

“PREPARED BY THE SPIRIT”

Text: II Chronicles 20:1-11, 36

Subject: “Prepared By The Spirit”

- How God prepares us for personal spiritual renewal.
- How God is able to address anything in our lives.
- How God makes progress when we cooperate with Him.

(It is an awesome prayer to pray together)
“Lord, prepare my heart for you to feel at home in me.”

II Chronicles 29:36

“And Hezekiah rejoiced and all the people.” (Why?) “God had prepared the people, for the thing was done suddenly.”

(Five words of power in v. 36)
“God had prepared the people.”

The Setting Of Our Text

- II Chronicles is addressed to the Jewish people who returned from the 70 years of captivity.
- Ezra is the writer, 430 years before Christ.
- Ezra records the process of revival in the lives of God’s people.
- II Chronicles records the spiritual journey in Judah’s history.
- On one hand, you see Solomon building the temple, his prayer, and the glory of the Lord fills the house.
- On the other hand, you see Judah’s dark side of negligence and apostasy.
- And in the midst of the journey, God reveals five periods of spiritual reformation.
- Five times when God responded to people hungry and open.
- Five times when God initiated a “Spiritual Awakening.”

(II Chronicles’s records and details five revivals.)

1. Under King Asa, chapter 15
2. Under King Jehoshaphat, chapter 17
3. Under King Joash, chapter 23.
4. Under King Hezekiah, chapters 29 - 32.
5. Under King Josiah, chapters 34 & 35.

“Prepared by the Spirit for the Spirit’s Habitation.”

I. The Signal of Revival (Vs. 1-11)

Fact: Hezekiah was the 13th of the 20 kings in Judah’s history.

Fact: His father had brought the nation down.

Fact: Judah was left naked and exposed to the enemy.

Fact: But, Hezekiah saw the spiritual decline as God’s opportunity of intervention.

(And nothing has changed today.)

- Wherever you are right now, is God’s opportunity.

- Wherever God finds you at present is His signal.
- The devil says too bad, too far, too hard, too long, and too guilty.

(But God says)

“Now is My opportunity to do something suddenly.”

Question: What are the signals that God is about to intervene? (And bring change?)

Signal #1. The Doors were closed (v. 7)

“They have shut up the doors of the porch.”

- Closed doors speak of no **access** to God in the Temple.
- Closed doors means there was no **service** by the people.
- Closed doors meant the people of God were not being **used** before.
- Closed doors meant that the **potential** of the people was “on hold”.

Signal #2. The Lamps were out. (v. 7)

“And put out the lamps.”

- No lamps mean that no oil was **burning**.
- No lamps mean that you couldn't **see** the showbread on the table (which speaks of Jesus).
- No lamps mean that there was no oil, no wick to be trimmed by the priest.

Signal #3. The Altar was cold. (v. 7)

“And have not burned incense.”

- The incense was symbolic of **prayer** ascending to God.
- The incense was a picture of a heart full of **prayer**.
- Hezekiah sees that the altar is vacant. (No prayer rising upward)

Signal #4. The Sacrifice was missing. (v. 7)

“Nor offered burnt offerings in the Holy place unto the Lord.”

- The burnt offering was the consuming of the entire animal sacrifice on the altar.
- It symbolized the **entire** consecration of the people unto the Lord.
- It was a picture of **total** surrender to be consumed by the Lord.

(The signals that God addresses because he is about to do something)

1. Closed Doors

Question: Do you feel you've lost access to God - that you've been disconnected or that your potential is not being reached?

Fact: God will reopen the doors of service to you!

2. Lamps Out

Question: Is the oil low within your own heart, the flame not as bright as it could be?

Fact: God will rekindle the fire in your spirit!

3. Cold Altar

Question: Has the incense of prayer been cold, you've just been neglecting your secret place of devotion with God?

Fact: God will restore a fervent altar of prayer!

4. **Missing Sacrifice**

Question: Is there something you're holding back from God, afraid to surrender what He is asking of you?

Fact: God will give you the grace to submit all to Him!

Question: Is it that important to address the things God wants me to address?

Answer: (v. 8) "Wherefore"

- "Wherefore" means that because of verse 7, there are the consequences in verse 8.
1. Wrath 2. Trouble 3. Astonishment 4. Hissing

(In other words)

- There is a connection between sin and sorrow.
- There is a cause and effect relationship.
- There is bitterness for the reward of spiritual neglect.

Question: How does Hezekiah respond to what he sees?

Answer: (v. 2) He repaired the doors.

(v. 4) He gathered the people.

(v. 5) He gave an order. (What was it?)

(v. 5) *"Carry the rubbish out of the Holy Place."*

(Remove anything that defiles and pollutes)

(v. 10) *"It is in my heart to prepare for God to restore."*

(v. 11) *"My sons be not now negligent."*

(In Other Words)

"The Time Is Now For God To work"

Rubbish That God Desires Us To Remove Little Foxes That Hinder

1. **Unforgiveness** (Do you harbor a grudge because someone hurt you or hurt someone else you love?)
2. **TV** (Are countless hours being wasted?)
3. **The Internet** (Do you surf the net until you drown in computer waves?)
4. **Work** (Has a workaholic spirit stolen your time with God, family and friends?)
5. **Undisciplined eyes** (Are you reading or looking at "forbidden fruit"?)
6. **Money** (Are you dominated by getting more and more and more in your hands; do you borrow what you cannot repay?)
7. **Relationships** (Do you lust after, a warm body because you haven't found your security in God first?)
8. **Prayerlessness** (Have you been going so fast that time with God is gone?)
9. **Apathy** (Have you buried your talents that could be used in your local church?)
10. **Rebellion** (Do you resent correction, advice, reproof or those over you in rightly ordained delegated authority?)
11. **Anger** (Has your temper run wild because of unfulfilled expectations?)
12. **Stagnation** (Have you stopped growing because you've put your spiritual life on cruise?)

13. **Burnout** (Are you giving out more than you are taking in?)

14. **Bad Habits** (Any addictions that pollute your body and control you?)

(Remember)

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but who confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13)

(In other words)

Calvary only **covers** what we **uncover!!!**

II. **The Sifting Of Revival** (vs. 12-19)

Question What was the command of Hezekiah?

Answer: (v. 5) *“Sanctify yourselves and sanctify the House of God.”*

Question: How did Hezekiah respond himself?

Answer: (v. 6) *“It is in my heart to make a covenant with the Lord.”* (Which means)

- Hezekiah responds with deep **conviction**.
- Hezekiah doesn't care for a **shallow** response.
- Hezekiah isn't looking for **promises** and resolutions.
- Hezekiah only wants to **prepare** the people for the glory of God to return.

Question: How did the people respond, and how do we respond?

Answer: (v. 12) *“Then the Levites arose.”* (Why?)

(v. 15) *“To cleanse the house of the Lord.”*

(And two absolutes stand out in v. 16)

1. The priests **went into** the inner part of the house of the Lord. (And)
2. The priests **went out** to carry out all the rubbish.

(It is an awesome revelation)

1. I must let God go **into** the inner part of my life - which is the temple. (And)
2. I must then take a step of action to move and carry it **out**.

(In other words)

- Before God can be worshipped again and reveal His glory as before.
- There has to be a Holy Temple prepared for God to dwell in.

Question: Where was all the unclean rubbish taken?

Answer: (V. 16b) *“It was carried out abroad into the Brook Kidron.”*

- The dark waters of Kidron on the East side of the Temple.
- It was here where all the rubbish was dumped into the dark water.

Question: Why put all the rubbish under the dark waters of Kidron?

Answer: Because Micah 7:19 declares: *“God will have compassion on us. He will subdue all of our iniquities and then will cast all our sin into the depths of the sea.”*

Question: Why did God forgive every sin?

Answer: (v. 18) *“We have cleansed **all** the house, with **all** the vessels.”*

- Nothing was left undone!
- Nothing was considered a trivial matter!
- Nothing was permitted from the remains of Ahaz!
- Nothing was ignored or “let go” till tomorrow!

(V. 19) *“Everything that wicked Ahaz took away, we have brought back.”*

Question: Why is it so important to leave nothing undone?

Answer: Numbers 33:55 (All read)

“Drive out the enemies of God. (Why?) Because those which you let remain shall be pricks in your eyes, thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land you dwell.”

III. The Song Of Revival (Vs. 20-36)

(What a victorious ceremony now)

- In v. 21 – The “Sin” Offering, v. 27 – The “Burnt” Offering, v. 31 – The “Thank” Offering

1. The Sin Offering

- Seven he goats presented before the people.
- The priests lay hands upon them. (Why?)
- There is the transference of sin from themselves to the animal.
- This is you and me receiving total forgiveness from God.

2. The Burnt Offering

- Seven bullocks, seven rams, seven lambs slain on the altar.
- The blood is caught in a basin by the priests.
- The blood is then sprinkled on the altar, and the carcasses consumed by fire.
- This is you and me in total consummation, surrendering totally to the Lord.

3. The Thank Offering

In verse 28 as the carcasses were consumed on the altar – the people worshipped, the choir sang, the musicians played (and in verse 30) *“They sang praises with gladness.”*

Question: What happens after we allow God to cleanse all the inner parts of our heart?

Answer:

1. Our sins are forgiven by blood.
2. Our conscience is clear before God.
3. We can then (and only then) offer ourselves to God for service.
4. God puts a song of gladness in our heart.

(v. 36) *“And all the people rejoiced.”* (Why?)

- Because Holy Repentance results in Holy Joy!

(v. 36) *“For the thing was done suddenly.”*

- Why underestimate the power of God to receive, restore, renew and rejoice you once again?

Altar Call
Amen!
Bill Kirk