

Spiritual Renewal – Hezekiah

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, May 5, 2019

Main Theme – Considering principles of spiritual renewal (ind/corp) found in 2 Chronicles 29–31.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Regular Events**
 - Men's Breakfast – Taking Place Saturday AM, May 11, from 9–10:30am
 - Women's Ministry – Taking Place Tuesday, May 14, from 6:30–8pm
- **Special Events**
 - Women's Retreat – Keep Many of the Women in Prayer (Retreat)
 - Mother's Day Sunday – Next Sunday Morning (Gifts for Women)

MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord bless you as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**
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INTRODUCTION

As always it is wonderful to see you. I do look forward to these moments of worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready (2 Chronicles 29–31) and be prepared to take some notes (**SLIDE**).

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

Women’s Retreat – prayerfully a time of SPIRITUAL RENEWAL for the LADIES of our church

National Day of Prayer – prayerfully a time of SPIRITUAL RENEWAL for our wayward NATION

NOTE – I deemed it BENEFICIAL to consider a biblical/historical moment of SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

FYI 1 – Following the reign of King Solomon (son of David), Israel divided into TWO separate kingdoms: ISRAEL (10 northern kingdoms) and JUDAH (2 southern kingdoms). Each had its own king and its own spiritual trajectory. This is VITAL to understand when considering OT history and the prophetic sections of Scripture.

FYI 2 – Israel (N. Kingdom) NEVER had a good/godly king. All of the kings of Israel (19) were WICKED rulers who ultimately led the people to nothing but divine JUDGMENT (accomplished through the Assyrians in 722 B.C.).

FYI 3 – Judah (S. Kingdom) had app. 8 GOOD/GODLY kings (20). Though the nation would come to experience JUDGMENT through BABYLON in 586 B.C., there were some BRIGHT SPOTS along the way. i.e., Good/Godly kings would USHER IN much-needed seasons of SPIRITUAL RENEWAL.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 3

This morning I would like to consider ONE such spiritual renewal – ushered in through the example and the leadership of the good king, HEZEKIAH (reigned c. 715–686 B.C.). We are going to consider a LARGE amount of Scripture (i.e., portions of 3 chapters).

KEY – As we read, we will work to ANSWER the following QUESTION...

Q. What did Hezekiah DO to promote/catalyze SPIRITUAL RENEWAL?

TO THE WORD PT. 1

2 Chronicles 29:1–3 (NIV)

1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father David had done.

3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the Lord and repaired them.

PRINCIPLE #1 (SLIDE) – Establish Connection with/Priority of God

NOTE – Hezekiah's REPAIR of the PHYSICAL Temple indicated the REPAIR of the SPIRITUAL BREACH between the nation and the Lord. The Temple was to be the center of the Jewish world (i.e., faith/worship, morality, etc.). Its fall into DISREPAIR – INDICATED a lack of meaningful connection with God/prioritization. But Hezekiah worked to RESOLVE this (IMMEDIATELY).

TO THE WORD PT. 2

2 Chronicles 29:4–11

4 He brought in the priests and the Levites, assembled them in the square on the east side 5 and said: "Listen to me, Levites! Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the Lord, the God of your ancestors. Remove all defilement from the sanctuary. 6 Our parents were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the Lord our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the Lord's dwelling place and turned their backs on him. 7 They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. 8 Therefore, the anger of the Lord has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. 9 This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. 10 Now I intend to make a covenant with the Lord, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. 11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense."

PRINCIPLE #2 (SLIDE) – Operate According to Spiritual Truth

NOTE – Consider Hezekiah's ASSESSMENT of the spiritual condition of the nation (forefathers—the time of his reign). **Q. WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT HIM?** It REVEALS he was a man of spiritual insight, wisdom and perspective. i.e., His assessment of the condition of the nation was INFORMED by the LORD and spiritual truth. This INFLUENCED his activities/execution of his office!

TO THE WORD PT. 3

2 Chronicles 29:15–19

15 When they [i.e., Levites operating per Hezekiah's instruction] had assembled their fellow Levites and consecrated themselves, they went in to purify the temple of the Lord, as the king had ordered, following the word of the Lord. 16 The priests went into the sanctuary of the Lord to purify it. They brought out to the courtyard of the Lord's temple everything unclean that they found in the temple of the Lord. The Levites took it and carried it out to the Kidron Valley. 17 They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of the Lord. For eight more days they consecrated the temple of the Lord itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month.

18 Then they went in to King Hezekiah and reported: "We have purified the entire temple of the Lord, the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the table for setting out the consecrated bread, with all its articles. 19 We have prepared and consecrated all the articles that King Ahaz removed in his unfaithfulness while he was king. They are now in front of the Lord's altar."

PRINCIPLE #3 (SLIDE) – Pursue Purification/Consecration

NOTE – Notice the work they undertook to REMOVE that which DEFILED the nation and GRIEVED the Lord. Notice the THOROUGH nature of their work as well! i.e., It was NOT a quick or casual spiritual cleansing – it was a more than two-week process. They were NOT playing games with IMPURITY – they were REMOVING/EXCISING it.

TO THE WORD PT. 4

2 Chronicles 29:20–24

20 Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple of the Lord. 21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven male lambs and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary and for Judah. The king commanded the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer these on the altar of the Lord. 22 So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and splashed it against the altar; next they slaughtered the rams and splashed their blood against the altar; then they slaughtered the lambs and splashed their blood against the altar. 23 The goats for the sin offering were brought before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them. 24 The priests then slaughtered the goats and presented their blood on the altar for a sin offering to atone for all Israel, because the king had ordered the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel.

PRINCIPLE #4 (SLIDE) – Seek Forgiveness/Pardon for Sin

NOTE – The people of God SOUGHT the remission of sin through the shedding of BLOOD. i.e., They pursued forgiveness through the divinely-approved means of SACRIFICE (OT process that points to a NT reality).

TO THE WORD PT. 5

2 Chronicles 29:25–31, 35b–36

25 He stationed the Levites in the temple of the Lord with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the Lord through his prophets. 26 So the Levites stood ready with David's instruments, and the priests with their trumpets.

27 Hezekiah gave the order to sacrifice the burnt offering on the altar. As the offering began, singing to the Lord began also, accompanied by trumpets and the instruments of David king of Israel. 28 The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the musicians played and the trumpets sounded. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.

29 When the offerings were finished, the king and everyone present with him knelt down and worshiped. 30 King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed down and worshiped.

31 Then Hezekiah said, "You have now dedicated yourselves to the Lord. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the Lord." So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.

35 . . . So the service of the temple of the Lord was reestablished. 36 Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.

PRINCIPLE #5 (SLIDE) – Celebrate the Lord in Worship

NOTE – A people who are PARDONED and SERIOUS about the REMOVAL OF SIN are a people READY to WORSHIP – and worship they DID! The people—restored to God—were free to ENJOY Him through PRAISE and reverential CELEBRATION.

TO THE WORD PT. 6

2 Chronicles 30:1

1 Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the Lord, the God of Israel.

PRINCIPLE #6 (SLIDE) – Remember the Faithfulness of God

NOTE – Hezekiah sought to lead the people in the PASSOVER celebration. Passover was a time of national REMEMBRANCE wherein the people celebrated the PAST ACTS of God in the time of the EXODUS. i.e., A time to consider God's faithfulness in DELIVERING His people from death/slavery.

TO THE WORD PT. 7

2 Chronicles 30:6–9

6 At the king's command, couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the king and from his officials, which read:

"People of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that he may return to you who are left, who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. 7 Do not be like your parents and your fellow Israelites, who were unfaithful to the Lord, the God of their ancestors, so that he made them an object of horror, as you see. 8 Do not be stiff-necked, as your ancestors were; submit to the Lord. Come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever. Serve the Lord your God, so that his fierce anger will turn away from you. 9 If you return to the Lord, then your fellow Israelites and your children will be shown compassion by their captors and will return to this land, for the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him."

PRINCIPLE #7 (SLIDE) – Call Others to Repentance/Restoration

NOTE – Those who are RESTORED to God through forgiveness and consecration will naturally want to INVITE others to EXPERIENCE so great a salvation. i.e., Those who BELONG to God seek to invite OTHERS to also BELONG to Him! The redeemed are made into WITNESSES.

TO THE WORD PT. 8

2 Chronicles 30:10–12

10 The couriers went from town to town in Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun, but people scorned and ridiculed them. 11 Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem. 12 Also in Judah the hand of God was on the people to give them unity of mind to carry out what the king and his officials had ordered, following the word of the Lord.

PRINCIPLE #8 (SLIDE) – Persist Despite Ridicule, Mockery & Opposition

NOTE – Hezekiah EXTENDED the invitation to restoration/salvation to the WHOLE of the nation. SOME listened and responded appropriately. SOME DID NOT (in fact—they scorned the idea). Hezekiah did NOT let the threat/reality of opposition stop him – he prioritized the Lord MORE THAN he feared the blowback of man.

A BRIEF SUMMATION (2 CHRONICLES 30:15– 31:1)

FYI – In these passages, the people of Judah—under Hezekiah's GODLY leadership—ENJOY a TREMENDOUS time of celebration, worship and SPIRITUAL RESTORATION/RENEWAL. Much of the nation rid itself of its evils, destroyed the idols of false gods, and reveled in a time of blessing...

TO THE WORD PT. 9

2 Chronicles 31:2–9

2 Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks and to sing praises at the gates of the Lord’s dwelling. 3 The king contributed from his own possessions for the morning and evening burnt offerings and for the burnt offerings on the Sabbaths, at the New Moons and at the appointed festivals as written in the Law of the Lord. 4 He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so they could devote themselves to the Law of the Lord. 5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. 6 The people of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the Lord their God, and they piled them in heaps. 7 They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month. 8 When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the Lord and blessed his people Israel.

9 Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps; 10 and Azariah the chief priest, from the family of Zadok, answered, “Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the Lord has blessed his people, and this great amount is left over.”

PRINCIPLE #9 (SLIDE) – Practice/Embrace Sacrificial Giving Unto the Lord

NOTE – HEZEKIAH was moved to GIVE to advance the cause of God. The NATION was moved to GIVE—SACRIFICIALLY—to advance the cause of God. THE END RESULT: there was MORE than enough to MEET the need. Those who are restored to God and serious about His work will GIVE of their time, talents, and finances (NO exceptions).

CONCLUSIONS

KEY 1 – Consider these PRINCIPLES in relation to **NATIONAL** SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

PRINCIPLE #1 – Establish Connection with/Priority of God

PRINCIPLE #2 – Operate According to Spiritual Truth

PRINCIPLE #3 – Pursue Purification/Consecration

PRINCIPLE #4 – Seek Forgiveness/Pardon for Sin

PRINCIPLE #5 – Celebrate the Lord in Worship

PRINCIPLE #6 – Remember the Faithfulness of God

PRINCIPLE #7 – Call Others to Repentance/Restoration

PRINCIPLE #8 – Persist Despite Ridicule, Mockery & Opposition

PRINCIPLE #9 – Practice/Embrace Sacrificial Giving Unto the Lord

KEY 2 – Consider these PRINCIPLES in relation to **PERSONAL** SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

PRINCIPLE #1 – Establish Connection with/Priority of God

PRINCIPLE #2 – Operate According to Spiritual Truth

PRINCIPLE #3 – Pursue Purification/Consecration

PRINCIPLE #4 – Seek Forgiveness/Pardon for Sin

PRINCIPLE #5 – Celebrate the Lord in Worship

PRINCIPLE #6 – Remember the Faithfulness of God

PRINCIPLE #7 – Call Others to Repentance/Restoration

PRINCIPLE #8 – Persist Despite Ridicule, Mockery & Opposition

PRINCIPLE #9 – Practice/Embrace Sacrificial Giving Unto the Lord