

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has reached the highest summit on the mountain range of revival. We don't get overly sensational on this so-called safari simply for the sake of drama; but when the Word of God waxes sensational and spiritual, well, anything goes. Our rocky, uphill, unpaved and dangerous road to revival has been worth it; and it concludes in a glorious way – a way that is deeply spiritual. Hezekiah is enjoying the greatest revival Judah and Israel had ever experienced; during the same historical time of the worst turmoil in Israel's history. Hezekiah was the most outstanding king of all – after David and Solomon – to rule over Judah.

The nation Israel as a whole was in deep trouble at this time; they had dire needs resulting from constant warfare that raged on all fronts. Well, the first thing Hezekiah did was re-open the doors of the temple. Most importantly, he restored the sacrifices which spoke of the Lord Jesus. Christ must be glorified and honored in our lives if we desire to live in God's will, friends – and certainly if there is ever to be revival. Hezekiah goes to the temple and sets a good example for the nation to follow. We see Hezekiah actually send out invitations to his enemies to come and worship – and celebrate Passover with him. We know Hezekiah won-over the respect of their neighboring nations, because he brought Judah back from the near hopelessness his father had caused. Of course, we have already seen them turn back to the Word of God – and that was necessity number one....

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¹⁷ For there were many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the Passovers for every one that was not clean, to sanctify them unto the LORD.

¹⁸ For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the

Passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

19 That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.

~ So, the invitation was received by many in the northern kingdom to seek refuge in Judah and avoid deportation to Assyria. These people had never been taught how to worship God properly in the temple. Some of them had never even heard of the Word of God in their lives. All they knew was golden calf worship, friends. Well, some turned from that and had a hunger and desire to trust and obey God at this time. All proper protocol was broken; so Hezekiah just asks the Lord to forgive every one of them in verse eighteen. They were totally ignorant, but they were attempting to worship the True and Living God; and you can't help but respect that if you are a child of God. See, the form and ceremony isn't important – but the condition of the heart is all-important. It is a wonderful, glorious lesson we have here....

20 And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.

21 And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the LORD.

22 And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.

23 And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept other seven days with gladness.

24 For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the

congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

²⁵ And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.

²⁶ So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.

²⁷ Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

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¹ Now when all this was finished, all Israel that were present went out to the cities of Judah, and brake the images in pieces, and cut down the groves, and threw down the high places and the altars out of all Judah and Benjamin, in Ephraim also and Manasseh, until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned, every man to his possession, into their own cities.

² And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD.

~ Hezekiah was a man of faith; but faith is not simply “believing hard enough.” Faith is not a psychological response to something. Faith is not in our feelings; but is an accomplished fact. Faith can only be wrought, tested and certified in the soul of the believer by the Holy Spirit. It is a conviction that is born in the spirit of man. Remember, flesh and blood have not revealed this unto us but the Spirit of God, by which we are quickened, my dear readers. We pray, “our Father, Who Art in Heaven...” around this safari. When you find proper, correct and complete faith, it will not be self-

meritorious. By grace are ye saved through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything outside of Christ is only an instrument – Christ Himself is our Savior!

The object of our faith is critical; because it's easy to have faith in the wrong things. Christ is the object of our faith. It's not our hold on Christ that saves us – it's Christ! It's not our joy in Christ that saves us – it's Christ! It's not even our faith that saves us – although faith is the instrument He uses to save us – but it's still only Christ Who saves. Only the Blood of Christ has any merit whatsoever. See, many people have faith in the wrong thing. Millions of Muslims die as martyrs; and they're fanatics. Faith brings nothing; that it might take all! Faith says, "*Lord Jesus, I believe – help mine unbelief!*" We're talking about truly trusting God as Hezekiah is trusting God in this section of Scripture. We're also seeing many religious reforms in this passage and radical reformation at the time in which we are studying.

When Jesus saves you, friends, it's going to change your life! The man carried to Jesus in his bed in the Gospel of Mark was told to, "*take up your bed and walk!*" If you're truly saved, you're going to walk away from old habits and otherwise bad stuff. If you haven't taken up your bed and walked away from sin, then you're still paralyzed by it. Hezekiah reinstated the burnt offering, which spoke of the future coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to die on the cross – and that changed Hezekiah's life completely. It changed the southern kingdom profoundly, too, by the way....

³ He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the LORD.

⁴ Moreover he commanded the people that dwelt in Jerusalem to give the portion of the priests and the Levites, that they might be encouraged in the law of the LORD.

⁵ And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all things brought they in abundantly.

⁶ And concerning the children of Israel and Judah, that dwelt in the cities of Judah, they also brought in the tithe of oxen and sheep, and the tithe of holy things which were consecrated unto the LORD their God, and laid them by heaps.

⁷ In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.

⁸ And when Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD, and his people Israel.

⁹ Then Hezekiah questioned with the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

¹⁰ And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the LORD hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store.

¹¹ Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD; and they prepared them,

¹² And brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully: over which Cononiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next.

¹³ And Jehiel, and Azaziah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.

14 And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter toward the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to distribute the oblations of the LORD, and the most holy things.

15 And next him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their set office, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small:

16 Beside their genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, even unto every one that entereth into the house of the LORD, his daily portion for their service in their charges according to their courses;

17 Both to the genealogy of the priests by the house of their fathers, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their charges by their courses;

18 And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness:

19 Also of the sons of Aaron the priests, which were in the fields of the suburbs of their cities, in every several city, the men that were expressed by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all that were reckoned by genealogies among the Levites.

20 And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God.

21 And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

XXXII

¹ After these things, and the establishment thereof, Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself.

~ As day turning into night in the reign of Hezekiah, God brings the Assyrian army against Judah now. Read the Bible text extremely carefully after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. We were told some of the ways Sennacherib terrorized the land at this time in the Book of Kings. He made it loud and clear that no one could deliver Judah from him. No god had ever delivered any people from his hand – and all that stuff at the wall. Well, we know Hezekiah is a true man of prayer as we read on. Hezekiah looks to God and, as a result, God is going to deliver him in a marvelous way....

² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib was come, and that he was purposed to fight against Jerusalem,

³ He took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city: and they did help him.

⁴ So there was gathered much people together, who stopped all the fountains, and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come, and find much water?

⁵ Also he strengthened himself, and built up all the wall that was broken, and raised it up to the towers, and another wall without, and repaired Millo in the city of David, and made darts and shields in abundance.

⁶ And he set captains of war over the people, and gathered them together to him in the street of the gate of the city, and spake comfortably to them, saying,

⁷ Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him:

⁸ With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

⁹ After this did Sennacherib king of Assyria send his servants to Jerusalem, (but he himself laid siege against Lachish, and all his power with him,) unto Hezekiah king of Judah, and unto all Judah that were at Jerusalem, saying,

¹⁰ Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria, Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege in Jerusalem?

¹¹ Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

¹² Hath not the same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it?

¹³ Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of other lands? were the gods of the nations of those lands any ways able to deliver their lands out of mine hand?

¹⁴ Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed, that could deliver his people out of mine hand, that your God should be able to deliver you out of mine hand?

¹⁵ Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?

¹⁶ And his servants spake yet more against the LORD God, and against his servant Hezekiah.

17 He wrote also letters to rail on the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against him, saying, As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people out of mine hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver his people out of mine hand.

18 Then they cried with a loud voice in the Jews' speech unto the people of Jerusalem that were on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city.

19 And they spake against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth, which were the work of the hands of man.

20 And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.

21 And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

22 Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side.

23 And many brought gifts unto the LORD to Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah: so that he was magnified in the sight of all nations from thenceforth.

24 In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the LORD: and he spake unto him, and he gave him a sign.

25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem.

²⁶ Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

²⁷ And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour: and he made himself treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels;

²⁸ Storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks.

²⁹ Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much.

³⁰ This same Hezekiah also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon, and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

³¹ Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart.

~ Remember, Hezekiah had been granted an additional fifteen years of life by God after the boil incident recorded in Kings. We also know Chronicles is *God's viewpoint* concerning the history of the nation Israel; and Kings is *man's viewpoint* of the record for this same historical period. Well, the only thing God records from those fifteen years of life that He granted Hezekiah was Hezekiah's mistake of showing the nation's wealth of the temple to these ambassadors from Babylon in verse thirty-one. That mistake will later attract Nebuchadnezzar back to invade and to carry away Judah captive....

³² Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, and in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

³³ And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the chiefest of the sepulchres of the sons of David: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honour at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his stead.

~ Our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition by saying goodbye to the best king — King Hezekiah — that Israel or Judah ever had; next to David and Solomon. Our road to revival ends with great success; just as God promised it would — *if* we followed His Biblical road map carefully — which we have. Today, God is equally as sovereign as He was at the time in which we are studying. He still does things the same way. Revival only works out when we follow the rocky, uphill and unpaved path and cross several very dangerous bridges – as we have thoroughly traveled in the last nine reports including this one. Chronicles is difficult to study, isn't it? Well, only two more reports after this one and we'll complete second Chronicles.

Jesus said, *“the wind bloweth where it listeth.”* All we can hear is the sound of it. We don't know where the wind comes from or where it goes. Friends, such is everyone who is born of the Spirit of God. We must recognize that only God Himself can send a revival. God is sovereign. He isn't our bell boy; you aren't going to just push a button and have Jesus come running to rescue you. We don't give commands to God, friends. You can just write that down. God alone can send revival to this earth at this desperate hour in which we live – and if He does, He will only do it *His* way!

The prophets of Baal in Elijah's day weren't able to bring down fire from Heaven on their sacrifices. Most of you know the account of what happened on Mount Carmel as Elijah prayed and then poured water on the sacrifice — and fire came down from Heaven! Elijah set the wood in order and organized the sacrifice — but the fire had to be sent from God. It's always up to Him. God responds to the prayers of the righteous, my beloved.

I used to think I could solve all my own problems, but I found out I need God. I would like to think we have a real desire by people to know the

Word of God today. Unfortunately, we have religious racketeers who are trying to capitalize on this movement – and some of them are doing a pretty good job of apostasy; but they’re feeding people a bunch of garbage, of course. They have hard rock music, soft hearted hypocrisy and a whole bunch of other things; but they don’t have the Word of God taught properly, correctly and completely! Jesus said, “*if your son asks for bread don’t give him a stone!*” The Word of God just happens to be a complete reaffirmation of itself!

Now, let’s be real: our Spiritual Safari may have reached ultimate revival in the days of Hezekiah in which we are studying; but – there is not revival in the world today. I’ve never seen a real revival – have you? I’d like to see revival happen. I don’t think it is going to; because people aren’t desirous of Bible study. Well, the entire objective of this expedition is to lead others to read the entire Bible properly, correctly and completely in consideration of an educated, systematic, sincere and educated teaching – that’s all. If revival is going to start today – you and I are where it is going to have to begin.

I challenge you to make an inventory of your own personal life with the five following questions (1) Am I honest with others? (2) Am I faithful? (3) Am I dedicated? (4) Am I pure? (5) Am I truthful with God?

Let’s all drink from the River of Life today where the water flows abundantly! We’re going to leave our successful revival and return back to the dry, dusty and miserable times with the *WORST* king Judah endured. Manasseh, Hezekiah’s son, takes the throne, and it won’t be a pretty ending for the southern kingdom of Judah, friends. The northern kingdom has already been completely taken into captivity at this time. Let’s learn the Word of God properly, correctly and completely — and teach it to the world in sound doctrine, as we continue to pray for revival in our time – for all nations ~

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Otherwise Than It Was Written >>>
<<< 2 Chronicles 30:17 – 32:33