

Hezekiah: A Change of Course

November 10, 2019



Open: What might you enjoy about being a king? What might you not enjoy?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 29:1-3

1. What do we learn about Hezekiah from these verses? Specifically, what does it tell us about Hezekiah that one of his first acts was to repair the temple and restore worship to God (v. 3)?
2. Hezekiah's father was Ahaz, one of Judah's most evil and sinful kings (2 Chronicles 28). What does it mean to you that your life does not need to be shaped by the mistakes of your parents? How have you seen this proven true in your own life or in the lives of others?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 29:10-19

3. In verses 10-11, Hezekiah is speaking to the Levites, the priests of Israel. How might Hezekiah's words here have motivated them to action? From what you know of Scripture, what are the things that God has chosen for you to do in this world?
4. What does it mean to "consecrate" something? (*Use a dictionary if necessary.*) In verses 15-19, what are some of the things the Levites consecrate? What would it look like to consecrate *yourself* to the things you said that God has chosen for you to do in this world?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 29:25-30

5. How would you describe the worship presented in these verses? What role did Hezekiah play in encouraging such worship? (*Note, "he" in verse 25 refers to Hezekiah.*) How could you encourage a similar climate of worship in any spheres over which you have some influence?
6. The joyful worship pictured here involved a focus on an incomplete offering (vv. 27-29). As believers in Christ, how should our worship today be different from what we see here? What helps you to keep the finished work of Jesus in focus through your times of praise to God?

Read & Discuss: 2 Chronicles 31:20-21

7. In these two verses, what specific words or phrases are given to describe the manner in which Hezekiah lived? How might you put these words or phrases into your own words? What encourages you to live in a similar way?

Apply: What's one thing you can do this week to help motivate others to pursue God and His ways?

Pray: Pray that we would seek God with wholeheartedly—and encourage others to do the same.

2 Chronicles 29:1-3

¹ Hezekiah began to reign when he was twenty-five years old, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah. ² And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

³ In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. (ESV)

2 Chronicles 29:10-19

¹⁰ Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, in order that his fierce anger may turn away from us. ¹¹ 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."

¹² Then the Levites arose,... ¹⁵ They gathered their brothers and consecrated themselves and went in as the king had commanded, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD. ¹⁶ The priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and they brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it and carried it out to the brook Kidron. ¹⁷ They began to consecrate on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD. Then for eight days they consecrated the house of the LORD, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. ¹⁸ Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils. ¹⁹ All the utensils that King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and consecrated, and behold, they are before the altar of the LORD." (ESV)

2 Chronicles 29:25-30

²⁵ And he stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the Lord through his prophets. ²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. ²⁷ Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸ The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. ²⁹ When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped. ³⁰ And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped. (ESV)

2 Chronicles 31:20-21

²⁰ Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. ²¹ 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. (ESV)