



A God-Sized Vision: Revival Stories That Stretch and Stir

Collin Hansen , John D. Woodbridge

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Is it possible we don't see God working in mighty ways because we don't ask him to work in mighty ways? Throughout history, God has used revival to build and renew his church. God-Sized Vision challenges us to pray expectantly to see his work in our own day. God can bring revival again to our community, our country, and our world. Our faith grows stronger when we learn how God worked in the past. The historical stories of worldwide revivals in this book enlarge our hearts and expand our minds as we see God at work in human history with a power that is still available to the faithful today. Here scholars Collin Hansen and John Woodbridge recount the fascinating details of world-changing revivals, beginning with biblical events and continuing through the Reformation, the Great Awakenings, the Welsh and Korean revivals, the East Africa Revival of the 1930s, and more recent revivals in North America and China. What did these revivals have in common? How can we prepare for and expect revival in our own culture? With accessible language and gripping examples, Hansen and Woodbridge explore these questions and more, strengthening our understanding of God's work while deepening our faith in the possibility of revival right where we are."

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Will O'kelley says

This book was given to me by a friend. There's some really good stuff here. As far as the book goes, I didn't feel like the writing was particularly compelling, nor did I find the historical narratives to be very in-depth or organized. Perhaps this is just a starting place for those who want to know more about revival. However, the basic message being preached is, I believe, the most important message for the church today. Definitely worth the read.

Rob says

I read *A God-Sized Vision* last Sunday in preparation for some meetings this week. What a fantastic read! The book hit me on several levels:

As a history major, I loved the stories of how God has worked in the past. What a joy to hear about the global and historic scope of His work in fanning revival. You leave this book certain that no place, people or timeframe is outside of God's ability to work.

As a staff worker, I loved hearing about the people that God used to advance his purposes on earth. People like Jonathan Edwards, Charles Phinney and Timothy Dwight at Yale. As someone who everyday works to see students transformed, campuses renewed and world changers developed (how's that for a plug for IV?!?), I left inspired that God might bring revival onto my campuses in my day. May it indeed be so!

As a writer, I loved reading about the importance of chronically the work of God. I mean, how incredible that a revival in Whales could directly lead to a revival in India?!? It's not like those countries are neighbors! When God's people experience a fresh work of His Spirit, when they write it down, and then when they share it with others, the work spreads. It was fun to dream about what this could look like on our campuses.

Lastly, as a Jesus follower, I loved being challenged by what revival could mean for me. Where do I need revival in my own heart? Where do I want to see God work in fresh and amazing ways in my character? Where in my personal ministry do I need a rekindling? *A God-Sized Vision* gives the reader hope that the Spirit has the power to renew our souls and bring us back to life.

Tung says

Revivals have been an important part of church history. This book provides a historical look at revivals (both famous and less famous) that have occurred over the past 300 years. Hansen and Woodbridge do a great job of highlighting revivals all over the globe (China, Korea, and Ireland, for example) rather than fixating on just American ones. More than simply describing the time and place of each revival, the book provides details about the people involved, including quotes from them where possible. Hansen and Woodbridge also try to highlight the important aspects that led to each revival (primarily fervent prayer) and the resulting spiritual change that resulted (primarily repentance of sin and conversions). While I think the book did a fine

job summarizing the major revivals and drawing important lessons from them where possible, I did find it slightly disappointing. I love reading about people's personal faith testimonies, and generally find them inspiring. I was hoping/expecting to find this book inspiring – and I didn't. For me, the prose and general tone of the book impacted that. The authors take a fairly historian-esque approach to the telling of these tales, making the descriptions of the revivals a bit too clinical for my liking. In addition, the early chapters felt a bit too dry, primarily due to the inclusion of 17th and 18th century quotes from old books or from the people involved during those time periods. Recommended overall, with the caveat on the dryness.

Kiel says

An historical survey and appraisal of modern Christian revivals around the world, with a particular focus on the English speaking world, this book deals with doubts about religious excesses and shows that there are indeed times of legitimate revivals from God and calls the reader to prayer, expectancy, and hope for such events in their contexts. The Korean revival features prominently in this volume as well, and rightfully so. Perhaps the biggest challenge to revivalism is not the lack of them but the eccentricities and abuses that so often occur when they do, or when they are said to have occurred. The Korean revival, as with others, demonstrated what central pastors and theologians have deemed as signs of true revival, like commitments to prayer, Bible reading, and true repentance from wrongdoing. Key among these pastors, and whose assessments of revivals, in their time and through history, serve as a backdrop to this book are Martin Lloyd Jones and Jonathan Edwards. I appreciated the balanced perspective presented here, not too zealous as to overlook the flaws of radical, over-ecstatic and false revivals, nor too cynical as to deny that there are times when the Holy Spirit calls many to Christ and conforms them into his image at rates that confound reason. I listened to this one, 5.5 hours. Otherwise it's 192 pages of the sensible and sensational kind of stories that occur when broken people set about to see the work of a holy God happen in their time.

Amy Jacobsen says

An interesting tour of revivals around the world. Broadened my understanding of revival and church history.

Joanne Chin says

Rather like a good buffet that whets one's appetite for more. Thankful for the legacy and to have met people who are still wonderfully affected by them.

Justin Lonas says

Hansen and Woodbridge shatter the notion that the Western Church is in decline by recounting our shared history of revival. This book encouraged me greatly both in its content—the power of the Spirit to pierce the hearts of men should never cease to amaze us—and in its approach—teaching a new generation of believers to marinate themselves in the history of the Lord's work among His people.

History of all sorts is a passion of mine, and we undercut so much of our faith and practice by assuming the

present somehow supersedes the past and preempts the future.

Kyle says

Encouraging, if a bit short and maybe too simplistic at times (Finney and the charismatics get off pretty easy). I can't imagine experiencing a revival like these examples today, but the point of the book is to show you what God has done in the past.

Daniel Nelms says

Fantastic but quick overview of famous worldwide revivals in the past few centuries. It's just a primer, but it's a necessary one for those wanting to dig deeper into understanding the nature and history of revivals. My only criticism: it's too short!

Shawn Trautman says

I enjoyed this book. Especially the section on Billy Graham and the modern evangelical movements. I have a tendency to be somewhat critical of much of modern evangelical culture, and it's good for me to see how God has worked through these men and movements.

Joseph McBee says

The subtitle of this book excellently describes its contents.

"Revival stories that stretch and stir."

That is precisely what I found as I read this book. A GOD-SIZED VISION covers many of the major historical revivals including both Great Awakenings, the Prayer Meeting Revival in 1857, the Welsh Revival, the East African Revivals, and the revivals in China in the 1900's.

On every page, the reader is challenged, encouraged and convicted by voices from the past that call us to cry out to God for revival in our day.

I was also impressed with how the writers focused on many of the women God used in these great revivals in history including Lottie Moon, Pandita Ramabai, and Henrietta Mears, who was Bill Bright's mentor and friend.

The authors do a great service to the reader by refusing to try and boil down all these wonderful stories into some sort of formula. They avoid the "do-these-things-and-God-MUST-act" fallacy. They recognize and submit to God's sovereignty throughout.

In the conclusion of the book, Hansen and Woodbridge do provide some encouragement to the reader to seek God to revive His church and awaken His people once again. I found that I closed the book with a firm resolve to do exactly that.

These stories are a part of our heritage as Christians. They must not be forgotten, they need to be told again and again. I am so glad that A GOD-SIZED VISION has captured this piece of church history in a way that moves beyond a dry and passionless reporting of events and into a clarion call for God's people to beg Him for revival once again.

He has done it before. Why not hear? Why not now?

Derek says

Inspiring overview of historical revivals across the globe, beginning with the First Great Awakening and continuing up until today in Asia and Africa. Fantastic book to give people a vision for revival: What is revival? What does it consist of? Why should we pray for it and long for it and be on the look out for it? Makes me hunger for revival all the more. Highly recommend.

Caleb says

A God-Sized Vision offers a balanced view of the history of revivals across the world. This book reminded me that God works in amazing and miraculous ways, and has stretched my vision of what God can do. That God is advancing His Kingdom and has responded in the past when His people pray earnestly for revival. This book showed me that revival is not just a mass emotional experience (though this can accompany it), but that it is so much more than that. It is a wide-scale renewed dedication to God and His purposes by the Church, and a great amount of people being born again into His kingdom. This book showed me that revival is an amazing thing when it is true revival, and that it ought to be prayed for.

Will Lohnes says

One of the best books I have read on the topic of Revival. Inspirational. Encouraging. Instructional. If your spirit is low or your heart is dry, read this book and rejoice in the work of God in the lives of men, common men, who were used to bring an outpouring of His grace on His people. You will shed tears of joy as you see what God has done and will be pushed to believe He can do it again in the lives of individuals all around us. Thanks so much for the heart-filling passion in writing.

Aaron Cash says

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