

WHAT FAITHFUL THINGS HEZEKIAH DID?

Chapter 30 details the marvellous revival that took place under King Hez's rule. He was one of the good kings of Judah. He had a **very wicked father**, King Ahaz *In his time of his distress he became yet more faithless* [28:22] the very **opposite** of his son here, who in his time of trouble became **stronger in faith!**

Hez **called** the people back to the Lord! *couriers went throughout Israel ...with letters...saying 'O People of Israel, return to the Lord'* [30:6]! APP Very difficult to do – especially **reversing** his father's programmes and rule! It is far more difficult to bring a **post-Xn** society **back** to Xnity than to Xnise a **new** community!

Hez **overcame** the **ridicule** and **scorn** of the people! *they laughed them to scorn and mocked them* [30:10]. But Hez carried on with his spiritual revival programme! Eventually *many people came together ...to keep the Feast* [30:13]. A **great cleansing** of the temple/priesthood! Threw out all the uncleanness [29:16] The priests/Levites **ashamed**. A **positive** effect! Priests **consecrated themselves** [30:15].

There was a great time of **rejoicing** throughout the whole of Judah, 4 times it talks of **joy** [30:21-25] Even **sojourners** who had sought **asylum** in Israel joined in the celebrations and **rejoiced** [30:25]. Imagine the **Muslims** in UK rejoicing at Xnity revival in the nation!

In **retrospect** the **overall view** was: *...since the time of Solomon ... there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem* [30:26]. In the whole history of Israel there was nothing like this before! It went down in Israel's history as one of the best things that ever happened!

LESSON 1. Hez **RESTORED TRUE religion/worship first** *Hez sent to all Israel...to keep the Passover to the Lord the God of Israel* [30:1] He put God **first** and **before pragmatism!** I am sure there were **plenty things** he could have done first that were **urgent!** But getting our **faith** in the **right God** was **vital** to Hez! The State, today have a **similar responsibility** to restore/uphold **God's law!** MPs are designated in Scripture as *ministers of God!* [Rom 13] Whatever we

may think their title should be, God **says** they are *ministers of God!* You cannot **promote** several religions as right! You cannot serve 2 Gods never mind 6 or 7! Multi-culturalism is a precursor of disaster! UK Government must state whose commandments are we going they keep! Which God are they going to serve! *On what are you trusting?* APP Write/phone/email/meet/pray! Xnity is **very practical!**

LESSON 2. Good Deeds do NOT GUARANTEE a Good Life!

"After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib... invaded Judah [32:1] We might say, Hez did not '**deserve**' this!

After all his loyalty, God allows the World Power of the day to invade his land! One of the most important things to mention today re Xnity is that it does **not guarantee immunity** from the **tragedies** of life. Just because you have put your faith in God, **does not mean** life will go sweetly for you. Persecuted Xns know it doesn't - and they know God all the better for it! I remember a Xn 'God would never allow that happen to me, would he?' Yes, He might!

We are all subject to the **common curse** of mankind! You and I, no matter how faithful we may have been and are, are subject to whatever the world may throw at us! There is **no special protection net** encircling us from the common dangers of life. Yes, there times when God wonderfully takes care of us – but these are rare and special indeed. Not until we are in heaven, and as long as we are in this 'sin-cursed world', can we expect to be completely free from the effects of the Fall of Mankind. This world is **not** heaven!

Well Hez was **threatened** by Sennacherib! Believe it, he was **afraid**. [2Kin 19:1] tells us he **tore his clothes**...and put on **sackcloth** Like most people, he went **running** to the prophet for **prayer/help**![32:20]

LESSON 3. The Great BLESSING of Having SUPPORTERS to Confer and Discuss!

In a crisis a wise man seeks **consultation!** *Hez planned with his officers [3]*! Every congregation should have a **number** of elders! So that it would **not only** be the minister's mind, but the **collective** mind of the spiritual elder! There is much more likelihood that a **number** of God's people together, with prayer, will have the mind of the Lord than one individual on his own. Satan can

gain advantage over one mind much more easily than over several minds! The whole **Presbyterian** system is built on that theory.

Solomon said “*Two are better than one...but woe to him who is alone when he falls*”[Ecc 4:10]. Our Lord Jesus took 3 or 4 with Him for special occasions and when there was an important matter.

LESSON 4. In a Time of Crisis, DO THE OBVIOUS and All That You Can Do! *they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land...He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken...raised towers upon it...he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance !*[4-5] We all have crises in our lives! We all have to face our demons from time to time.

Cromwell said to his soldiers ‘Keep your faith in God, but keep your powder dry’! Be sensible, keep your head and do what you can - **and pray** of course as Hez did – he got Isaiah the prophet to join him and they **prayed because of this and cried to heaven** [32:20]

There **are** things **within our power** to do! God **expects** His people to do what they ought and can do! Remember: *the sword of the Lord and of Gideon*”! We are called to “**Build yourselves up in your most holy faith**”![Jude 20] **keep yourselves in the love of God** [Jude 21] ... **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand** [Eph 6:10]cf].

God **has** given His people **grace/power** which **enables** them **do** certain things towards their own sanctification! Listen to God’s Spirit *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another; as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies* [1Pet 4:10,11] God supplies grace! God gives His people strength for certain duties! We have no excuse, we cannot blame God for not giving us strength.

LESSON 5. Remind and Encourage Others of GOD’S Great Power! Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, for there are more with us than with him [32:7] APP Do we believe that? You have to **know** who you believe – God! Remind Xns of **God's great**

power! Not in **chance** or **Lady Luck!** If we do not believe in **God** and in **His Word** then we can offer little help to people - we are shut up to **fate!** Xns need to be reminded of God's **promises** to them. Look: *for you had compassion on those in prison and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property* How were they able to just 'accept' these problems **uncomplainingly?** Ans: because *you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one* [Heb 10:34] Because they **knew** they had something better - and they knew this because of their **faith** in God! **Do you really believe that?**

Encouraging people **strengthens** them (as well as ourselves): *And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah[8]!* Encouraging people **in the Lord** is one of the best things we can do in life! It is **very rewarding** – look: “*You sympathised with those in prison...so do not throw away your confidence* (in God's promises); *which has a great reward* [Heb 10:35]

LESSON 6. TRUE FAITH in GOD WILL BE TESTED! Hez publicly declared that his faith was in the God of Israel. He *sent to all Israel...they should come to the house of the Lord...to keep the Passover...So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel* [30:1,5] Hez went public with his faith. So what happened...? **APP** Once you set your hand to do something for the Lord, Satan will send one of his agents (and they might even be a Xn) to **perplex and worry and distract you!** Sennacherib king of Assyria ‘*On what are you trusting...? Is not Hez misleading you...do not let Hez deceive you...do not believe him* [32:10-15] all that to **discourage!**

All true faith will be **tested!** Sennacherib and his men have not died! They are still alive and they will say to the Xn “*On what are you trusting?”* [32:10] The scholars and intellectuals will say 'The Church is dead, it is old fashioned'. And they will **appeal to history** (the history that **suits** them!) But you know, history is on the Xn's side! There is **Calvary's Cross!** There's history for you! **APP** On what are **you** trusting? Is it just as in our **post-modernism 'faith in faith'?** Or is it faith in what happened in real history – the history of Calvary's Cross? Jesus of Nazareth lived a life and died a death that has more evidence than any other historical event in the world!