

Exposition of
2 Chronicles 29

Sermon Series:
Spiritual Lessons from OT Kings

Sermon Title:
Reform & Revival
Lesson from King Hezekiah

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last two months we have witnessed many ebbs and flows in the spirituality of the various kings that we have looked at in this series and one may be tempted to feel as though these men who lived approx. 2,500 yrs. ago +/- may not hold any real significance lessons for us today, however to think such a thing would be to miss the principal of truth contained in 2Ti 3:16 “All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

This precious truth, I trust you agree, has been demonstrated again and again as we have been walking through this series entitled Spiritual Lessons from the OT Kings.

Last time we were in Chp.26 and learned of the Power of Pride in the life of king Uzziah, and now we move forward in the history of Judh’s kings to Hezekiah.

But to set the context for our text today, let us briefly examine the previous 32yrs. +/- prior to Hezekiah begins his reign.

JOTHAM- 2 Chp. 27 (also 2 Kings 15)

- Commendable king, followed God’s law, kept the peace, but did nothing to reform or change the ungodliness that had been allowed to creep in over time.

AHAZ (Hezekiah’s father) – 2 Chor.28 (also 2 Kings 16-17)

- One of, in fact possibly, the worst king Judah ever had. He brouth into the land complete and widespread apostasy. The evil heart of Ahaz had influenced and in a very real way poisoned the entire spiritual life of Judah. A vast majority of the people were coldly indifferent to the things of God. Isiah the prophet is alive and ministering among the people, however the estate of Judah under Ahaz’s rule was so bad that the temple which had been the focus of their national identity, the focus of their national covenant and promises from God, the temple which was a physical

symbol of God's spiritual presence among them had been boarded up and closed because their hearts were led astray in false worship. Allow me to repeat this point once again - the nation had altogether become cold and indifferent to the things of God.

To the North in Israel, the scene was no better and perhaps even worse. In fact, after much long suffering, after many warnings from God through his prophets Israel (the Northern kingdom) shortly after the death of Ahaz is finally judged and taken captive by the Assrians, who seemed at that time to be an unstoppable force in the region.

(DESCRIBE AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT)

Surely, in Judah the remnant (those who had not apostazied, those who had not forsaken the covenant obligations) surely the faithful would have felt a sense of hopelessness. Surely, as they looked around them the promise of God was beginning to be doubted. As you and I pause, and honestly observe the estate of affairs in our own nation and also the church in the West we are forced to note the striking similarities of Judah in Hezekiah's day when compared to the age in which we live.

We too are tempted to feel that there is no significant change we can bring about. In fact, just this week one of the most influential film makers in the world known as Walt Disney produced an animated film which was readily watched by millions of children living in both professing Christian homes and non-Christian homes which depicted in an approving fashion two men kissing one another in an attempt to desensitize young minds to that sin the Bible calls sodomi which God's says is an abomination in His sight.

We, like the faithful in Judah look around and admit that the times are very dark. We like them have a reality which surrounds us and proves to anyone with honest gospel vision that it is a spiritually desperate time - however in the providence of God

it was then and is now, a deliberate time for almighty God to raise up a people, a church to bring about reform & revival.

The first steps of such needed reform and revival are here before us in today's text as God uses king Hezekiah to turn the hearts and minds of the people back unto His Holy and Righteous ways.

We then, ought to pay close attention to the elements of Hezekiah's reforms and along the way ask the question: How can they instruct us today about the nature of revival among God people?

ELEMENTS OF REFORMATION & REVIVAL

v.3 Urgency of Reform

vv. 4,5 Call to Cleansing & Sanctification

vv. 6-9 Acknowledgement of Sin & Consequences

vv. 10,11 Total Devotion

vv. 12-19 Obedient Preparation

vv. 20-24 Repentance & Atonement

~ At this point it's important that we notice that the foundation of Hezekiah's reformation and revival included cleansing, repentance, devotion, and obedient preparation. Laying such a foundation is not usually an easy task, but only after such a foundation has been laid will we ever experience the true blessing and fruits of genuine reformation and revival.

vv. 28, 29 Fruits of Reformation & Revival

v.36 Author of True Reformation & Revival

- This is, without a doubt the most important element of reformation and revival because it emphasizes the fact that all which was taking place wasn't merely the result of Hezekiah's leadership or the response of the people.
- Thus far most of the focus has been on the actions of Hezekiah and the people, however the Spirit of God wants to be certain that we don't miss, what often times as prideful man we do: Hezekiah's leadership and the faithfulness of the people was all made possible by the LORD!!

He is the one who deserves all the glory, He is the one who prepares the hearts of His people to receive reformation and revival.

Habk.3:2 "O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- We started today's message with a somewhat depressing comparison of the situation in our own day and age with that of backslidden Judah, however what we walk away with today is:

First: A comfort of knowing that even amid times of great spiritual decline God can and will prepare the hearts of a people to be instruments of true reformation and revival.

Second: That no matter the odds, no matter the challenge, God can take one single person empowered with courage and zeal from upon high and turn nations upside down for His glory! Never view your work for the LORD as being in vain.

~ 1Cr 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.