

Life Group Study Outline Hezekiah: The Reign of Renewal

2 Chronicles 29-32; 2 Kings 18-20



2 Chronicles 29:1-19 – Cleansing from Unfaithfulness (2nd February – Joel)

Main Points

- The reign of Ahaz had been terrible, and God had been neglected by the king and all the people (see 2 Chronicles 28:1-4, 22-27)
- How would you follow that up? For young Hezekiah, “In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them” (29:3) and proceeded to spend 16 days cleansing the temple (see 2 Chronicles 27:24).
- “My sons, do not now be negligent, for the Lord has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him and to be his ministers and make offerings to him.” (29:11)
 - We have the same role through Jesus (see 1 Peter 2:9; Exodus 19:5-6; Revelation 1:6; Revelation 5:9-10)
- The key repeated words in the passage are cleanse and consecrate, it was made ready and prepared for God to use again and for Him to be worshipped (29:19)

Discussion Questions

- What do we need to cleanse ourselves from?
- How have we slipped into idolatry or unfaithfulness?
- What does it look like to consecrate ourselves?

2 Chronicles 29:20-36 – Restoration of Faithfulness (9th February – Andrew)

Main Points

- Cleansing of unfaithfulness is only one part of renewal. Restoration of faithfulness is also key.
- Sacrifice for sin is key to the restoration. We have Jesus, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Our restoration is a response to His sacrifice.
- “You have now consecrated yourselves to the Lord. Come near; bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the Lord.” (29:31)
 - “The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded” (29:28)... “they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshipped” (29:30)... “all who were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings” (29:31)

Discussion Questions

- What does it look like for us to restore faithfulness?
- How do we respond to God’s renewing work in our lives? Do we have joy & gladness?

2 Chronicles 30-31 – Organisation & Form (16th February – Andrew)

Main Points

- One of the keys to Hezekiah’s reign of renewal, was following up the initial reform with system & structure to ensure ongoing change and renewal.
 - Practices like Passover were reinstated (2 Chronicles 30)
 - The priests were organised in their service (2 Chronicles 31)
- This wasn’t a boring and dry thing, because it was clear God was at work. “So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem” (30:26)
- It was met with a response of generosity. “As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits... they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.” (31:5)

- What a beautiful life summary: “Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.” (31:20-21)

Discussion Questions

- What practices do we need to adopt to ensure renewal continues to happen and for us to remain ready for Jesus to return and to use us in His Kingdom?
- How can we ensure generosity, service, and sacrifice, continue in our renewal?

2 Chronicles 32:1-23 / 2 Kings 18-19 - Standing the Test (8th March – Joel)

Main Points

- As renewal happens, opposition is inevitable, and our resolve is tested.
 - As the king of Assyria rose up against Hezekiah, he encouraged the people, “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. 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 took confidence from the words of Hezekiah...” (32:7-8)
 - Yet the king of Assyria, who just wiped out Israel and conquered many other lands, continues to taunt and mock God and the people of Judah.
 - The response of the people – “the people were silent and answer him not a word, for the king’s command was, “Do not answer him.”” (2 Kings 18:36)
 - The response of Hezekiah – “prayed because of this and cried to heaven...” (32:20)
- In all this, God provides encouragement through the prophet Isaiah (2 Kings 19) and miraculously saves Judah from the Assyrians (32:21)

Discussion Questions

- When voices arise to challenge our faith, how do we respond?
- How quick are we turn to God in prayer in our battles? How do we ensure God is first-choice and not last-resort?

2 Chronicles 32:24-33 – Falling into Pride (15th March – Andrew)

Main Points

- After all of this renewal, Hezekiah has been “exalted in the sight of all nations” (32:23) and has been faithful to God. Yet he slips up, “for his heart was proud” (32:24)
 - See 2 Kings 20:1-11 for the sign that God promised, and yet Hezekiah still fell into pride. Even in verses 12-21 he shows off the prosperity he has, as “God left him to himself, in order to test him and to know all that was in his heart” (2 Chronicles 33:31)
 - If God works in our lives, if we see Him restore and renew, if we stand through the tests and trials, and implement faithful practices, we need to remain humble and dependent on God.
- Hezekiah, convicted of his sin, “humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord did not come upon them...” (32:26)

Discussion Questions

- How do we avoid the creeping sin of pride? What is the difference between pride and confidence?
- How do we stay humble? What does it look like to stay dependent on God?