

Getting Vertical Part 6

2 Chronicles 31-32 – King Hezekiah

Intro: We are told that Hezekiah was a man who trusted God more than any King before or after...

A) Quite a description of this man – A guy who radically trusted God!

A) Reflecting on the story this week of Jesus in the boat with His disciples – storm – they were afraid –

B) Jesus is sleeping: **They are debating, should we wake Him up –**

1) Finally do, these are their words: Lord don't you care that we are perishing?

C) **They had enough faith to wake up Jesus but that was it -** *Don't you care!*

1) That is the natural tendency of the flesh – that is the lie of the devil in our hardships – God doesn't care

D) **I thought to myself – I have been there before – God doesn't care, he has abandoned me**

1) But I have walked with the Lord a little too long now to know that is not true { Doesn't abandon us

E) He is there for us and with us in the storms!

So then I started thinking about the Centurion – Servant – don't need to come ... authority ...

A) Jesus said *I haven't seen faith like this in all of Israel*

B) I thought – I want to be more like that – but usually I have some where in the middle.

1) Days my faith is strong – days when – I am struggling

C) That is what inspires me about Hezekiah

1) We are told that He trusted God more than all the Kings before him or after him.

D) **More than David / Solomon / Uzziah / Josiah**

E) **And Yet He didn't always trust - He didn't always do right**

We left off – Revival

#1 Repaired God's house { His father had closed it down – boarded up – He opened

#2 He challenged the Priest! – to get back to the work of spiritually leading and ministering to the nation.

#3 He reinstated temple worship and sacrifice.

THE RESULT: Revival broke out!

A) People were seeking God with a renewed passion

B) Bringing more sacrifices than the priest could handle –

1) **Passionate worship was taking place**

C) **It was a powerful move of God – that continues into Chapter 30**

1) **Reinstituted Passover – People flocking – Celebrated an extra 7 days**

D) **Ch.31 Further results**{ Put away the things that didn't belong – Further reforms

1) **Growing desire for Holiness was sweeping thru the nation.**

And the People began to give abundantly!

4 Moreover he commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the LORD.

5 As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. 6 And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God laid in heaps.

7 In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month. 8 And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and His people Israel.

So the people's desire for Holiness was growing – Their excitement and desire to participate in the work of the Lord was growing.

Ch.32 **After these deeds of faithfulness –**

A) **Here comes to the attack - reminder Faithful people go thru trials**

After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself.

B) **Here comes Hezekiah's storm – Assyrians are invading!**

1) **They have already conquered Israel- the northern Kingdom and they are heading south**

C) **As an army they were Unbeatable in Battle**

1) **They were so advanced in warfare that in 150 years they had not lost one battle.**

D) **They had developed the ability to besiege a city by building ramps out of earth.**

1) **They made their way into the city by way of battering rams that they had devised.**

Unbelievably Brutal

A) **The Assyrians were also renowned throughout the world as an army that showed no mercy.**

B) **When they wanted to take their prisoners back to Assyria**

1) **they would drive hooks through their noses** or their lips – naked before their kids

C) **There would be an eye in the hook and they would then put a rope through the hook**

1) Attach prisoners, make them march 100s of miles

D) The Assyrians were so cruel as a people that they were not beyond skinning people alive.

E) **Stack Skulls to mark the Body count**

When Hezekiah hears that they have come – His first reaction is not one of faith { Gap between v.1& 2

A) 2 Kings 18 – The pay off 2 Kings 18:13-16

13 And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. 14 Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. 15 So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house. 16 At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

B) Now this little pay off Pacified the Assyrians for a while – But they are not satisfied –

1) After time – they want more!

C) **Our Battle:** The world the flesh and the Devil

1) Never satisfied either

You Compromise a little – The enemy is not like – that is great we got him to compromise a little

A)The enemy always wants more – Take you down

B) Your flesh always wants more! – Potato chip commercial, can't eat just one

C) The world wants to consume us – over take our lives

1)Bitterness – Over take you – root that turns into a weed that turns into – Overgrown monster

Here Hezekiah the man who trusted God more than any other King – Gives in to fear –

A)**Pay off like his dad** – Ahaz – only difference is Hezekiah had a heart for God and Ahaz didn't

B)But my point is He doesn't trust the Lord at that moment –

1)But when he sees – that this wasn't going to work

C)But he recovers – When the King of Assyria doesn't back off – He realizes that was dumb

1) He seeks God – He gets vertical – **Read V.2-8**

Two things that are seen here! One is spiritual, the other is practical

A) On the spiritual side – Hezekiah has his eyes back on the Lord – Fact – God is greater than his enemy

B) Practical side: They were trusting God –but also doing what they could practically

1) Repaired the area of the wall that was broken

Built towers – they made weapons

C) Stopped the Springs of Gihon water source outside the city

1) Made this tunnel, Hezekiah's tunnel 1,777ft long under ground – thru solid rock

D) Carried the water source from outside the city into the city – all under ground

Good reminder: When we trust God – we still practically have to do all that we can do

A) Need work – Applications –

B) Do your best and commit the rest – trite phrase, but it is Biblical

C) I love Hezekiah's words to the People

7 "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him.

Perhaps Hezekiah was reflecting on the story, Elisha and the army of the Syrians

A) The Syrians were After Elisha- surrounded the city of Dothan

B) Master, wake up – Syrians have surrounded us

1) Elisha – stretches – casually walks outside – not alarmed – Lord ...Open his eyes {

C) In between Elisha and the Syrian army was an Army of Angels – Horses and Chariots of fire

D) **If we could see into the heavenly realm** – Angels are all around us!

1) Ministering Spirits sent to comfort and protect

E) Angels are intrigued by us – Learn about Grace and Salvation –

1) Intrigued by our relationship with God

Hezekiah speaks this word of Encouragement to Judah -

7 "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him.

8 With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles."

God's word to you today: Be Strong and courageous

Webster's definition of Courage: mental or moral strength to resist opposition, danger, or hardship. implies firmness of mind and will in the face of danger or extreme difficulty.

That describes a courage that originates from within

A) This is different – this describes a courage that is based on the Fact that God is bigger than my problem

B) God is faithful all the time – in every situation

C) Fact that our strength is not in the arm of flesh but in the strength of the Lord.

D) Note the reaction of Hezekiah's words to the people

V.8 And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

E) Another translation: and the people were made to rest!

1) God's word is meant to strengthen us!

In Colorado where the Wellington river empties into the Niagara a sign is posted: Do you have an Anchor? Do you know how to use it?

A) Good questions for those who like to go boating as well as for those who are sailing on the Sea of Life

B) An Anchor is designed to hold a vessel firmly in one place

C) Anchors are not used as decorations – they are not set on the ship for looks – they have a purpose / a purpose that is seen the most in heaviest of times

D) A ship may not need an Anchor in calm waters where they are content to just Drift along

1) But when the storm comes that is when the Anchor is needed

E) That is when the Anchor is worth it's weight in gold -Because if the ship cannot be Anchored there will be nothing left of her in a very short time

So the purpose of the Anchor is to hold the vessel firm in the midst of the Storm / to prevent it from being shipwrecked

A) We are in this world as a ship at sea, / we encounter storms / wind & waves & currents

B) Unforeseen things that come into our lives that can make us or break us depending on our reaction

C) We all go thru Storms But God has given us an Anchor: His word - HIS PROMISES

1) All Based upon His person! Who He is and His proven tract record

D) On Friday night I shared at a dinner for our HS football team – Joshua

A) Overwhelming call – lead a people who had only known Slavery, into the land of promise

B) Formula for success – Be strong and courageous

3 times – Trust the Lord – follow His word

1) Prosper

C) Sharing with the guys – doesn't mean you are going to win every battle – win at life. – True

1) God promises to strengthen us when we cling to His word

Like the Anchor, the precious promise box is not meant to be a decoration on your desk

Your Bible is not meant to be a table ornament –

Meant to be that which Anchors you in the Storm

Your faith in the Person and Promise of God

Your Storm today: Discouraged

Psalm 138:7

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

Promise Anchor Splash

You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand

Against the wrath of my enemies,

And Your right hand will save me.

Philippians 1:6

“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

Problem: Fear

Promise – Anchor – Splash

Fear not, for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isaiah 41:10

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Psalm 18:2

Problem: Condemned

Anchors

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are 'become new.’” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,' and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Storm - Need Wisdom:

Anchor

Psalm 32:8 - "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."

James 1:5 - "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

Storm: Having a bad day?

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Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Storm: Financial trouble

Anchors

Psalm 37:25

**“I have been young, and now am old;
Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken,
Nor his descendants begging bread.”**

Psalm 34:10

**“The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.”**

Storm: Worried

Anchor

Isaiah 26:3

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”

Philippians 4:6-7

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

The Anchor is meant to strengthen and settle you in the Storm!

A) Reading about how Anchors are tested – company

Tested 10 anchors

B) Boat – different bottoms / sand rock / mud -

Simulate – gale force winds / storm force winds

1) Hold

C) God’s word – Connected to God’s person

1) Jesus: Word made flesh

D) Tested: **Tempted in all ways.... Without sin**

1) Toe to toe with Satan and WON!

2) Toe to toe with Death – WON!

Our Anchor says to us –

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Hebrews 4:14-16

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize

with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.