORD their God**. *And* all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers. 2 Chronicles 34:31-33

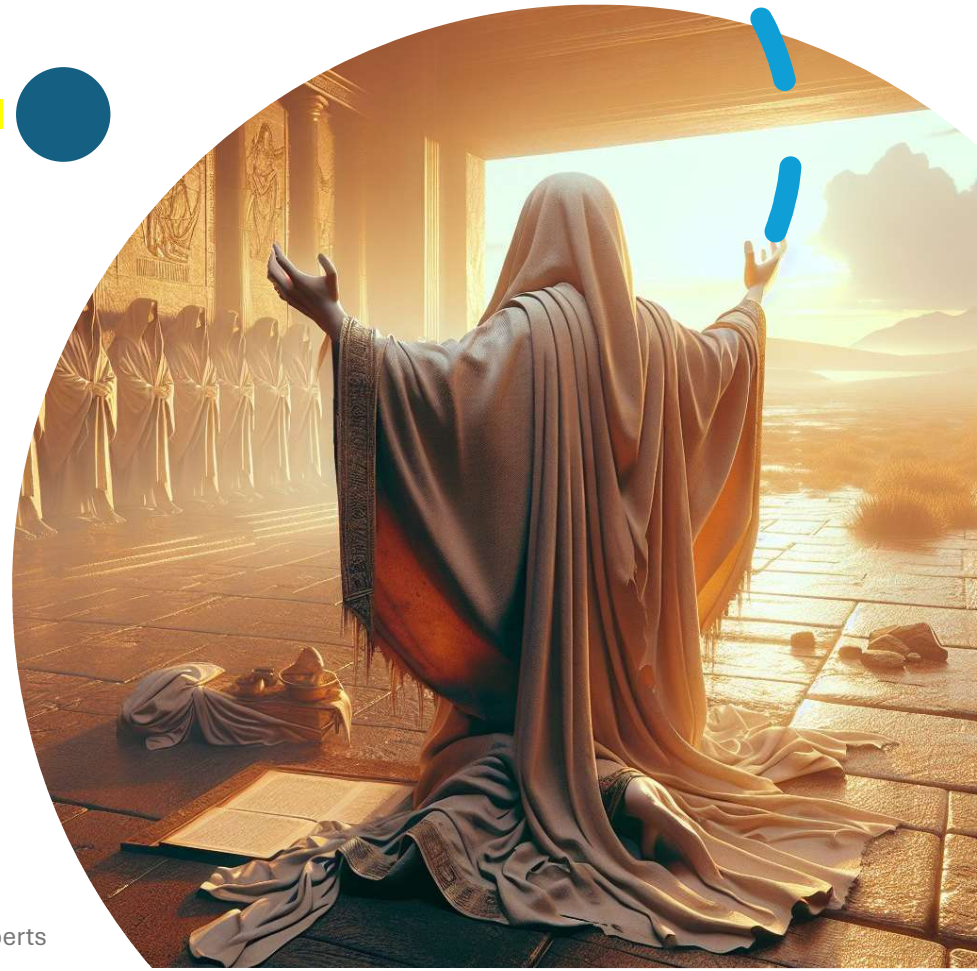


- **Zerubbabel** led the people in a solemn assembly and a seven-day celebration of the Passover in which they **separated themselves from the impurity of the nations** and **pledged themselves to seek the Lord God** of Israel.
  - And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, **kept the dedication of this house of God with joy**,
  - And **offered** at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for **a sin offering for all Israel,** twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel....
  - And the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity, and **all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,**
  - And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had **made them joyful**, and **turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them**, to **strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God**, the God of Israel. Ezra 6:16-22



Richard Roberts

- **Ezra** proclaimed a fast at the River Ahava that they might all **humble themselves and seek the Lord**. They later engaged in **public humiliation and putting away of sin** in the form of a solemn assembly.
    - Then I **proclaimed a fast** there, at the river of Ahava, that we might **afflict ourselves** before our God, to **seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance**.
    - For **I was ashamed** to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God *is* upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath *is* against all them that forsake him.
    - **So we fasted and besought our God for this**: and he was intreated of us.
    - And at the evening sacrifice I **arose up from my heaviness**; and **having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God,**
    - And said, **O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee**, my God: for **our iniquities are increased over *our* head**, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.
    - Since the days of our fathers *have* we *been* in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, *and* our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the **sword**, to **captivity**, and to a **spoil**, and **to confusion of face**, as *it is* this day.
    - And now for a little space grace hath been *shewed* from the LORD our God, **to leave us a remnant to escape**, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.
    - For **we *were* bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations** thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.
    - And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? **for we have forsaken thy commandments,**
    - Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, **is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness**.
    - Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, **nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land**, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your children for ever.
    - And **after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass**, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us *such* deliverance as this;
    - **Should we again break thy commandments**, and **join in affinity with the people of these abominations?** wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed *us*, so that *there should be* no remnant nor escaping?
    - O LORD God of Israel, thou *art* righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as *it is* this day: **behold, we *are* before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.**
    Ezra 8:21-33; 9:5-15



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- A solemn assembly was held in front of the Water Gate **where the Book of the Law of Moses was read by the hour and an agreement was made in writing to put away sin and to seek the Lord** with all their hearts.
    - And **all the people gathered themselves together** as one man into the street that *was* before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to **bring the book of the law of Moses**, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.
    - And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and **all that could hear with understanding,** upon the first day of the seventh month.
    - And **he read therein before the street** that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law.
    - And **Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood**, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, *and* Meshullam.
    - And **Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people**; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, **all the people stood up:**
    - And **Ezra blessed the LORD**, the great God. And **all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.**
    - Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, **caused the people to understand the law**: and **the people *stood* in their place.**
    - So **they read in the book in the law of God distinctly**, and gave the sense, and **caused *them* to understand the reading**. Nehemiah 8:1-8



- **Joel** called a solemn assembly in which all the people were required to be in attendance and where all were required to return to the Lord with all their hearts, with **fasting**, **weeping** and **mourning**, and where they were **required** to **rend their hearts** and not their garments.
  - **Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God:** for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.
  - Therefore also now, saith the LORD, **turn ye *even* to me with all your heart**, and with **fasting**, and with **weeping**, and with **mourning**:
  - And **rend your heart**, and not your garments, and **turn unto the LORD your God:** for he *is* gracious and **merciful**, **slow to anger**, and of **great kindness**, and **repenteth** him of the evil.
  - Who knoweth *if* he will **return** and **repent**, and leave a blessing behind him; *even* a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?
  - **Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly**:
  - **Gather the people**, **sanctify the congregation**, **assemble the elders, gather the children**, and those that suck the breasts: let the **bridegroom** go forth of his chamber, and the **bride** out of her closet.
  - **Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar**, and let them say, **Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them:** wherefore should they say among the people, Where *is* their God? Joel 1:13; 2:12-17



- Consider the situation at the time of the solemn assembly **called by the Prophet Joel**.
- The people, as was common, were guilty of **flagrant sin which had not been confessed** and **put away.**
- God visited them with a **remedial judgement** – a plague of **locusts** of such proportion that nothing like it had happened before.
    - That which the **palmerworm** hath left hath the **locust** eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the **cankerworm** eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the **caterpiller** eaten. Joel 1:4
- **In addition** to the terrible plague of insects, **a fierce drought had afflicted the land.**
- **The drunkards wailed** because they had no new wine to drink, **the priests mourned** because the grain offering and the libation were cut off from the house of the Lord, the fields were ruined and the land itself mourned, **the vinedressers wailed**, and **the beasts groaned** while the herds of cattle wandered aimlessly because there was no pasture for them.
- **The people themselves wailed like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth.** Joel 1:8



- Promises were offered as **encouragement**:
  - **Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people**.
  - Yea, **the LORD will answer** and say unto his people, **Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith**: and **I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen**:
  - But **I will remove far off from you the northern *army***, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up… Joel 2:18-20
- And in response to the **corporate repentance** of then people through the use of the **divinely ordained means of the solemn assembly**, the land rejoiced and was made glad.
- The **pastures of the wilderness turned green**.
- The **trees and the vines bore fruit**.
- And **the fruit borne was not ordinary but extraordinary** for God **moved the rainy** seasons closer together, and **caused the sun to shine** upon the earth, so that the **threshing floors were full** and the **vats overflowing.**



- So great was the blessing bestowed by the God who delights in a **broken and contrite people** that He made up to them the years that were lost to the mighty army of locusts.
- The people had **plenty** and were **satisfied** and **praised the name of the Lord who had dealt wondrously with them.**
- They **knew that God was in their midst**, that He only was God, and that there was none other!
- Unfortunately, some professed Christians will be reluctant to seriously think of a solemn assembly because the **examples** give were all out of the **Old Testament**.
- They would do well to **weigh the entire season** of **preparation** prior to Pentecost in the light of the solemn assembly and see that those days in **the Upper Room** were indeed a solemn assembly!



Richard Roberts

- Solemn assemblies were **very common** and were a **very important** part **of the life of believers in America** during all its **early years.**
- A large number of sermons that were preached at the Fast Days and solemn assemblies were attended by American believers **prior to the general decline of true Christianity**.
- **Our forefathers believed God was offended by sin**.
- They themselves were deeply troubled both by the existence of **personal sin** in their own lives and by the presence of **unconfessed corporate sins in the churches** and in the **nation**.

Richard Roberts



- **Natural calamities** were regarded as manifestations of the **displeasure of Almighty God** against **sin**.
- Events such as **earthquakes, fires, volcanoes, epidemics, floods**, and **droughts** brought a prompting to a special seeking of God's face in **fasting, pra**yer, and **corporate repentance**.
- The Lord was sought in solemn assemblies in connection with **wars, murders, sexual sins**, etc., believing such outbursts of **wickedness** to be **directly related to the general decline of moral and spiritual life in the churches.**



- Like any other God-ordained means of grace, the solemn assembly has the potential of being **corrupted**.
- The very severe denunciations of Isaiah 1:10-15 clearly indicate **God's contempt** for solemn assemblies that have lost their heart and have become **mere form and ritual.**
  - **Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.**
  - **To what purpose *is* the multitude of your sacrifices unto me**? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.
  - When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?
  - **Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination** unto me; **the new moons and sabbaths**, the **calling of assemblies**, I cannot away with; ***it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting**.
  - Your **new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth**: they are a trouble unto me; **I am weary to bear *them*.**
  - And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, **when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood**. Isaiah 1:10-15
- But **we must not abandon the solemn assembly because of its perpetual misuse and abuse**.

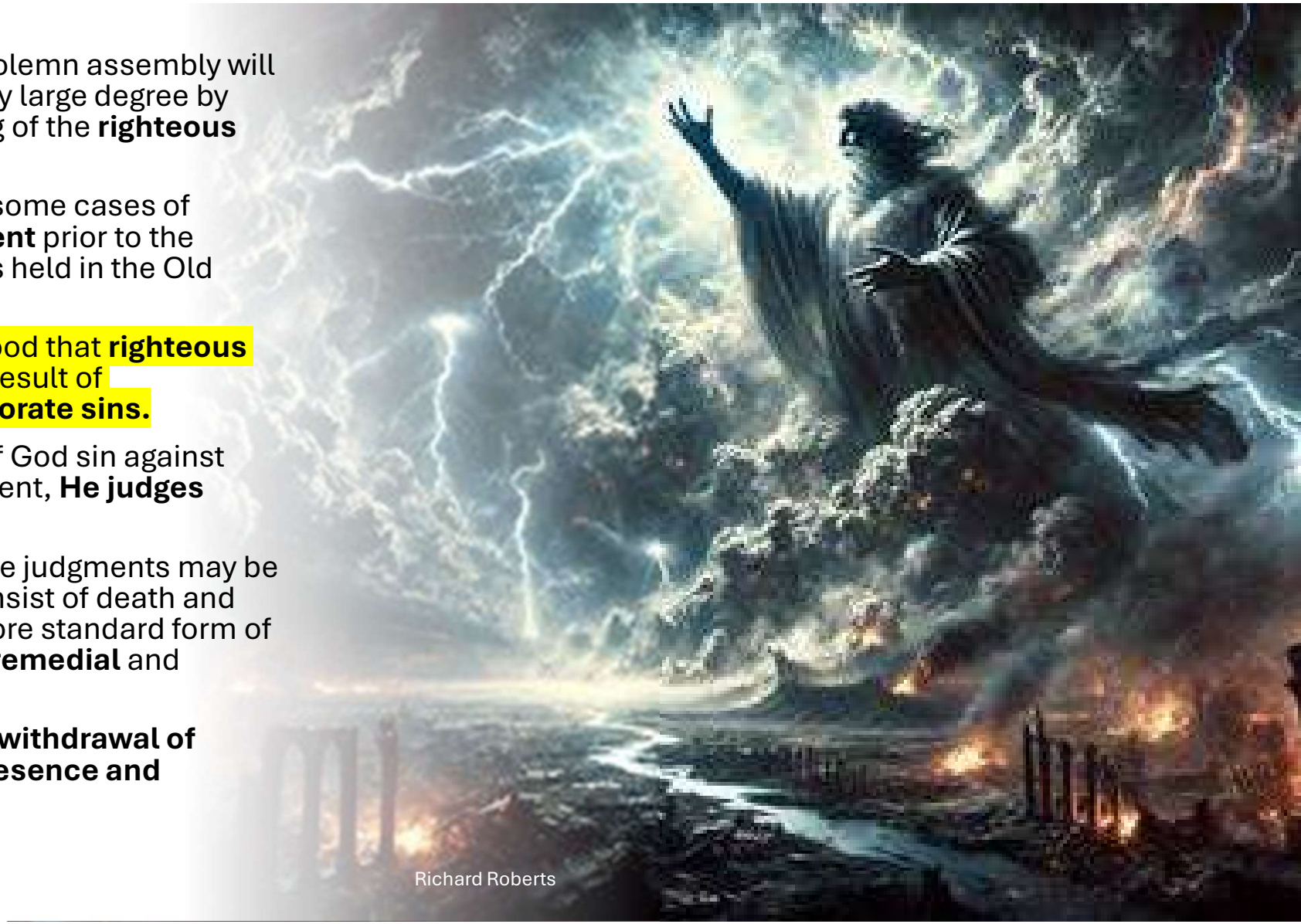


- Often **God as been degraded to a being scarcely bigger than man.**
- **Humans have assumed gigantic proportions in their own eyes**.
- In consequence of this, **professed Christians** have felt at liberty to **neglect major portions of Scripture** and to be virtually **untaught in** and **unaffected** by the long history of the Christian Church.
- The **solemn assembly has fallen into oblivion** at the hands of a people too **arrogant** to know that their own **corporate sins,** especially those **heart sins of pride, unbelief**, and **rebellion**, **have created a nation ripe for destruction.**





- One's view of the solemn assembly will be affected to a very large degree by their understanding of the **righteous judgments of God**.
- We have reviewed some cases of **righteous judgement** prior to the solemn assemblies held in the Old Testament.
- It must be understood that **righteous judgements** are a result of **unconfessed corporate sins.**
- When the people of God sin against Him and do not repent, **He judges them**.
- While some of these judgments may be called final and consist of death and destruction, the more standard form of judgement is both **remedial** and **gracious**.
- **Often there was a withdrawal of God's manifest presence and merciful favors.**



- In the absence of God's manifest presence there is always an **immediate and extensive increase in iniquity**.
- This may be compared to the effect upon a city of the **police force** going on strike.
- It is the **visible manifestation of law and order** in the form of policemen, police cars, etc. that keeps crime somewhat restrained.
- When the police are on **strike**, when they are known to be **corrupt** themselves, or when it is known that arrests are **meaningless** because of laxity of judges, a community must anticipate a tragic increase in crime.
- Just so, **when God withdraws evidence of His manifest presence from a people, there is always a horrendous increase in iniquity and decline in spirituality.**



- We are living in a time where there is a **great increase of immorality** and a **great decrease of true biblical spirituality** in America.
- **Why has this occurred?**
- **Is it because the devil is more powerful than he used to be?**
- **No, it is because God has judged America with the remedial judgment of the withdrawal of certain manifestations of his gracious presence and mercy.**
- **And many "Christians" think they can control this by becoming involved with the policial system rather than on their knees.**



- As soon as it becomes evident that **immorality is on the increase** and **spirituality is on the decline**, the **biblically sound and spiritually** alive Church will not foolishly blame the world **but will immediately recognize ITS OWN COMPLICITY!**
- **The Church must first REPENT, for the righteous judgment is not against the world, but against the CHURCH!**
- Therefore, in times of **spiritual decline** and **moral decadence**, the great duty of every Christian is both to **discover those sins which have caused the judgement** and to **put them away** by that method which God Himself has chosen.
- **The method God has chosen is the solemn assembly**.
- **Corporate sin** must be dealt with by **corporate repentance** according to divinely ordained methods.

Richard Roberts



- A solemn assembly is to be a time when normal **daily work is set aside.**
  - **it *is* a solemn assembly; *and* ye shall do no servile work *therein*.** Leviticus 23:36
  - …ye shall have a solemn assembly: ye shall do no servile work *therein*. Numbers 29:35
- It is clear that **work must be subjugated to spiritual concerns**.
- We are to **set aside our normal daily work** in order to **seek the face of God** during times of **righteous judgement**.

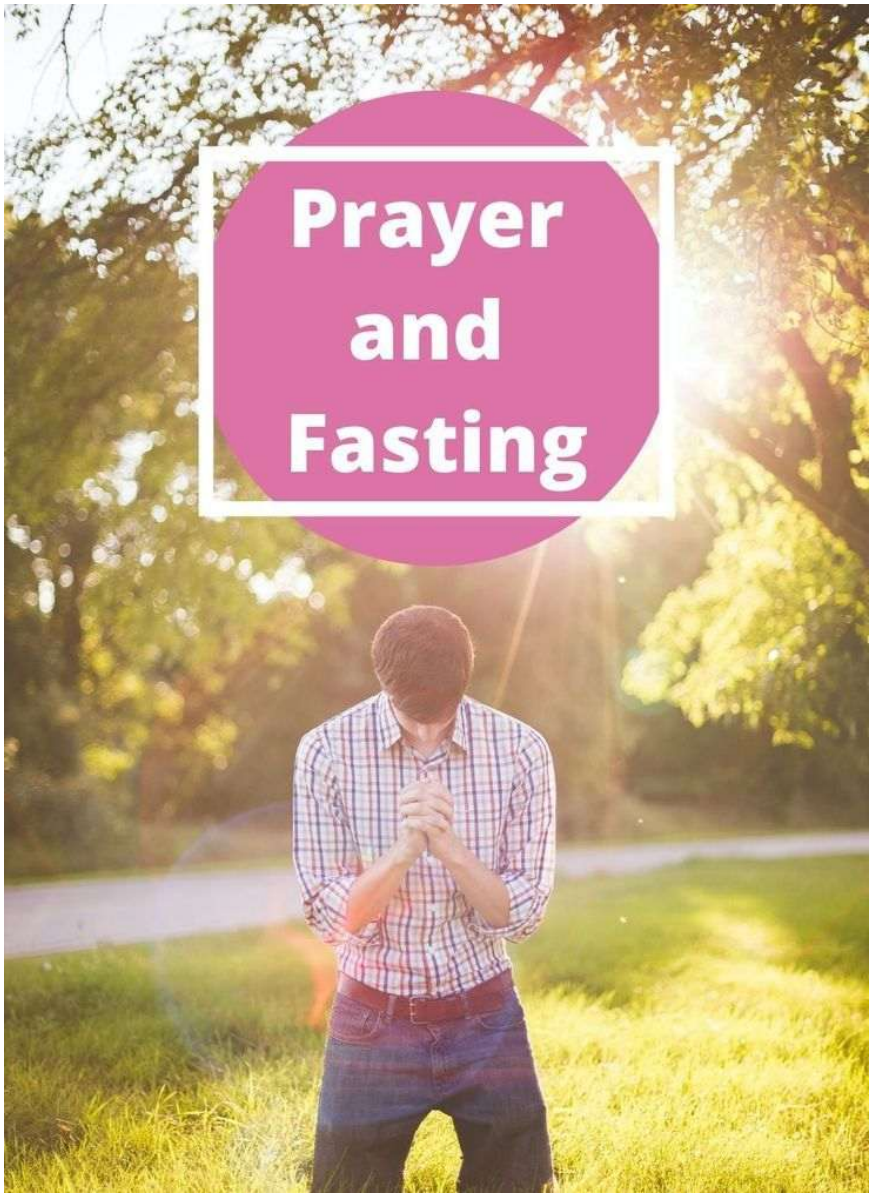


Rebellion -The Sin of Witchcraft

- A solemn assembly is a time when the **entire body of people affected** by the righteous judgement **are to be in attendance**.
- Even the **honeymooners** and the **mother with an infant baby** were required to be present in the time of Joel's solemn assembly.
  - **Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet**. Joel 2:16
- Part of the corporate sin that must be put away is that **spirit of rebellion** that exists in many professed Christians that causes them to believe that no spiritual leader can order them about.
- These would do well to observe the severity of the denunciations against **rebellion** and **stubbornness**.
  - **For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry.** Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee… 1 Samuel 15:23

- A solemn assembly is a **time of fasting.**
- We must realize there are issues that are **vastly more important** than the care of our bodies.
- In **fasting**, a believing people **acknowledge to God** that the **urgent concerns of the spiritual take precedence** over the normal concerns of the **physical**.
- Fasting is an **outward means** of demonstrating that **humility** before God acknowledges the **sins that provoked His judgement**.
- There are times when the b**odies of believers must be brought into subjection** so that the overwhelming necessities of the spiritual may receive their due attention.

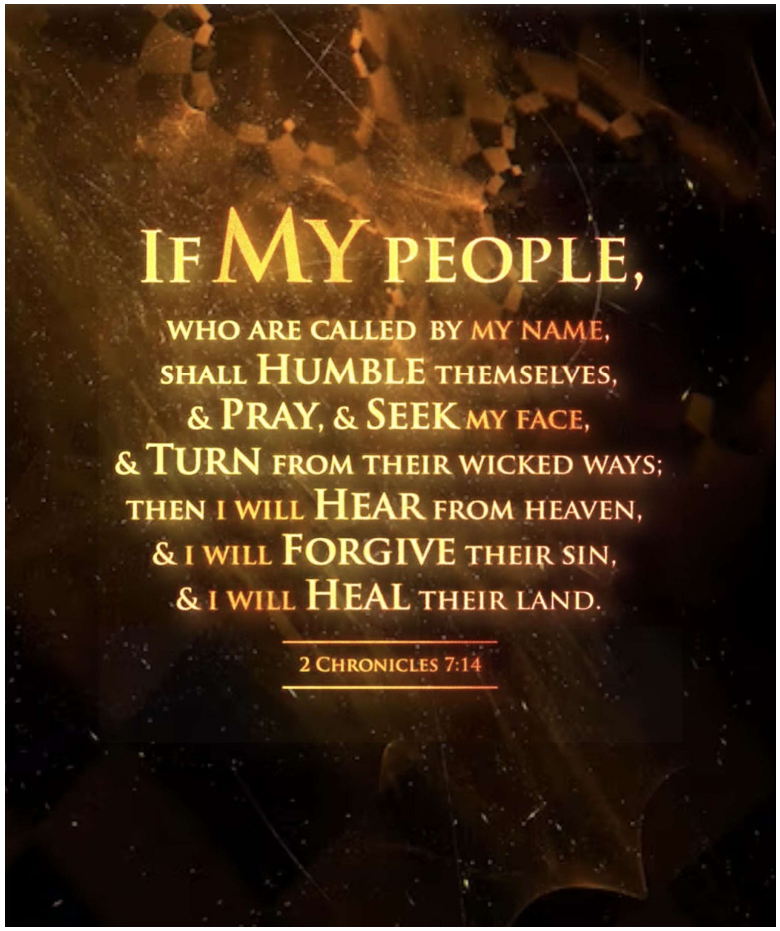
Richard Roberts



- A solemn assembly is a time for **sacrifice**.
  - Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and **over the sacrifices of your peace offerings**; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I *am* the LORD your God. Numbers 10:10
  - And will make an offering by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, or **a sacrifice in performing a vow**, or in a freewill offering, or in your solemn feasts, to make a sweet savour unto the LORD, of the herd, or of the flock. Numbers 15:3
- One of the greatest blessings God has given to mankind is the gift of time.
- **What sacrifice could be more significant than the sacrifice of time in order to participate fully in God's commanded method of reversing a righteous judgement against the Church or nation?**



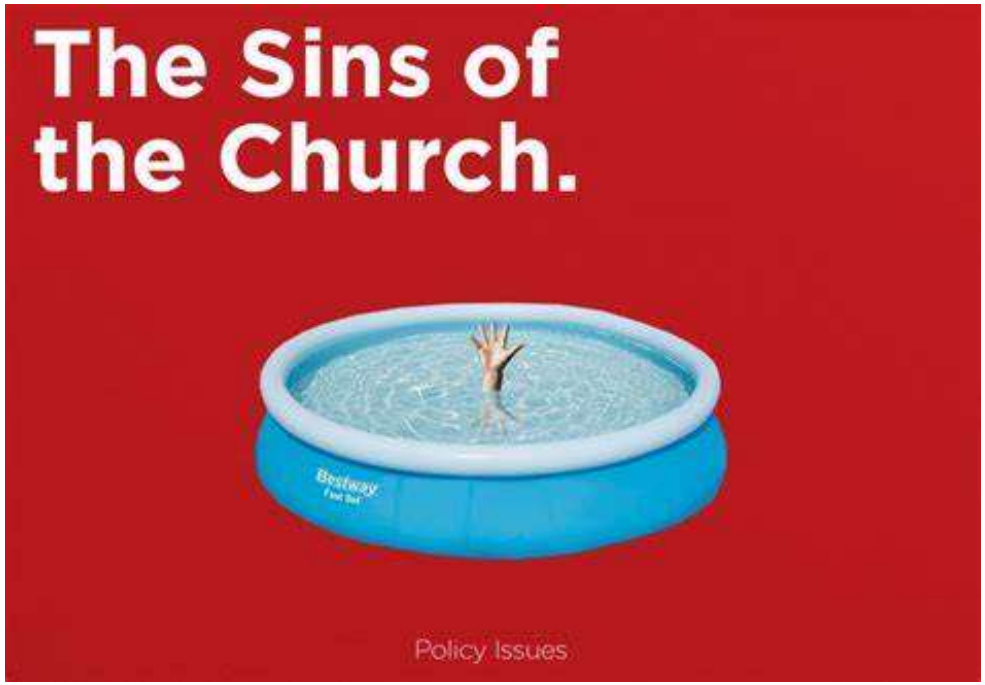
- A solemn assembly is of **prolonged duration**.
- While most professed Christians content themselves with hour long “worship” services, **the call to a solemn assembly is a call to a greatly extended meeting**.
- Often the assemblies in the Bible **went for days on end**, even as long as **seven** or **fourteen** days.
- On other occasions **a full day** was sufficient.
  - Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.
  - And **in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly**: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. 2 Chronicles 7:8-9
- It was at this solemn assembly that God said:
  - **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land**. 2 Chronicles 7:14
- This time is set aside for humiliation, **prayer, repentance** and **seeking God’s face**.



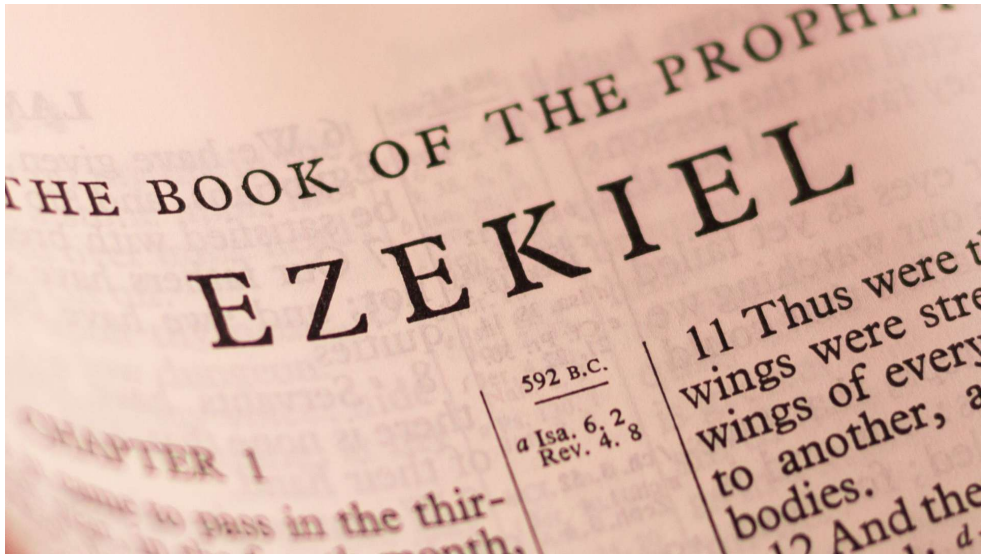
- A solemn assembly is a **season of earnest prayer**.
- Churches in general **spend too little time in prayer**.
- Enough time may be taken to present requests to God, but precious little time is given corporately **for God to present His requests to men**.
- Not only should much time be given to **prayer** at a solemn assembly, but much time **in prayer** should also be given in **preparation** for a solemn assembly.
- The people should give **considerable time to prayer throughout each day of the preceding week** in **preparation** for the solemn assembly.



- A solemn assembly is a **mandatory occasion** for **corporate repentance.**
- In **preparation**, a **catalogue of the sins** to be **corporately confessed and put away** should be **prepared in advanced**.
- The **entire congregation** should be involved with **contributing** to the catalogue.
- These lists will contain the **offenses against both God and man that the Church has never corporately put away**.
- The lists are to **help the Church understand what has contributed to the righteous judgement on the Church and on the nation**.



- A solemn assembly is an opportunity for **Spirit-anointed preaching** of the searching truths of Scripture to deeply touch afresh the lives of God's people.
- There will be **two messages** devoted to this time which will specifically be aimed at the issues of the day.
- The messages planned will be from **Ezekiel 13 and 34**.
- **These chapters deal with the lying prophets and the shepherds who feed themselves and not their flocks.**
- We will have a **series of meetings** during a specified time to come together as a group.



- The solemn assembly is an opportunity for **young adults** and **children to see their elders demonstrating Christianity** on the **corporate level.**
- The **entire family** is invited to participate in the solemn assembly events.
- **Please invite others to join us during these upcoming meetings**.
- **The solemn assembly gives God an opportunity to respond to His people at a level He cannot possibly do when they are living in neglect of His Word or in direct violation of His commandments**.
- Historically, God has responded to solemn assemblies by sending fresh waves of blessings into both the **personal** and **corporate** lives of believers.



Richard Roberts

- The primary focus for our upcoming solemn assembly will be on the **corporate sins** of the ministers.
- Those joining will be exhorted **to enter into private intercession** and **confession** as we **sob** and we **cry** for the **hundreds of ministers who have lead the Church astray**.
- A public pledge of **fresh surrender** to God Almighty is warranted as we come together in a **corporate spirit of repentance**.
- Many have signed up to **fast and pray** from around the world.



- Historically, unheeded remedial judgments have turned into **final judgments.**
- **America is ripe for destruction**.
- **The evangelical movement in this country is characterized by an arrogance that is almost beyond belief.**
- The **neglect of prayer**, the **involvement in Philistine methodology**, the **moral evils**, and the **doctrinal corruptions** that characterize the movement are sufficient to cause **Sodomites** to wonder at God's justice in destroying their city **while sparing the United States.**



- If the youth of the nation are to live out their lives in a land of freedom and opportunity, they will do so because **their parents had grace sufficient to humble themselves, pray, repent of their sins, and seek God's face in a solemn assembly**.
- **Obedience is still better than sacrifice.**
- Joel's call requires **prompt response**.
  - **Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land *into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD**. Joel 1:14



Song of Repentance

We’ve fallen short
We’ve wandered far from Your ways
Forgive us O Lord
We’ve sinned against Your name



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsEYgZooUvk&list=RDjsEYgZooUvk&start_radio=1