

## Getting Vertical Part 4

### 2 Chronicles 29 - King Hezekiah

#### Intro: Weird question: Ever thought, what if ....

A) What if you were a horse / dog / a dolphin/ a turtle  
no responsibilities, 3 meals / sleep all day /

B) **Great creatures:** But they don't know where they came from – Don't know how to reason / love

1) Animals don't prize anything because of it's true worth - - it's relation to God

2) Animals don't sit and ponder questions like why am I here – what is my purpose in the grand scheme of things –

3) Animals don't wonder about – where am I going

C) Those are questions that are primarily reserved for human beings

We have the astonishing capacity **to see and hear and feel**, and then to think about all this amazing reality, and then to **form judgments about it all** and know **right and wrong** and **good and bad and beautiful and ugly**,

and then to **feel profound emotions of love and hate** and **joy and discouragement** and **wonder and hope and gratitude**, and then to reason and plan our lives in ways that accomplish things.

**And best of all** is to find all these wonderful human capacities caught up in knowing and loving and serving the **greatest Being in the universe—our Maker and our Savior and our God.**

**It is truly a glorious privilege to be Human – called to live on a higher plan –**

A) Animals – it is all about earth- all about self and survival –

B) But for us – much different – Higher calling

1) Higher connection – **Getting Vertical**

C) What matters most is the relationship with God

1) The need to see the earthly in light of the heavenly – the temporal in light of the eternal

D) Focus of our study is 3 Kings in Judah – 3 men who lived a great deal of their lives in light of that higher plane

#### Wednesdays studying 2 Chronicles - – Good Kings in Judah

A) Great men **Josiah / Joash / Amaziah / Uzziah/ Jotham** { 1 Chapter given to each of their

lives

B) But there are 3 of the good kings who stand out - Asa 3 Chapters, Jehoshaphat 4

C) Probably the brightest of them all is Hezekiah – 4 Chapters are given to his life

1) 11 Chapters total in the Bible are dedicated to Hezekiah, 2 Chronicles / 2 Kings & Isaiah

D) **Great King** – today begin looking at this story

**Read V.1-2**

**Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of the Lord like David**

A) 2 Kings 18 we are told this about Hezekiah that he **trusted the Lord more than any of the other kings before him or after him.**

B) So he stands out as a man who trusted God

1) 2 Kings 18 says he **clung to the Lord** – some translations put it this way: He followed hard after God

C) I am impacted by Hezekiah – I want to be known as a man who trusts God – follows hard after God

**Hezekiah was the good son of a bad father**

**Background – Wicked Father – King Ahaz –reigned 16 years, all bad**

A) Notable – Sold temple treasuries to pay for protection

B) **Boarded up the temple** – putting an end to public worship of God in Judah

1) Took the temple gold and had it melted to form idols to other gods

C) **Introduced Judah to the worship of Molech** –

**Babies were born on the Brazen arms** –

1) Judah's form of Abortion

D) The only good thing that he did was not to abort his son Hezekiah –

Leviticus 20:1-3

**Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives any of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. 3 I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given some of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name.**

**This was a sin that was appalling to God {Killing of the innocent – Satan loves to use to condemn**

A) Not only is the life of a little baby destroyed– but so does the life of the parent – guilt, condemnation

B) **Satan loves to tell people who have sinned in that way God hates you – God doesn't understand**

1) lead you deeper into sin{ Farther from God

Loves to make Christians who have that as part of their past feel like second class citizens

C) Nothing could be further from the truth and though God does hate sin – loves the sinner

1) When we repent – forgives – forgets – removed

D) Satan loves to bring it up **but in God's eyes it is gone – done – forgiven and forgotten**

**So under Ahaz Judah had their own problem with abortion – Hezekiah was one of the kids who was spared**

A) Good thing, because God used his life to bring a revival to the nation.

B) Notice several things he does to restore the nation spiritually Read V.3

**#1 He placed a Priority on worship – Repairs God's house.**

**V.3 First year ... first month** – This tells us the first thing he did – right away was not to appoint parliament – not to fortify army –

C First thing he does is repair the temple of the Lord

1) He is restoring public worship to Judah

D) **Opened the doors – idea is opened wide**

1) This wasn't something that he was just doing for himself – but he wanted to make worship of God available to everyone who wanted to.

**\*\* Parrelles our lives – we are called to make our Christianity wide open**

A) It is great that we are saved – we know God –

B) But the Lord wants us to let others know – the doors are open – You can know God too.

1) Good news – God sent His son to save man

## #2 He Challenged Priests!

Challenged them in 3 Areas Read v.4-11

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sanctify themselves

- A) Always the way that it starts – You want to be used by God, Sanctify yourselves
  
- B) Starts with us personally – Our hearts need to be right –
  - 1) Important principle – God isn't so much concerned w/ what we do for Him as He is about how we relate to Him – Our hearts being right

### 2<sup>nd</sup> He called them to clean up God's house, carry out the rubbish

- A) Interesting word – Rubbish – here = rejection
  
- B) Carry out the rejection
  
- C) Powerful picture because when we reject the Lord, when we resist what He is trying to do in our lives it turns into rubbish – trash piles up
  
- D) What is outward in the Old Testament is always a picture of our hearts in the New Testament
  - 1) Old Testament, Actual temple / New Testament, Temple of our hearts
  
- E) V.6 Defines the cause of the rubbish

**It Describes the spiritual digression of their fathers**

**Good breakdown of how backsliding happens**

**Starts with Trespass – Willful disobedience**

- A) Doing things you know that you shouldn't –
  
- B) We all slip at times – anger: **out of heart...**
  - 1) Different when – you know this is wrong – do it any way Premeditated
  
- C) **Trespass** – I should be here – stay anyway – should watch this –do it anyway

**Trespassing leads to the next thing – forsaking God**

- A) Sin causes separation between us and God – when we trespass and allow things to linger in our lives
  
- B) The Bible calls that forsaking God!

Notice what they had forsaken – The dwelling place of God – Place of feeling at Home with

C) **Sin breaks intimacy – Adam and Eve** { naked

If there is a problem between us and God we know what end it is on

D) Called my daughter **Amy from Men's retreat** – see how Volleyball game went –

1) Bad cell reception up there – dropped 3 times

E) The problem wasn't on her end, it was on my end

I couldn't get reception –

**That is what sin does in our relationship with God – bad reception – problem is on our end – not His**

A) As soon as I moved to a better location – I called her back – the reception was fine

B) Just like in a call from a cell phone – I need a change of location

1) Soon as we move away from our sin – confess – Reception is fine

**Next step they turned their faces – No longer look that person in the eye –**

A) Uncomfortable – causes you to begin to look at other things

B) Pretty soon – You have **turned your back on God**

C) If that is a description of your life - Today: **Fix reception** – come back to the dwelling place of God – JESUS

D) 1<sup>st</sup> Sanctify yourselves 2<sup>nd</sup> Cleanse temple

**3<sup>rd</sup> He challenged them to not be negligent to their calling. V.11**

A) **Definition of Negligence: To neglect one's duty – being lazy or lax!**

B) **Don't be lax in your duties as Priest**

**Now in 1 Peter 2:9 We the Church are referred to as a Royal Priesthood. We are a kingdom of priest**

A) 3 fold picture of Priestly ministry.

1. Stand before God
2. Serve God
3. Minister to God

### **Take in reverse order**

A) Minister to God: Created for worship/ for devotion

B) The Primary thing in the life of any believer is to minister to the Lord – David after God's heart

C) Acts 13 Elders in Antioch - /

1) Luke 10: Mary has chosen the better part, not be taken away from her

### **SERVING GOD!**

A) Primary way that we are serving God is by serving His people.

B) Jesus example – **Came not to be served** – but to serve – lay down my life as a ransom for many

1) Serving is laying down our lives so that others can be saved – built up benefited

C) John 13 – Washed feet

**12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.**

### **STAND BEFORE GOD!**

A) It was the job of the priest to come before God and to offer up prayers on behalf of the people

B) Intercession: Praying for the saints

1) Burning incense !

C) Stand before God – prayer { Like Jesus

1) Intercede for others

**D) You want to fulfill your Priestly calling – commit yourself to consistently doing these three things**

- 1) Minister to the Lord**
- 2) Serve the Lord**
- 3) Stand before**

**V.12-19 Who they were and what they did { They obeyed - Took this who process seriously –**

**But we will see in a minute, not all of them.**

**So King Hezekiah – placed a priority on Worship  
He challenged the Priests –**

**#3 He restored the temple sacrifices as part of their worship. Read V. 20-24 { Starts w/ Sin offering**

**Notice the end of v.23 laid their hands on them**

- A) In the Old Testament the wrath of God was carried out on a Sacrificial substitute**
- B) Laid hands identify – this animal was dying for me! – My sins laid on that animal**
- C) V.24 Atonement: Kofar = a covering**

**The whole scene is a Picture of Christ – God’s wrath poured out on a Substitute**

- A) He took what we deserved – We identify with the fact – that should have been me on that cross.**
- B) New Testament ATONEMENT More powerful – at-one-ment**
  - 1) One with God – Right with God**
- C) Propitiation: Jesus satisfied the wrath of God**

**John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**

**D) Significant they started with the sin offering – that was first – sin had to be dealt with  
Picture this scene: After almost 16 years – sacrificing and seeking God again- Time of rejoicing**

**25 And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's**

seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by His prophets. 26 The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

Revival is breaking out here- Spiritual leaders are leading the Charge – in worship –

**Read V.27-30**

**The Burnt offering – was an offering of consecration**

A) Powerful picture here – before the burnt offering could be offered, the sin had to be dealt with

B) **True of us**{ Before we can consecrate ourselves to God – service – Need to repent of our sin

C) Some people want to be used by God – sin issues

1) Atonement precedes consecration{ **Not cleaning up your act – But repentance**

31 Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.

**The thank offering was also called the peace offering**

**The thank offering was an offering of fellowship.....**

A) Different from the other two – in the other two sacrifices the whole animal was consumed

B) The thank offering was different – ONE part was consumed – given to God

1) One part was given to the priest – to supply their needs

C) One part would **be ENJOYED by the worshipper** and his family – sit down to eat – FELLOWSHIP

1) Like sitting down to have a meal with God – thanking Him for all that He has done

**Notice the end of v.31 the sacrifices were offered with a willing heart –**

A) Key to worship / serving / giving – all done with a **willing heart**

B) Heart that says: God you are so awesome – **worship You**

1) You are such a great King – **Serve You**

C) Lord you have given me so much – **give to You**

So God was moving – the people were touched – they are willingly giving to the Lord –  
Revival is breaking out

Read V.32-34

**32 And the number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD. 33 The consecrated things were six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep. 34 But the priests were too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings; therefore their brethren the Levites helped them until the work was ended and until the other priests had sanctified themselves, for the Levites were more diligent in sanctifying themselves than the priests.**

The outpouring was so great –that some of the priest were not ready for it – because they had not been diligent to Sanctify themselves. How Sad

**35 Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and with the drink offerings for every burnt offering.**

So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order. **36 Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.**

**Took place suddenly: The way it is with revivals**

A) Revival is a sudden thing – spark – that turns into a flame

B) Sudden in it's manifestation – but long in it's preparation

C) Study revivals in the Church { Prayer precedes

**Prayer preceded Pentecost:**

A) Welsh Revival –

B) Azusa –

C) Sudden spark – spread –