HEZEKIAH – THE REFORMER
Part I
2 Kings 18:1-8

MAIN THOUGHT Good King Hezekiah (729-686 BC), the best king Judah ever had, was a REFORMER, NEGOTIATOR, INTERCESSOR, VICTOR, SUFFERER, SINGER, and BOASTER in his exceptional life.

HE CRUSHED PAGANISM (1-8).
• Before CONSTRUCTION comes DEMOLITION (Eph. 4:22-24). He removed the high places and smashed the sacred stones and Asherah poles.
• He smashed the bronze snake made by Moses (Num. 21:5-9). It had become a religious relic that was being worshiped (4).

HE CLEANSED THE TEMPLE (2 Chron. 29:3-19).
• On the very first day of his sole reign (714 BC), Hezekiah opened the doors of Solomon’s Temple that had been shut by evil King Ahaz (2 Chron. 28:24).
• He assembled the priests and renewed their commissions. They purified the entire temple – both the outside (8 days) and inside (8 days).
• REDEDICATION starts first with the people then the building (2 Cor. 8:4-5).

• Reminiscent of Solomon’s dedication 200 years previously, Hezekiah and the nation rededicated the Temple with great fanfare.
• All kinds of sacrifices were offered (burnt, sin, guilt, fellowship) with music – cymbals, harps, lyres, and trumpets (2 Chron. 29:25-26).
• It was done so QUICKLY (2 Chron. 29:35b-36).

HE CELEBRATED PASSOVER (2 Chron. 30).
• The invitation went to ALL ISRAEL (COME . . . ALL – Matt. 11:28). It had been since Solomon that ALL ISRAEL had celebrated Passover together.
• All were invited (GENERAL CALL), but only a few (EFFICACIOUS CALL) came (Matt. 22:14).
• Because there was no time for all to be purified, it was delayed one month on an exceptional basis granted by Moses (Num. 9:9-11).
• These late arrivals from Israel were granted a further exception for purity for their heart was right (1 Sam. 15:22; 16:7; Hos. 6:6; Mic. 6:6-8). This was the SPIRIT not the LETTER of the law (2 Cor. 3:6).
• Passover was extended for one more week just like Solomon (2 Chron. 7:9).

HE COMMENCED AND ORGANIZED THE TEMPLE MINISTRY (2 Chron. 31).
• As they departed with the priestly blessing (Num. 6:24-27), they went home and lived for God by destroying pagan idols. They were not hypocrites.
• Hezekiah now prepared for year round ministry at the Temple by contributing financially himself (2 Chron. 31:3) along with the people who gave generously (2 Chron. 31:5; 2 Cor. 9:6-7).
• As a result, Hezekiah prospered (2 Chron. 31:20-21).