

CALLING A NATION BACK TO GOD – 2

“Revival under King Hezekiah”

2 Chron. 29-30

I. SOME IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES.

- A. *Men are basically the same today as ever; people are people.*
- B. *God is still the same God.*
- C. *The nations, names, and faces may have changed, but the underlying principles are still the same.*
 - 1. The same consequences for evil.
 - 2. The same plan for renewal and restoration.

II. THE CONDITIONS WHICH EXIST IN OUR NATION.

- A. *Our nation has been blessed of God, but we are not prima donnas; we are not the exception.*
- B. *No different than Sodom and Gomorrah.*
- C. *We are still worshipers of false gods, perhaps with different names.*

III. GOD SAYS, “RETURN UNTO ME.”

- A. (2 Chr 30:6 KJV) So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.
- B. (2 Chr 30:9 KJV) For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.
- C. (Isa 55:7 KJV) Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- D. (Deu 30:1 KJV) And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, (Deu 30:2 KJV) And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; (Deu 30:3 KJV) That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.
- E. (Mal 3:7 KJV) Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? (Mal 3:8 KJV) Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (Mal 3:9 KJV) Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye

have robbed me, even this whole nation. (Mal 3:10 KJV) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Mal 3:11 KJV) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. (Mal 3:12 KJV) And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

IV. THE ENTIRE NATION WAS TURNED AROUND SPIRITUALLY UNDER ONE ADMINISTRATION: KING HEZEKIAH'S REIGN.

- A. *One day, hopefully, we as a nation will discover that God is God, and His Word is truth; that He says what He means and means what He says.*
- B. *For the nation to be revived, first we as a church must be revived.*
- C. *For the church to be revived, we as individuals must be revived.*
- D. *Christians can make a difference in our nation.*

V. FOUR MAJOR THEMES OF HEZEKIAH'S REVIVAL.

- A. *Preparation for revival through repair and cleansing.*
- B. *Repentance before the Lord.*
- C. *Return to obedience.*
- D. *Spreading the impact of the revival beyond the walls of the sanctuary.*

VI. PREPARED FOR REVIVAL THROUGH REPAIR AND CLEANSING.

- A. *He repaired and cleansed the house of the Lord.* (2 Chr 29:3 KJV) He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them. (2 Chr 29:4 KJV) And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street,
- B. *Filthiness had come into the Temple and the lives of the people.* (2 Chr 29:5 KJV) 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.
- C. *He challenged the leadership to cleanse themselves and draw close to God.* (2 Chr 29:6 KJV) 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. (2 Chr 29:7 KJV) 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.
- D. *In verse 7, Hezekiah declared some of the things that had led them to the need for revival.* (2 Chr 29:7 KJV) 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.
 - 1. They had shut the door (lost the priority of spirituality).
 - a. We can shut the door to prophetic ministries.
 - b. We can shut the door of the moving of the Spirit.

2. They had not kept the lamps burning (did not foster God's presence).
 3. They had not burned incense (did not honor the Lord--through worship).
 4. They had failed to burn offerings (failed to confess sin).
- E. ***Families in captivity because of sins of fathers.*** (2 Chr 29:8 KJV) 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. (2 Chr 29:9 KJV) For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.
- F. ***Challenge to the leadership.*** (2 Chr 29:10 KJV) 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. (2 Chr 29:11 KJV) 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.

VII. REPENTANCE BEFORE THE LORD.

- A. ***Initiated first by Hezekiah and the worship leadership of the Temple.***
1. (2 Chr 29:20 KJV) Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD. (2 Chr 29:21 KJV) And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer them on the altar of the LORD.
 2. (2 Chr 29:24 KJV) And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.
- B. ***The rest of the nation would eventually join them.***

VIII. RETURN TO OBEDIENCE.

- A. ***Spiritual depravity was not the result of a lack of information; neither was it because of a lack of opportunity; essentially, it was due to a lack of obedience..***
- B. ***God had commanded that certain things be done in worship and service to Him; these had been neglected.***
1. God has a due order.(1 Chr 15:13 KJV) 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. (1 Chr 15:14 KJV) So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. (1 Chr 15:15 KJV) 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 Chr 15:16 KJV) And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.
 2. Men have sought to establish their own order; their own rules, creeds, dogmas, by-laws which oftentimes are contradictory to the order of God.

(Mat 15:9 KJV) But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

(Mark 7:7 KJV) Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Mark 7:8 KJV) For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. (Mark 7:9 KJV) And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

- A. ***Now that they had been repentant, they were willing to be obedient to the Lord once again.*** (2 Chr 29:25 KJV) And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. (2 Chr 29:26 KJV) And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. (2 Chr 29:27 KJV) And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. (2 Chr 29:28 KJV) And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. (2 Chr 29:29 KJV) And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped. (2 Chr 29:30 KJV) Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped. (2 Chr 29:31 KJV) Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.

SPREADING THE IMPACT OF THE REVIVAL BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY.

They should be encouraged to spread the effects of the revival outside the four walls of the church.

If something is happening in the local church, the word of renewal needs to be spread.

Especially during times of revival, when God is pouring out His Spirit, the church needs to spread the Word of the Lord and invite others to come

- A. ***They sent out letters calling others to repentance and service unto the Lord.*** (2 Chr 30:1 KJV) And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.