52 Days of Building the Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Consecrated to the Lord**

Day 14 – May 27, 2013

**Please Read 2 Chronicles 30.** This is a story of King Hezekiah and the joy of bringing worship back to the children of God.

King Hezekiah became king when he was 25, and he inherited a very messed up kingdom from his father King Ahaz; who was not in the will of God and who God was very angry at.

**2 Chronicles 28:25** “…(*King Ahaz*) provoked the Lord, the God of His fathers, to anger.”

2 Chronicles 28 records what King Ahaz had done in his 16 years of being king.

* Made molten images for the Baals
* Burned incense in the valley of Ben-hinnom
* Sacrificed his sons by burning them
* Sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree
* Fought against Israel (the northern kingdom) where many of his people were killed or carried away as slaves. God was very angry that the king caused the slavery of Judah by their brothers in Israel.
* Asked Assyria (a major enemy that eventually defeated both Israel and Judah) for help fighting his enemies to the east and the west. The king of Assyria came against him instead of helping him. The King took some things out of Temple and gave them to Assyria as a bribe. It did not help.
* Gathered all the gold and silver utensils in the Temple and cut them into pieces. He then closed the temple.
* Made altars for himself in every corner of Jerusalem, and in every city of Judah.

King Ahaz totally forsook the Lord and led his people to do the same. As soon as King Hezekiah became king (in the 1st month of his 1st year), he opened the doors of the temple so repairs could be made. He gathered the priests and Levites and asked them **to consecrate themselves and the House of God**, and to carry all the uncleanness out of the holy place.

**Consecrate**: *qadash* - to be clean ceremonially or morally; to dedicate yourself to the Lord; prepare to be holy; to purify; to sanctify.

Webster’s dictionary defines consecrate as: to make or declare to be sacred, by certain ceremonies or rites; to set apart, dedicate, or devote, to the service and worship of God.

These men of God had been living in a culture that was hostile to God, and it would have been hard to keep themselves pure. They had dedicated their lives to ministering to the Lord and that was denied to them when the Temple was closed. I am sure they had to get other jobs. Living in this very idolatrous city undoubtedly had influenced them to some extent.

*We are living in a rapidly deteriorating culture, and we must be very careful to not allow it to influence us. We must stay close to the Lord and allow Him to show us when we are in need of consecration.*

**Verse 12 starts out: The LEVITES arose…**

In the middle of this story there is a list of the names of 21 Levites. When we look at the meanings of these names, there is a message for these Levites from God.

*I come to erase and blot out the burdens imposed on you by King Ahaz. I am Your God and I am surrounding all who hear and obey My commands. Come back together as a congregation. I know you have been bitter about the things that have happened in the past, it has been very difficult for you to serve me. But I am here to help make your praise be heard, and to celebrate the opening of My House. Your banishment by King Ahaz is over and you are being brought back as a brotherhood. The wickedness of his idolatry is changed to delightful worship of Me. Come back together as brothers. I treasure My Priests and Levites, and I have watched over you and preserved you, and not let you get swept away. I have gathered all who remembered Me, who have put their hope in the Lord. My faithful ones, I will revive you; I will preserve all who obey My voice. As you raise your hands in worship and prayer to Me, know that I have heard your cries. Rest in the strength and majesty of your God.*

**… they assembled their brothers**, consecrated themselves, and cleansed the temple.

The priests went into the inner part of the temple and took out everything that was unclean and disposed of it. They spent 16 days cleansing, repairing, and consecrating the temple and all the articles in it.

*It is good for us from time to time to go through our homes with the leading of the Holy Spirit to show us the unclean things we have brought into our homes. We must take them out of our homes and dispose of them.*

They went and told the king all that had been done. He assembled the princes (leaders) of the city and they went up to the temple. They offered 7 bulls, 7 rams, 7 lambs, and 7 goats for a sin offering for the kingdom, which the Priests sacrificed on the Bronze Altar.

Look what happened next. As the sacrifices were burning, an **incredible time of worship broke out** with the Levites singing the Psalms and playing their harps, lyres, and cymbals; and the Priests sounding the trumpets! Everyone bowed down and joined in this worship. Can you just see the smile on God’s face as He was experiencing this worship? He was smelling the aroma of the burnt offerings, hearing the prayers of repentance, and hearing the voices and instruments lavish praise on Him. There was great joy in the hearts of the King, the Princes, the Priests, and the Levites to be able to publically worship the Lord again.

*When we assemble in our churches to worship the Lord, do we worship with abandoned and consecrated hearts? We must not take the freedoms we have now for granted. There were probably many prayers of repentance going up to God that day as they realized how great it was to worship God again.*

After this prolonged time of worship, the King opened up the Bronze Altar for other kinds of offerings from all of the people. **They brought almost 4000 animals to be sacrificed.** All the people were excited to be able to worship God in the ways He had commanded them. But a problem arose; **there were not enough priests to handle all of these sacrifices, so the Levities helped them.**

**2 Chronicles 29:34** “But the priests were too few, so that they were unable to skin all the burnt offerings; therefore their brothers the Levites helped them until the work was completed and **until the other priests had consecrated themselves. For the Levites were more conscientious (hearts were more right) to consecrate themselves than the priests.”**

There is much we can learn from this passage.

God always preserves a remnant for Himself, who have not bowed to idols. We are the remnant of today. We must see who we are and what we have been called to do. **Psalm 119 talks over and over again about keeping our way pure by keeping it according to His Word**. We must seek Him with all of our heart, and we must treasure all of His word in our hearts. **In Hezekiah’s day, there were not many priests who were committed to a consecrated lifestyle.** We can only speculate as to why. Many were discouraged and had lost hope; many had compromised and followed the ways of those around them. **We who are the remnant Levites, who have heard the call of the Lord to arise and assemble, must not judge our brothers and sisters**, but do what the Lord asks us to do. We must worship the Lord, and we must pray for our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 29:36** “Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what **God had prepared for the people**, because **the thing came about suddenly**.”

Just as the reopening of the Temple came about suddenly, so too will all that God has prepared for this world in anticipation of Christ’s return. We must position ourselves in His Word with wisdom and an attitude of humble prayer to hear His instructions. He has much for us to do to encourage the Church to come into her rightful place, so she can be ready to truly share the gospel all over the world in preparation for the Lord’s return.

**In 2 Chronicles 30**, we see a parallel to the time we are living in. There was much **division** in Israel; it had been divided into 2 kingdoms, with the twelve tribes distributed among them. There was no unity or brotherhood. King Hezekiah **invited all Jews to come and celebrate Passover**, one of the 3 feasts the Lord commanded all His people to celebrate. It was a time for all to come and gather in Jerusalem. Some of the tribes laughed, scorned and mocked them; while others humbled themselves and came.

These are the same reactions we get in this age, some denominations reject and some embrace. **2Chronicles 30:6-9** needs to be our prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Lord who do not understand the times we are living in and the urgency of the Lord for us to come closer and to live consecrated lives, according to the Word of God. We are the courier of the King of Kings and we must know the Word of God, His letters, and take them to those near and far.

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

Please pray **2Chronicles 30:6-9** for the church today.

*Oh Lord, may Your beloved ones, Your bride, the Church return to You with all of their heart and soul and mind and strength; so that You may be close to us. Oh Lord, may we escape from the enemies Your people still face, the world and our flesh. May we stop following the traditions of men and be faithful to You and Your Word. May we learn to flow with You and not be stiff necked in what we believe. May we yield to You and enter Your sanctuary, consecrated to You forever, to serve You with pure hearts. May Your burning anger be turned away from Your beloved ones. Lord as we all return to You, may there be great reconciliation and compassion among your people. Oh Lord, our God, You are gracious and compassionate, please do not turn Your face away from us so that we may return to You."*

**2Chronicles 30:27** “Then the Levitical priests arose and blessed the people; and their voice was heard and their prayer came to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.”

**When we pray scripture, we can know God has heard our prayers**

I encourage you to **pray through Psalm 119:1-24** for yourself, your family and friends, and your nation.

**Is Psalm 119:10 memorized?** If it is not yet, work hard on it today. We get a new one tomorrow.