

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING – I

“Revival under King Hezekiah”

2 Chron. 29-30

- I. THE ENTIRE NATION WAS TURNED AROUND SPIRITUALLY UNDER HEZEKIAH'S REIGN.
 - A. *As goes the church, so goes the nation.*
 - B. *As goes individuals, so goes the church.*

- II. SEVEN THEMES OF HEZEKIAH'S REVIVAL.
 - A. *Preparation for revival.*
 - B. *Cleansing from impurities.*
 - C. *Personal determination.*
 - D. *Repentance before the Lord.*
 - E. *Return to obedience.*
 - F. *Propagation of the Word of the Lord.*
 - G. *Spreading the impact of the revival beyond the walls of the sanctuary.*

- III. PREPARATION FOR REVIVAL.
 - A. *He repaired and cleansed the house of the Lord.* (2 Chr 29:3 KJV) He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them. (2 Chr 29:4 KJV) And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, (2 Chr 29:5 KJV) And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.
 - B. *He gathered those in charge of maintenance of the Temple and assigned them tasks to do.*
 - C. *He challenged the leadership to cleanse themselves and draw close to God.* (2 Chr 29:6 KJV) For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs. (2 Chr 29:7 KJV) Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel. (2 Chr 29:8 KJV) Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes. (2 Chr 29:9 KJV) For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.
 - 1. Children usually follow the lead of those who are their role models.
 - 2. But they can break the trend.
 - D. *Challenge to the leadership.* (2 Chr 29:10 KJV) Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us. (2 Chr 29:11 KJV) My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath

chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

1. Worship team, pastor, and other leaders begin the initial stages of revival through personal renewal.
2. A sense of the reverence of God and worship before Him should be reestablished if it has diminished.

IV. CLEANSING FROM IMPURITIES.

- A. ***Filthiness had come into the Temple and the lives of the people.*** (2 Chr 29:5 KJV) And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.
- B. ***In verse 7, Hezekiah declared some of the things that had led them to the need for revival.*** (2 Chr 29:7 KJV) Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel.
1. They had shut the door (lost the priority of spirituality).
We can shut the door to prophetic ministries.
We can shut the door of the moving of the Spirit.
 2. They had not kept the lamps burning (did not foster God's presence).
 3. They had not burned incense (did not honor the Lord--through worship).
 4. They had failed to burn offerings (failed to confess sin).

V. PERSONAL DETERMINATION.

- A. ***Hezekiah made a personal covenant with the Lord.*** (2 Chr 29:10 KJV) Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.
- B. ***Regardless of what the others around him were going to do, Hezekiah pursued renewal.***
1. He was determined to be faithful in seeking revival.
 2. He encouraged those around him to be faithful; he did not ignore them but encouraged them.

- VI. REPENTANCE BEFORE THE LORD. (2 Chr 29:20 KJV) Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD. (2 Chr 29:21 KJV) And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer them on the altar of the LORD. (2 Chr 29:22 KJV) So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar. (2 Chr 29:23 KJV) And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them: (2 Chr 29:24 KJV) And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

- A. *Initiated first by Hezekiah and the worship leadership of the Temple.*
- B. *The rest of the nation would eventually join them.*
- C. *The unbelieving world is waiting for a repentant church.; repentance of the church can become the catalyst for the repentance of the lost.*

VII. RETURN TO OBEDIENCE.

- A. *God had commanded that certain things be done in worship and service to Him; these had been neglected.*

God has a due order.(1 Chr 15:13 KJV) For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. (1 Chr 15:14 KJV) So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. (1 Chr 15:15 KJV) And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD. (1 Chr 15:16 KJV) And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.

Men have sought to establish their own order; their own rules, creeds, dogmas, by-laws which oftentimes are contradictory to the order of God.

- A. *Spiritual depravity was not the result of a lack of information.*
- B. *Neither was it because of a lack of opportunity; essentially, it was due to a lack of obedience.*
- C. *Now that they had been repentant, they were willing to be obedient to the Lord once again (29:25-31). (2 Chr 29:25 KJV) And he set the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the LORD by his prophets. (2 Chr 29:26 KJV) And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. (2 Chr 29:27 KJV) And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. (2 Chr 29:28 KJV) And all the congregation worshipped, and the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. (2 Chr 29:29 KJV) And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped. (2 Chr 29:30 KJV) Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the LORD with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped. (2 Chr 29:31 KJV) Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the LORD, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD. And the congregation brought in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.*

VIII. PROPAGATION OF THE WORD OF THE LORD.

- A. *They sent out letters calling others to repentance and service unto the Lord. (2*

Chr 30:1 KJV) And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel.

- B. ***If something is happening in the local church, the word of renewal needs to be spread.***
- C. ***This is the gospel and evangelistic mandate today (Mat. 28:18-20).***
- D. ***Especially during times of revival, when God is pouring out His Spirit, the church needs to spread the Word of the Lord and invite others to come (2 Chron. 30:1-12).***

SPREADING THE IMPACT OF THE REVIVAL BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY.

The congregation took the spirit of revival into Jerusalem and the nation.

They cleansed and purified the country of things that were not pleasing to the Lord (2 Chr 30:13 KJV) And there assembled at Jerusalem much people to keep the feast of unleavened bread in the second month, a very great congregation. (2 Chr 30:14 KJV) And they arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast them into the brook Kidron. (2 Chr 30:15 KJV) Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth day of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD. (2 Chr 30:16 KJV) And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, which they received of the hand of the Levites.

In the midst of revival, people are stirred to a renewal of works for the Lord.

They should be encouraged to spread the effects of the revival outside the four walls of the church.