

September 4, 2022
Study of King Hezekiah

“Righteous Reparations”

II Chronicles 29:1-20

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➤ Introduction (II Chron. 29:1-2; II Kings 18:1-3)

○ His relative youth

- In both passages, we see that Hezekiah was 25 when he took the throne
- Fairly young; Some of Israel’s kings were much younger
- When you compare the timing of the reigns of Ahaz and Hezekiah in the south and Hoshea in the north, you realize something
- That is, Hezekiah co-reigned with his father Ahaz for at least the last little bit of Ahaz’s reign before Ahaz’s death
- All of that and the wickedness and idolatry that infested Ahaz’s reign seems to have had little effect on Hezekiah, as young as he was

○ His Testimony

- Both II Chronicles and II Kings summarize his reign in similar fashion
- “He did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father” had done
- Jotham attempted to please the people; Ahaz attempted to please Tiglathpileser, king of Assyria; Hezekiah did that which was right *in the sight of the LORD*
- We see no detail spared in the description of his righteousness

- In this study though too, we will see that the Bible doesn't hold back Hezekiah's faults
- As we see the beginning of his reign though, we consider now "Righteous Reparations"

I. The Doors Divided (v. 3)

A. Hezekiah's _____

1. Ahaz wasted no time sacrificing on a pagan altar
2. Hezekiah wastes no time honoring the true and living God
3. In the first year of his reign, in the first month!
4. Verse 17 tells us that the work commanded by the king was carried out immediately
5. Within 16 days, everything is cleaned up

B. Summary

1. We have a summary in verse 3 of what Hezekiah does here
2. He _____ the doors to the house of the LORD
3. The doors that Jotham had decided to leave swinging in limbo because of his indifference
4. The doors that Ahaz had slammed shut that he might pursue the filth of this world
5. Hezekiah cracks open the gap between these doors and lets the light into God's House
6. The doors are opened and repairs are made
 - a) Isaiah 55:7.
 - b) The rut is about to be overcome!

c) _____ is coming to Judah!

II. Desire of the King (vv. 4-11)

A. Command for cleansing

1. _____ cleanliness is of great importance to our God
2. Hezekiah gathers the priests and Levites in verse 4
3. In verse 5, he gives command to cleanse themselves and carry the filth and gunk out of the temple
4. To cleanse they first must be cleansed themselves

B. Rejection of Righteousness (vv. 6-7) — A long sad history

1. The “filthiness” in verse 5 was the result of years darkness that had filled the lives of the people of Israel
2. Several key phrases we see in these two verses:

a) Verse 6

- (1) “Trespassed”
- (2) “Done that which was evil”
- (3) “Forsaken him”
- (4) “Turned away their faces”
- (5) “Turned their backs”

b) Verse 7

- (1) “Shut up the doors of the porch”
- (2) “Put out the lamps”
- (3) “Not burned incense”

3. Righteousness was all but dead
4. Proper prayer was a thing of the _____
5. The people and their king had rejected the “God of Israel”
(v. 7)

C. _____ of Rejection (vv. 8-9)

1. Bottom line: Judgment

- a) “Wrath of the LORD”
 - b) “Delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing” — A hissing sound was an expression of scorn and contempt; so then to be hissed made you the object of scorn and contempt
 - c) “Fallen by the sword”
 - d) “In captivity for this”
2. Sin carries a _____
- a) This is an unchanging principle
 - b) Galatians 6:7-8
 - c) Evil breeds evil; righteousness breeds righteousness
 - d) At a communal level, but also at a personal level

D. Righteous Ruler (vv. 10-11)

1. All that was in the _____ now
2. Philippians 3:13-14
3. Hezekiah seemed to be unwavering in his determination to restore the LORD to a place of preeminence
4. He desired to make reparations not just on a material level, but by doing this he would make reparations on a spiritual level (v. 10)
 - a) It was more than just making things look good for God
 - b) It was about a national revival and doing what was _____
 - c) His actions were right because his heart was pure
 - d) He wanted to accomplish a couple things in cleaning up the nation:
 - (1) He wanted to establish a relationship that had long been broken

- (2) He wanted to keep his people from tasting the wrath of almighty God
- 5. So we see his encouragement (v. 11) — good application for us
 - a) Don't be _____!
 - b) Realize:
 - (1) By virtue of the fact that we have chosen Christ, He now has chosen us to serve Him
 - (2) So we must “Serve him”, “minister unto him”
 - (3) Lift up the “incense” of our prayers before Him

III. Diligent Decontamination (vv. 12-20)

A. The crew is assembled

- 1. “Then the Levites arose...” — The tribe tasked with the priestly duties didn't waste any time
- 2. 14 men in all gather together (vv. 12-14)
- 3. Not only that but they were a _____ influence on their Levite brethren (v. 15)

B. The laborers are sanctified

- 1. They ceremonially cleanse and separate themselves for the work
- 2. The work begins! (v. 16)
- 3. So who are we influencing and reaching out to?
- 4. Are we sanctified and separated for the work? Are we submissive to the direction of the Word of the Lord in our lives?

C. The temple is cleansed and the worship

_____! (vv. 16-19)

1. The garbage is dumped (v. 16)
 - a) “The priests went into...the house...to *cleanse it*”
 - b) They brought out *all* the uncleanness that they found
 - c) So the priests go clean the inner areas of the Temple (i.e. the Holy Place and Holy of Holies)
 - d) What they found was moved to the courtyard where the Levites disposed of it in “the brook Kidron”
2. When was the last time we just took a while and cleaned the gunk out of our lives and relationship with God?
 - a) We should be asking ourselves “Where’s my focus?” for every area of our lives
 - b) Hebrews 12:1-2
 - c) When was the last time we opened up the doors of our heart to the conviction of the Holy Spirit?
 - (1) Psalms 139:23-24
 - (2) Psalms 51:2-3
 - (3) Psalms 51:7.
 - (4) Psalms 51:10.
 - d) Oh what a tremendous picture of spiritual cleansing we see in the brazen laver used by the priests!
 - (1) James 4:8.
 - (2) Many a Christian today forfeits God’s

 - (3) One thing Christians today and Israel in this time have in common is entitlement
 - (a) Israel seemed to think just because they were God’s chosen people they deserved God’s favor regardless of their actions

- (b) A prevailing attitude of Christians today seems to be that because they believe, they're automatically entitled to fellowship and answered prayer and this supernatural filling of the Spirit
 - (c) Don't get caught in this trap! This is where we get the idea of Grace Living
 - (d) Any relationship takes effort and our relationship with God is no exception
 - e) When was the last time we zealously looked into the mirror of the Word, this perfect Law of liberty
 - f) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.
 - g) 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.
3. So the priests cleanse the House of the Lord
- a) We have a summary of the timetable and labor in verse 17
 - b) NOTICE: It was an _____ matter — first day of the first month
 - c) They cleansed the temple and they did it in 16 days
 - d) These 14 guys and their brethren; That's what I call a family reunion!
4. They then report to the king (vv. 18-19)
- a) What remained of the Temple was cleansed and purified
 - b) What had been destroyed or cast away was replaced
 - c) The end result was that they were ready for worship
 - d) This came in handy in Chapter 32 when the Assyrian army surrounds Israel and demands surrender

D. Does our relationship with the Lord need refreshing, restoration, rejuvenation?

1. Are the doors of our heart open to the Lord?
2. Are we seeking to be clean and be close to Him?
3. When the trials and temptations come, we will be better off if we can go right to His throne of grace, rather than having to make things right in our lives first
4. Psalms 119:9.
5. God can give us new direction and new purpose in our lives — Psalms 143:8.