

II CHRONICLES

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Chronicles chapter 30 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We are currently looking at a godly king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Hezekiah. Last time in our study we saw that Hezekiah brought spiritual revival to the land and this revival began in the Temple and as we will see tonight, it is going to spread outward. And that is important for us to understand. True spiritual revival is not to remain within the walls of a church, but it is to burst forth and impact society. With that said, let's begin reading in II Chronicles chapter 30, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

II CHRONICLES 30

VERSES 1-5

1. You have to love the heart of this man. Hezekiah is not keeping this celebration to himself, but he wants all to know that they are preparing to celebrate the Feast of Passover and all are invited. You see, not only does he send letters to Judah, but also to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, to come and join them in the Passover celebration. Right now the time is around 720-715 B. C., and the Northern Kingdom of Israel has been carried away captive by the Assyrians for their idolatry. Only a few people remained in the land and Hezekiah is saying to them that it is not too late to get right with God.

What a heart. Many today would say that they got what they deserved, but this king opens his arms to them to come back and get right with God. That is a shepherd's heart and since that is the heart of our Great Shepherd Jesus Christ, it should also be our heart, to reach out and love people, even those that do not deserve it because we did not deserve God's love for us and yet He extended it to us! Not to think they are only getting what they deserved because God was gracious to us and should we not be gracious to them? Of course we should!

And we see that Hezekiah gets the word out regarding the celebration of the Feast of Passover, a feast that was not celebrated as God had commanded them, it was ignored for many years and now Hezekiah wants to correct that problem. And he sends letters throughout the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, from Beersheba in the south all the way up to Dan in the north, throughout all the land of Israel, to join in this Passover celebration.

2. Now here is a little problem. You see, Passover was celebrated in the first month of the ecclesiastical or religious year, which was the month of Nisan or March/April. The problem is this. The Temple was not cleaned until the 16th of the month, and Passover began on the 14th of the month, followed by the feast of unleavened bread which began on the 15th of the month and ran for 7 days. Also the priests had not sanctified themselves or cleansed themselves as yet.

So they could not celebrate Passover in the first month. Interestingly enough, in Numbers 9:9-11 we read, **“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord's Passover. On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.’”**” So God made a provision that if you could not celebrate Passover in the first month you could celebrate it on the 14th day of the second month and that is exactly what Hezekiah is doing.

VERSES 6-9

1. Again, the Northern Kingdom of Israel has been taken into captivity by the Assyrians for their idolatry and now Hezekiah is sending this invitation to those who have escaped from the hands of the Assyrians. And I want you to notice that this is not only an invitation to celebrate the Passover but to return to the Lord. You see, it is not just a ritual that saves you, it is a relationship with the Lord and the Northern Kingdom had turned their backs on Him. Hezekiah wants them to return to the Lord and he reminds them that the Lord will then return to you. Get right with God or you will remain separated from Him.

And, not only will their rebellion against God affect them but what they do will affect their brethren who are in captivity. And that is true today. You see, we are part of the same body, the body of Christ. And what one part of the body does will affect the entire body, we cannot be separated. When one brother or sister stumbles or falls, when a leader stumbles or falls, it affects us all. And because of that we are tied together, and we are not only accountable to God, but to each other.

Paul makes this point for us in I Corinthians 12:12-20 as he wrote, **“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”**

Yes, we are individuals but we also make up the body of Christ here on a local level and the entire body of Christ on a national level you might say! In Christ there is a diversity of people with gifts and yet we still are one body!

2. In regards to the heart of this man Hezekiah, Trapp makes these remarks. He wrote, “Hezekiah knew that the poor remnant of Israel were in great affliction: he therefore presseth them to repentance, whereby men return to God, as by sin they run from him. . . . Hezekiah thought it was good striking while the iron was hot.” That is the heart of this man, wanting them to return to the Lord and that should be the passion of our heart, to bring people to Jesus or restore them back to Jesus!

VERSES 10-12

1. I think we all have felt this way before as we shared with people and they just laughed and mocked us. And here we see a sad picture of what a hard heart or a stiff-necked person is like. Think about what they had just witnessed, the nation going into captivity, God has just brought judgment upon the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their sin, and even after many have been carried away captive, they still refuse to repent of their sin. What we are seeing is the tragic blindness that sin causes even in the midst of judgment! And instead of getting right with God they laugh in the face of God. And they may laugh for a time, but God’s grace and mercy will come to an end, and they will face their maker, not laughing, but with tears in their eyes, but it will be too little, too late! As the writer of Hebrews says, **“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”** Hebrews 10:31.

2. Now it is easy to get discouraged and just kind of throw your hands up in the air and say, “What’s the use? No one is listening; they are just mocking and laughing at what I am saying about Jesus and His forgiveness of their sins as He paid in full the penalty for their sins on the cross of Calvary!” Again, I am sure many if not all of us have felt this way before. But I want you to notice what transpired here even though many were laughing and mocking at what these messengers were saying. You see, not all had such hard hearts, but some did respond to the invitation to get right with God and go to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

And I love what was going on in Judah; they had a “**singleness of heart.**” They were focused on the Lord which united them together as one. Folks Jesus is the one that has united us together, and that will never change! Don’t lose sight of the fact that God says that our labor in the Lord is not in vain, it is not empty but God will accomplish what He desires through us! It as Paul said in I Corinthians 15:58, “**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**” Or as The Amplified Bible puts it, “**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be firm (steadfast), immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord [always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of the Lord], knowing and being continually aware that your labor in the Lord is not futile [it is never wasted or to no purpose].**”

VERSES 13-17

1. Remember back in Deuteronomy 16:16-17 where we are told about the feasts that the Jews were to celebrate in the Promise Land, in Jerusalem, in the Temple. We are told, **“Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.”** Now keep in mind that the Feast of Unleavened Bread had Passover included in it and many times they were spoken of as just one feast. But the Feast of Passover began on the 14th of Nisan and the Fast of Unleavened Bread began on the 15th of Nisan and ran for 7 days.

2. Now there was a problem here. You see, during the Feast of Passover the head of the family would take their own lamb without spot or blemish, and they were to sacrifice it themselves. The problem here was that many of the people had not ceremonially cleansed themselves, and most likely many did not even know how anymore. And so the Levites sacrificed the lambs for those that were unclean. Hezekiah did not want to dishonor the Lord, but he went by the book you might say, the Word of God. What a great lesson for us, that in all we do we go by the book, the Bible!

VERSES 18-20

1. I like what Hezekiah did here, again it just shows his love for the Lord and for the people. You see, the people from the Northern Kingdom of Israel were into idolatry so long they did not even know how to cleanse themselves, and yet they yearned to come back to the Lord. They were seeking after God. And thus, they just came as they were. Now Hezekiah could have refused to let them join in this religious ritual. He could have looked at their outward appearance and rejected them from entering in. But he understood that it was not the religious ritual, celebrating Passover that saves you, it is a matter of the heart and the people were seeking after the true and living God. And so Hezekiah prays for them and God heard the prayers of Hezekiah and healed the people. What an awesome thing as you see the heart of God and the heart of Hezekiah knit together.

2. Today we seem to have gone to the other extreme and it is not good. You see, the opposite seems to be happening today, where people are prevented from entering a church because of the way they look, the way they dress or whatever. Back in the 1970's there was a hippie couple who were truly seeking the Lord and they entered a church to get right with God. But because of the way they looked, the pastor told them to first go and get cleaned up, cut their hair, change their clothes, and then come back. They never did! God is saying to come just as you are! It is a matter of the heart and not the clothes you wear. May we never forget that here at Calvary Chapel, for all are welcome!

Now the other problem is we do let people come as they are but we just leave them that way. We do not teach them the things of God, we do not teach them the Word of God and we let people remain in their sin. Both are wrong and the beautiful balance of what needs to be done, the heart of God, is to let people come as they are, let them see Jesus and let God work in them and through them. There are a variety of Christians with a variety of likes and dislikes, looks and well, looks, hair color, hair length, no hair and-so-on and as you look out at nature, God is a God of variety. We tend to focus on the outward and God is looking at the heart. May we have a heart like Hezekiah for the people!

VERSES 21-22

1. As you look at what is taking place here there are three components to this gathering. First of all we see worship and that is important. What God is doing on the inside of you will overflow into your actions and you should worship the Lord. When true revival breaks out it is seen with great joy and God gives new songs to be sung. And I love what is said here, they played “**loud instruments.**” Too often worship is like a funeral and it should be a celebration as we worship the Lord. Yes, worship styles change but the words do remain the same, the focus remains the same, it is upon God. Too often the church is living in the past, back in the 17th century or so, singing hymns. And please understand that there is nothing wrong with hymns, but God is still alive and He gives us new songs to sing. It is as Psalm 22:3 says, “**But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.**” Worship should be upward!

The second component is teaching and as important as worship is so too is the Word of God. And so they began some Bible studies, feeding on the Word of God. God does not want to leave His people in ignorance, but to understand what He has for them, who He is, what He desires of us! Clarke wrote, "It is a fine and expressive character given of these men. 'They taught the good knowledge of God to the people.' This is the great work, or should be so, of every Christian minister. They should convey that knowledge of God to the people by which they may be saved; that is, *the good knowledge of the Lord.*" It is as Paul said in Hebrews 4:12, "**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" The teaching of God's Word!

And the third component is fellowship as they ate together and confessed their sins. They had this oneness that was based in the Lord and we too have this oneness with each other that is based in Christ. I think John makes that point in I John 1:1-4 as he wrote, "**That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life - the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us - that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**" It is that oneness, that fellowship we have with each other that is based in Christ!

I think Acts 2:42 truly sum's this all up for us, that is what we as believers are to be doing, "**And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.**" So simple and yet, how many of us are truly doing what the Lord has said?

VERSES 23-27

1. Notice that things were so awesome; this celebration was so great that they extended their celebration another 7 days. They did not want to stop. True revival is like that, people want to keep going and going and going because they just love the Lord and they don't want anything to get in their way of worshiping Him, studying His Word and fellowship with other believers!

2. As we have seen, true revival is seen with worship of the true and living God, the teaching of God's Word and fellowship. And it is out of that we see great joy manifested in the hearts and lives of the people. You see, when your eyes are focused on the Lord, you can't help but rejoice. You have the right perspective on life. Paul, in Ephesians 5:14-21 is calling for us to wakeup and fill ourself up with the things of God and out of that there will be great joy.

He wrote, **“Therefore He says: ‘Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.’ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”**

A life that is surrendered to the Holy Spirit’s guiding will be a life filled with joy, overflowing with joy, so much so that we speak to one another in Psalms or Old Testament Psalms sung with stringed instruments. We speak to one another with hymns or praises composed by Christians. We speak to one another with spiritual songs. Our joy just bubbles forth, it bursts forth with singing unto the Lord and others witness that joy. That is what Hezekiah brought to his people, the Lord through worship, through teaching them the Word of God and through fellowship. May we learn the lesson!

II CHRONICLES 31

VERSE 1

1. We see that the spiritual revival is leading now to social changes, as the false worship places are destroyed and along with them all the sexual perversion and carnality that accompanied their worship. This is not only affecting the Southern Kingdom of Judah, but has also spread northward, into Israel. You see, this was not just an empty faith, their lives were changed and what had taken place inwardly was now being expressed outwardly as they destroy these idols.

That should be true in all believers' lives and all those that come to Christ, their idols should be destroyed. Paul expounds on this in the lives of the Thessalonians as he tells us in I Thessalonians 1:5-10, **“For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”**

Please understand that these Thessalonians were followers of Jesus for a short time. And yet, the people saw their faith was real and they were examples, they encouraged other believers and word spread through the province of Macedonia or Northern Greece where Thessalonica, Philippi and Berea were located. Also, word of their changed lives spread to the province of Achaia or Southern Greece where Athens and Corinth were located. Again, with the seaport and the Roman road, the Egnatian Way, word was able to spread quickly and for good, not of any wrong they were doing! What an example they were and may we do no less. May we be an example to others of the faith we have in Jesus!

Now what was all this buzz about? It was about the changed lives of these people. The transformed lives of these believers in Thessalonica that was so radical that their faith spread out past Macedonia and Achaia. It was not just empty words but changed lives that made the difference, it was Jesus! They turned away from idols and they turned to Jesus, 180-degree turn to the living God!

VERSES 2-3

1. Here we see Hezekiah restore the support for the priests as they served the Lord. And what we see Hezekiah doing is he is following the example that David laid out regarding Temple service for the priests. Each division served for 2 weeks out of the year in the Temple and the rest of the time they ministered to those in their home town. Remember that during the time of David the priests were spread out throughout the land of Israel in 48 Levitical cities so that no one was more than a day's journey from a priest.

VERSES 4-5

1. Here we see that Hezekiah leads by example. He gave to the work of God and he is encouraging the people to do the same. Maybe that is not the correct word, he is commanding them to give to priests and Levites money to support them in the work that they were doing. Remember that the tribe of Levi did not receive an inheritance or land as a possession. They were allowed to live in one of the forty-eight Levitical cities, but it was not theirs. They were to be in the ministry full time, totally devoted to God and not distracted by working outside the ministry. Thus, the other tribes were to support them and their families. (Numbers 18:20-24).

And I love the heart of the people as they gave in abundance to this work. There was no complaining, no trying to give as little as they could, but they just gave abundantly to the work of God! And the reason they could respond like this is because their walk with the Lord was in line and that joy that the Lord gave them overflowed in all that they did!

2. Now, as we move into the New Testament we see that same idea portrayed so that the shepherd could minister the things of God to the people and not have to be distracted by other things. We see this in I Timothy 5:17-18 where Paul tells us, **“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer is worthy of his wages.’”**

Paul is speaking of elders here, shepherds or pastors and elders who were in charge of the spiritual aspects of the church. From this text it seems like some elders were not teachers, but let me also say this, all pastors must be teachers; they are to bring the Word of God to their people. Now when Paul speaks of “**double honor**” what is he speaking of? He is speaking of their pay for their service to the Lord, as the church is able.

Some argue that the church should not pay a pastor. I of course disagree, not because I want to be paid, but again, listen to what he says, “**For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer is worthy of his wages.’**” I Timothy 5:18. Thus, to refuse to support those who provide spiritual food is just as unjust and heartless as it would be to muzzle an animal or refusing to pay a hired man!

VERSES 6-10

1. When the people’s hearts are touched by God you don’t have to beg for money, for they will give of a willing heart. And let me say this, we should never be begging for money to support the church or this ministry or that ministry. I am not saying that we should not let the needs be known to the people, but that is as far as it should go. There should be no guilt placed upon the people and the reality is, if there is not enough money for a ministry, maybe God is shutting that ministry down. Here we see that for 4 months the people kept bringing gifts to help support the priests and their families, so much so that it was “**laid in heaps.**”

That is what Paul tells us in II Corinthians 9:6-7 regarding our giving to the Lord, how we are to do it. He wrote, **“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”** The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, ‘prompt to do it’) giver [whose heart is in his giving]. [Prov 22:9.]”**

Here is a principle in giving and it is taken from a farmer who sows seed. If a farmer wants to hold onto his seed and he sows just a few seeds, then his harvest is going to be small. But if he freely gives his seed, freely sows it, he may have nothing left in his hand for a time but when the harvest comes his barns will overflow with grain. In Proverbs 11:24-25 we are told of this principle, **“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, But it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.”**

Also, in Proverbs 3:9-10 we are told, “**Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.**” It makes sense when you think about it – God is a debtor to no man! The principle found in nature holds true in the spiritual sphere as well!

No some may say, “Brothers, sisters, reach deep down into the pockets of the person in front of you and give until you can’t give no more!” No, Paul says, “**So let each one give as he purposes in his heart.**” We are not to be manipulated into giving, “Brothers, sisters, reach deep down into your pockets and give until you can’t give any more!” but as God places upon your heart, you give. Now the question is, “How much do we give? Is it a tithe or 10% of our income?” I don’t believe that our giving is a matter of mathematics but it is a matter of the heart. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, “**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” Where is your treasure, hopefully in the Lord and that is where your heart will also be!

You see, we are not to give “**grudgingly**” or reluctantly. God does not want us to give complaining as we do. We are not to give “**of necessity**” or “**compulsion.**” Again, we are not to be manipulated into giving. If I were to tell the elders, Steve and Conrad, to go to all your homes to find out how much you were going to give next year to the church, you may not want to look like a cheapskate so you put down more than you can afford. Or if you say too little, they may shake you down to give more, Steve is a big guy! Kind of a tithing mobster mentality! Conrad on the other hand is the good cop and he makes you feel guilty to give. Thus, each week as you write the check for the offering, you grumble, and mumble and complain because you were forced into giving. Don’t worry we don’t do that here!

You see, Paul tells us that “**God loves a cheerful giver.**” The Greek word that Paul uses for “**cheerful**” is HILAROS, and it is used only here in the New Testament and it is where we get our English word “hilarious.” How much do you give? As much as you want! You see, God wants your giving to be with joy; cheerful, hilarious as you rejoice in what God is going to do as you give to Him! It is as Morgan tells us, “It must be hilarious giving, giving out of the heart, because you love to give, not because you are bound to give.”

Now, if you want to follow the Old Testament tithe, it was about 23%, not just 10%. You can give 10%, 20%, 30%, or even 50% if you want, it is not the amount you give, it is that you give as you purpose in your heart and cheerfully give but also remember, what you sow is what you will reap, that is the principle!

And folks, we need to remember that our giving goes far beyond money. It speaks of our time, our talents, and our gifts. Jowett tells us, “Cheerful giving is born of love, and therefore it is a lover loving a lover and rejoicing in the communion. Giving is the language of loving; indeed, it has no other speech. ‘God so *loved* that He *gave!*’ Love finds its very life in giving itself away. Its only pride in possession is the joy of surrender. If love has all things, it yet possesses nothing.”

2. And so we see that the priests and Levites were blessed beyond measure, they had more than they needed. And we see Paul remind us in the New Testament that our God is still doing great things. He tells us in Ephesians 3:20, “**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.**” Let us not lose sight of that fact and as we give to Him, may we see all He can do with the resources He has given to us and we have given back to Him for the building up of His kingdom!

VERSES 11-15

1. Remember around Solomon's Temple was a 3 story building that was used by the priests when they came to minister in the Temple, and it was also used as a storage area. Hezekiah is having the abundance of offerings stored in this area and distributed by various men to those who needed it, of the priests and Levites. Selman sums it up for us like this, "Good planning and the implementation of adequate supporting structures provide a framework in which wholehearted and meaningful worship can take place. Hezekiah therefore prepared storerooms to receive the gifts, and various officials were appointed to collect and distribute them."

VERSES 16-19

1. Here we see Hezekiah making sure that everyone got what was rightfully theirs. Throughout the land, not only those who were working in the Temple received their portion. And these portions were distributed to the entire family, from 3 years old and up for the priests. The reason it was 3 years old and up was because prior to that they were still nursing, but once they were weaned from breast milk, they received their portion. And Hezekiah sets men in each of these cities to make sure the work was done properly.

2. I realize it may seem kind of strange to see God provide for the child who is only three, but think of it like this. You see, as I read this it tells me that the people of God invested in the youth of their nation and the reality is, God was investing in the youth of the nation.

Now, as believers, we too need to invest our time, prayers, wisdom, and finances in our kids so that they will have a firm footing in their walk with the Lord. Remember that Jesus took time to be with the children when the apostles thought it was a waste of time. There was so much more to do and yet, Jesus did not see it that way. He called the children to come unto Him and they did.

I am so thankful that we had Vacation Bible School this year. We do so much for adults, so many adult activities for the people in this church and the unsaved in this community, but what about the children? You see, they are just as important, may we not forget that.

And not only the young children, but our teenagers, may we show them the importance of worshiping the Lord, may they see that as they look at our own lives. May we do things to encourage them and help them to grow in the Lord, taking the time to be with them!

VERSES 20-21

1. Why did Hezekiah and the nation prosper? Because his heart was set on doing what was right before the Lord. His eyes were properly focused on God. He had his priorities right. He put God first in his life. In the New Testament Jesus put it this way in Matthew 6:33. He said, “**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**” Hezekiah knew the Law and the commandment of God. In other words, Hezekiah knew the Word of God. If only more would have a love and hunger for the Word of God today, maybe they would have a clearer picture of what God wants them to do.

2. We see that Hezekiah prospered because of the Lord bestowing this upon him and the nation. Morgan puts it like this, “These words reveal his purpose, his method, and the result; and form a revelation of abiding value to all who are called upon to perform Divine service in any form. His purpose was ‘to seek his God’; and the expression is exactly equivalent to that with which we are familiar: ‘Seek ye first His kingdom.’ His method was that of complete devotion, ‘with all his heart.’ The result was that of prosperity, that is, of success in the very work which was attempted.”

What I see here in the life of Hezekiah is a man who was enthusiastic about the Lord, his relationship with God and others saw that in him and desired to have what he had! We too should be enthusiastic about the Lord. In fact, this word “enthusiasm” comes from EN THEOS and it literally means “full of God.” You see, if you are full of God that means you will overflow with the things of God, people will see that joy that is in you. Folk’s may the Lord help us to be like Hezekiah. May we be enthusiastic in our service, in our worship, in our giving and in our work, so full of God that these things are just gushing out of our lives!

3. Now what seems to follow a great spiritual experience, just as Hezekiah experienced with this great spiritual revival, is the enemy will try and fight back. You know that the enemy is not going to just sit back and allow these things to continue on, and so as God works from heaven, a noise from hell is going to be made in response to that. The Assyrians are going to come against the Southern Kingdom of Judah to try and take them captive. And don't think that God stopped blessing Hezekiah and the Southern Kingdom of Judah; He is working in them, strengthening their faith, showing them what is in their hearts so that He can work through them. It is a stretch of their faith and the Lord does that with us because our faith grows as it is exercised!