

2 Chronicles 31 — “Hezekiah’s Great Reformation: The People’s Faithful & Generous Provision for the Leaders to Be Devoted to Scripture!”

Christian! Remember to serve God in the everyday things!

After a mountaintop experience (like celebrating the nationwide Passover with Hezekiah, 2 Chron 30!), we need to take care as we return to the ROUTINE OF DAILY LIFE.

Background of 2 Chronicles 31

So what do you do when Hezekiah’s reforms and Passover festival has ended and it’s time to go home? How do you keep spiritual health up? What do you do? How do you find teaching and instruction from the Law of God?

Summary of these events in Hezekiah’s reign:

“After the festival (of Passover) ended, the people went throughout the country and destroyed all pollution from idols. The king also ordered that daily sacrifices be made according to the law and at his own expense. Tithes of all that the ground produced were to support the priests and Levites. Thus they once again returned to their ‘ancient religion.’”

— Josephus

Two big picture lessons from 2 Chronicles 31:

#1- WORSHIP cannot be left to the ‘PROFESSIONALS’ alone

#2- WORSHIP is to be carried out in DECENCY AND IN ORDER

THESIS — What happens when great Reformation comes? What are some marks? Observing King Hezekiah’s reformation brought a number of results.

Reforms Bring...

1. Holy Violence Toward Sin (1)
2. Heartfelt Gratitude To God (2)
3. Precise obedience To Scripture (3)
4. Gracious Provision To Teachers (4-19)
5. Godly Leaders Obeying Scripture (20-21)

I. HOLY VIOLENCE TOWARD SIN! (1)

II. HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO GOD! (2)

III. PRECISE OBEDIENCE TO SCRIPTURE! (3)

Note Hezekiah’s commitment to the written Word

Note Hezekiah’s commitment to obedience

IV. GRACIOUS PROVISION TO TEACHERS! (4-19)

• The focus here in this chap is on the HEARTS OF GOD’S PEOPLE; they give generously! *summary verse is v. 10!*

1. **GIVING** for God’s Work (**Contribution** of the gifts) (vv 4-10)
[Deut 14:29; 18:5; 1 Cor 9:13-14; 1 Tim 5:18]

2. **SUPPORT** for God’s Servants (**Distribution** of the gifts) (vv 11-19)

The characteristic & main mark of all the distribution of the funds was “**Faithfulness**” (v. 12, 15, 18)

More on verses 4-19 – support for RELIGIOUS PERSONNEL [priests, Levites]

Hezekiah restored the system of offerings that SUPPORTED the priests and Levites

1. Lev 6:14-7:36
2. Num 18:8-32
3. Deut 14:27-29
4. Deut 18:1-8
5. Deut 26:1-15

>> No doubt Ahaz the wicked king (& Hezekiah’s father) surely stopped this support for the priestly/Levitical service.

The leaders needed the freedom to STUDY THE LAW OF THE LORD. Their duty is to study, to observe, to teach God’s Law!

It was crucial for the well being of the whole nation that the clergy thoroughly understand what God requires!

Malachi 2:6-7 & Ezra 7:10

1 Timothy 4:11-16 & 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 & Luke 10:7 & 1 Timothy 5:17-18

Any church that does not afford its pastor the opportunity for study and growth will suffer for it! (J. A. Thompson)

V. GODLY LEADERS OBEYING SCRIPTURE! (20-21)

✓ Summary of Hezekiah’s Leadership:

1. Hezekiah’s **LEADERSHIP** (he did)
2. Hezekiah’s **CONSISTENCY** (throughout ALL Judah)
3. Hezekiah’s **AMBITION** (he did before the LORD HIS GOD)
4. Hezekiah’s **PRIORITY** (he served the Lord in the house of God)
5. Hezekiah’s **AUTHORITY** (the Law and in Commandment)
6. Hezekiah’s **PURSUIT** (he sought his God)
7. Hezekiah’s **PASSION** (he did with all his heart)
8. Hezekiah’s **BLESSING** (and he prospered!)

Let us be faithful to give -- God supplies us, so let us give generously!

This chapter might be called: “RELIGIOUS REFORMATION.” Remember Colossians 1:23 — Paul wants us to CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, grounded and firm in the faith and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that we’ve heard. Hezekiah is marked by WHOLESALE REFORMATION; a true revival; a work of God, by His Spirit, through His Word, by a man of God! (Leslie Allen)

I RUN TO CHRIST

I run to Christ when chased by fear
And find a refuge sure.

“Believe in me,” His voice I hear;
His words and wounds secure.

I run to Christ when torn by grief
And find abundant peace.

“I too had tears,” He gently speaks;
Thus joy and sorrow meet.

I run to Christ when worn by life
And find my soul refreshed.

“Come unto Me,” He calls through strife;
Fatigue gives way to rest.

I run to Christ when vexed by hell
And find a mighty arm.

“The Devil flees,” the Scriptures tell;
He roars, but cannot harm.

I run to Christ when stalked by sin
And find a sure escape.

“Deliver me,” I cry to Him;
Temptation yields to grace.

I run to Christ when plagued by shame
And find my one defense.

“I bore God’s wrath,” He pleads my case—
My Advocate and Friend.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul!*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should
come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin—not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

But, Lord, ‘tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh trump of the angel! Oh voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so”—it is well with my soul.