

2 CHRONICLES 31:2-21

REVIEW

As we pick up in [2 Chronicle 31](#) Hezekiah is still king over the southern kingdom of Judah. We were told in chapter 29 that the first thing that he does in the first month of the first year of his reign was to re-establish worship. Before he does anything that will benefit himself he takes care to re-establish worship in the house of the Lord. He sets out to repair the house of the Lord and restore the vessels used in the worship of the Lord. He re-consecrates the priests and Levites for service and worship in the house of the Lord. Then (2 Chronicles 30) he restores the observance of Passover in Judah — even inviting the remnant of the northern tribes to return to the Lord who redeemed their ancestors from bondage and death on Egypt. And it was a remarkable time as so many men and women had never celebrated Passover because they were so steeped in idolatry. It was an amazing moment — one of the most remarkable times in the history of Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 30 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.

Last week we looked at the first verse of chapter 31.

¹Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and broke down the high places and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, and in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the people of Israel returned to their cities, every man to his possession.

NOTE: Something happened. The reasonable questions to ask of the text are, **who** did **what**, and **where** did they do it?

WHO was doing it = *all Israel who were present*.

WHAT did they do = *went out and broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and broke down the high places and the altars.... until they had destroyed them all.*

WHERE did they do it = *throughout all Judah and Benjamin, and in Ephraim and Manasseh*

But the key to all of this is in the question, *WHEN* did all of this happen? The ***WHEN*** of all of this is crucial to our understanding of the Christian life.

¹Now when all this was finished,

All of these idols were destroyed **after** they kept the feast of Passover. Passover is the commemoration and celebration of how God delivered His people, Israel, from **slavery** and **bondage** and **death** in Egypt.

What they did in **2 Chronicles 31:1** in the tearing down of those idols was essentially **a response to hearing the Gospel** (as God chose to reveal it and foreshadow it in the feast of Passover). Remember, most of those people had never even heard about the lamb that was slain. They had bought into the lies of idolatry. They worshipped and lived for things other than the true and living God. It was **when they were told** how God triumphed over the idols of Egypt — and what **God did** to deliver Israel from death and bondage by way of the shed blood of an innocent, spotless lamb, **that they were stirred** in their hearts to **find the idols** they used to worship and live for and pull them down, utterly destroy them.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH of 2 Chronicles 31:1 is this — Destroying idols doesn't produce revival. In fact — destroying idols to earn or produce revival is dead religion! Destroying idols doesn't produce revival — destroying idols is the result of revival. The Biblical pattern for revival is this — As the GRACE and GOODNESS of the Lord is proclaimed, believed and experienced, people respond by destroying the idols in their lives.

DETHRONING IDOLS is ALWAYS the response to what God has done for us in the sending of His Son Jesus. It is the result of recognizing the infinite worth of Jesus — that He alone is worthy of exaltation and adoration.

²And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, division by division, each according to his service, the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and peace offerings, to minister in the gates of the camp of the Lord and to give thanks and praise. ³The contribution of the king from his own possessions was for the burnt offerings: the burnt offerings of morning and evening, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the appointed feasts, as it is written in the Law of the Lord.

DON'T MISS THIS — Revival is marked by a **return to the Word of God**. There is an **inseparable connection** between the Worship of God and the Word of God.

Follow me here — Last week we learned that becoming a Christian is not just a change of philosophy, or a shift in moral values — it's a shift in worship. It is recognizing the infinite worth of Jesus — that He alone deserves all that we are, all that we do, all that we could ever hope to become. That leads us to dethrone the idols we had once lived for and worshipped.

There can come a time(s) in the Christian life when our love for Jesus can grow cold. We don't renounce Jesus — but we begin to give place to idols. It's a treacherously subtle process. You confuse your Biblical knowledge with worship. You see — worship is not a matter of accumulating Biblical information and nodding in theological agreement. Worship is the investment of my heart and life in all that the Bible tells me about God. **It is possible** for our **minds** to be filled but while our **hearts** grow cold. We begin to live outside of what we know to be true about Jesus. We would never dare think that there is another Savior apart from Jesus, but we start to find our security and identity in our circumstances or the temporary acceptance of people.

We start to feel as though **we** need to be in control of people and situations.

QUOTE: Paul Tripp — *When you chafe against your circumstances, you're falling into thinking you know better than the One who controls every circumstance.*

All of that is unbelief. All of that is looking to someone or something to be our functional savior. That's how Christians give up little pockets of real estate in their hearts to idols.

The good news is that our relationship with God begins on the basis of grace — is sustained on the basis of grace — and will be perfected on the basis of grace. In His infinite and matchless grace God meets us where we are and takes us where we need to be. God works to revive our hearts. He does it by giving to us a fresh and radical look at the cross of Jesus.

That work of God to revive us will be marked by a renewed worship of Jesus — the Lamb that was slain — that is functionally expressed in a return to the Word of God. There is a fresh and renewed hunger for the Word of God. There is a desire to delight in the Word of God; think on the Word of God; meditate on the Word of God. There will be a profound desire to live in it — live from it. That is what worship looks like. It is acknowledging the infinite wisdom of God — the truth of God. The Word of God reminds you that no matter what you FEEL — nothing in your life is out of control. The Word of God reminds you that no matter how you FEEL — God rules the situations, locations and relationships that seem to be out of control. The Word of God reminds you that no matter how you FEEL — your hope, your security, your identity, is not wrapped up in a situation, or a thing; your hope and security and identity is wrapped up in Jesus. Worship is more than singing songs — Worship is bowing your heart to the claims of Scripture — living in conformity to the Word of God. Worship is **acknowledging** that **God is true** above what you feel or think. Worship is **living as though** God **is** and that He **does** exactly what He says in Scripture

⁴And he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the Law of the Lord. ⁵As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. ⁶And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the Lord their God, and laid them in heaps. ⁷In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.

HERE'S THE PICTURE — When men and women recognize the infinite worth of Jesus — that He alone is worthy of exaltation and adoration — they not only tear down idols in their life and bow before the wisdom of God in Scripture — they become generous in supplying resources for God's work. They're willing to do that and able to do that because they have experienced a radical shift in worship. They are no longer looking at their time, talent and treasure as the things they worship, derive their identity from and live for. They now want to live for God who *so loved* them *that HE GAVE His only begotten Son*. In light of God's grace they are actually going to lavish upon God — as an act of worship — the very things they used to worship! They are going to want to spend and be spent so that others will be saved and worship God.

DON'T MISS THIS — ⁵.... *And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything*. They were generous on every level concerning their resources. For us this is not a matter of grain, wine, oil, honey or produce. For us — **everything** would be a reference to our resources of time, talent and treasure.

They laid them in **heaps**. I love that!

Dictionary Definition: a large amount or number of something;
load something copiously with

Those heaps were the sum of all the offerings brought by those whose hearts the Lord had touched — they were the total of corporate giving. Each gave generously of what they had to give. Those who had little gave generously from the little they had. Those who had much gave generously from the much they had. The result was **heaps**.

They not only gave corporately — they gave consistently. In the third month, they began to lay the foundation of the heaps. That's when the harvest began. The harvest finished in the seventh month. The first part of the harvest, grain, barley. The last part of the harvest consisted of the fruits, the grapes from the vineyard and so forth. In reality — their giving **began** when they plowed and prepared to plant. It continued when they sowed and then tended their fields. It culminated in the various harvests.

⁸When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. ⁹And Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps. ¹⁰Azariah the chief priest, who was of the house of Zadok, answered him, “Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the Lord, we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left, for the Lord has blessed his people, so that we have this large amount left.”

DON'T MISS THIS — ¹⁰*...we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left, **FOR** the Lord has blessed his people, **so that** we have this large amount left.*” The Lord BLESSED the people so that they could BLESS the work of the Lord. This is the Old Testament illustration of New Testament truth.

2 Corinthians 9:8-10 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread*

for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

The Lord blesses His people so that HIS WORK can continue.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 *We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means (KJV =beyond their power), of their own free will, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but **they gave themselves first to the Lord** and then by the will of God to us.*

DON'T MISS THIS — ¹. The Lord ENABLED them to give beyond their power to give. ². The Lord wants YOU — NOT your money. When YOU are given to the cause of God, your time, talents and resources are available to the Lord.

The giving in 2 Chronicles 31 was an indicator of how they had given themselves to the Lord — a PROOF of how real their worship was! Paul added this in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians

2 Corinthians 8:8 KJV ⁸*I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.*

What we do with our time, talents and treasure can never **earn** or **merit** the love of God or the forgiveness of sins. But it is the indicator of what is really going on between us and the Lord — an indicator that we have truly been gripped by the immensity of His grace.

2 Corinthians 8:9 ⁹*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

QUOTE: Kelly Kopic — *When you discover the immensity of God's grace, it impels you to enter into the flow of divine generosity and become an avenue of his great gifts to the world.....God's generosity buys us out of bondage and brings us into all the blessings of belonging to him. But the good news is not only that God has made us to be recipients of his grace but also participants in the movement of his divine generosity.*

HERE'S THE POINT — I believe that we are just scratching at the surface of the mission God has for Metro. I also believe that the FUNDING and RESOURCES are already in place within this group of people. I believe those resources will be released as we personally and corporately discover more fully the immensity of God's grace.

11Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare chambers in the house of the Lord, and they prepared them. 12And they faithfully brought in the contributions, the tithes, and the dedicated things.

In order to store up the abundance of resources that were released in this revival they built special storehouses. Later on in the Book of Malachi, the Lord Himself makes reference to this storehouse —

Malachi 3:10 *10Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

This brings up a reasonable question. People ask, *Where should I tithe?* You should tithe into the storehouse, or the place from which you are being fed. You should be giving to the place where under the guidance of Jesus, the chief Shepherd, leaders are appointed who are empowered and gifted by the Holy Spirit causing you to be edified/built up in your relationship with Jesus and equipped to live on mission for Jesus and serve Jesus.

This is worth pointing out because there are those who might not come to Metro on Sundays yet everything that that benefits those attending on Mondays is almost entirely supported by those who give on Sundays. Those who have come on Mondays for any length of time can attest to how no one has ever harassed you to give — or tried to recruit you away from the church you go to on Sunday. Monday Nights @ Metro is still very much an outreach — But I believe it is Biblical to give where you are being edified and equipped.

From the end of **Verse 12** to the end of **verse 14** we see those who were responsible for overseeing the administration of these gifts.

In **Verses 16-17** we are told that if you were born into a family that descended from Aaron (the priestly family in Israel) you received support beginning at the age of 3 and if you were a Levite you received support beginning at the age of 20.

HERE'S THE PICTURE — We need to make an investment in our children — our youth and our young adults. (@ CCGV quit radio to fund a full time salary. We need full time staff.)

²⁰Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. ²¹And 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.

WHAT did he do? He did that which was *good and right and faithful (KJV = True) before the Lord his God.*

HOW did he do it? *every work that he undertook... seeking his God, he did with all his heart*

WHAT was the outcome? *And prospered*

WHY did he prosper? Obviously it is the Lord who was prospering him. But I believe that the Lord honored Hezekiah's heart. God tells

us in His Word what His heart is on the matter of all of our labors. Hezekiah's heart was lined up with the Word of God

Colossians 3:17 *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²²Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

CLOSE

Up to this point Hezekiah has been driven by a passion to see God worshipped. He's been seeking first the interests of God above his own. He **re-established** worship in the house of the Lord. He **repaired** the house of the Lord and **restored the vessels** used in the worship of the Lord. He **re-consecrated** the priests and Levites for service and worship in the house of the Lord. He restored the observance of Passover. The people responded to blood of the lamb by tearing down the idols they used to worship. They became extravagant in their giving for the work of the Lord. Chapter 31 ends by saying that Hezekiah *did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. ²¹And 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.*

CHECK OUT THE OPENING VERSE OF 2 Chronicles 32 —

¹After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself.

That is counterintuitive. After those things — after acts of faithfulness — we expect smooth sailing. That’s owing in good part to the fact that there is some part of us that doesn’t really understand grace. There is some part of us that still thinks we relate to God on the basis of merit.

QUOTE: Paul Tripp — *When you think you're righteous, you think you've earned what you haven't earned and deserve what you don't deserve..... If you think you're righteous, you'll expect things from God you shouldn't expect and demand things from people you shouldn't demand.*

The last bit of that quote is so powerful — but let’s stick with the front end of it. The proof that there is a deeply rooted sense of self-righteousness in us is seen in the fact that we expect a life without conflict or hardship or adversity when we are living right before the Lord. We think we’ve earned an exemption from spiritual warfare.

The opening verse of **Chapter 32** is not about what Hezekiah “deserved.” It’s about the very real opposition in this world to the worship of God and the redeeming plans and purposes of God in our lives in the face of that opposition.

Whenever there is REVIVAL — whenever there is a RESPONSE to God’s grace — there will be a REACTION from hell.

QUOTE — *Brethren, if we will do God's work in God's way, at God's time, with God's power, we shall have God's blessing and the devil's curses. When God opens the windows of heaven to bless us, the devil will open the doors of hell to blast us.*

That is true on the personal level! Remember — personal revival has as its end worship of God and the tearing down of idols. Satan opposes the worship of God and promotes idolatry.

QUOTE: W. T. Matson — *Against me earth and hell combine; But on my side is Power Divine; Jesus is all, and He is mine.*

It's true on the corporate level — Any time a local church is experiencing revival Satan doesn't sit back and say, *"How wonderful. A revival in Roseville and Rocklin and Granite Bay and Citrus Heights and Auburn and Loomis and Folsom and El Dorado Hills. I guess I should give up the battle in this region."* No — he and his minions plan and strategize. He has *wiles* and *devices*. The greater the work (individually or corporately) the greater the attack.

If you're being assaulted — attacked and assailed — be encouraged! It means you are on the verge of revival or in revival. The same is true for those on the verge of becoming a believer. The devil will not let you go without kicking or screaming.

So for next week read **2 Chronicles 32** and this remarkable account of the Assyrians coming against Jerusalem and how Hezekiah responded in the face of it.