HEZEKIAH:

YAHWEH'S INSTRUMENT FOR CHANGE

Class 4: ***They Kept Other Seven Days With Gladness***

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Isaiah 2:2

"And it shall come to pass in the last days,
That the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established in the top of the
mountains,
And shall be exalted above the hills;
And all nations shall flow unto it."

Isaiah 2:3

"And many people shall go and say,
Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
To the house of the God of Jacob;
And he will teach us of his ways,
And we will walk in his paths:
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

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SHARING THE VISION

1. Chose the teachers of Israel - *2 Chron. 35:3*
2. Gave them a part in the vision
3. Built the urgency by explaining the crisis
4. Inspires them with scripture
5. The vision spreads
6. 16 years of filth is cleaned in 16 days
7. Change is embraced by the priests, Levites, rulers and the congregation

2 Chronicles 30:1

"And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel."

Exodus 12:26

"And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? That ye shall say, It *is* the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped."

SHARING THE VISION

1. Invites Judah and Israel to the Passover at Jerusalem to educate them.

2 Chronicles 30:2

"For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the passover in the second month."

2 Chronicles 30:3

"For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem."

Numbers 9:10-11

"Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or *be* in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD. The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, *and* eat it with unleavened bread and bitter *herbs*."

2 Chronicles 30:5

"So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done *it* of a long *time in such sort* as it was written."

2 Chronicles 30:6

So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.

2 Chronicles 30:7

And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, *who* therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see.

2 Chronicles 30:8

Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers *were*, *but* yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

2 Chronicles 30:9

For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn away *his* face from you, if ye return unto him.

The invitation:

v6 “turn again to Yahweh”

v7 “be not like your fathers and brethren… which trespassed”

v8 “be not stiff-necked (proud and obstinate)”

v9 “return to him”

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v6 “turn again to Yahweh”

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2 Chronicles 28:13

"And said unto them, Ye shall not bring in the captives hither: for whereas we have offended against the LORD *already*, ye intend to add *more* to our sins and to our trespass: for our trespass is great, and *there is* fierce wrath against Israel."

Proverbs 27:6

"Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; But the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful."

2 Chronicles 30:10

So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.

2 Chronicles 30:11

Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 30:12

"Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD."

2 Chronicles 30:14

"And they arose and took away the altars that *were* in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast *them* into the brook Kidron."

SHARING THE VISION

1. Invites Judah and Israel to the Passover at Jerusalem to educate them.
2. Removes the competing religions (leaven).

2 Chronicles 30:15

"Then they killed the passover on the fourteenth *day* of the second month: and the priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought in the burnt offerings into the house of the LORD."

2 Chronicles 30:16

"And they stood in their place after their manner, according to the law of Moses the man of God: the priests sprinkled the blood, *which they received* of the hand of the Levites."

2 Chronicles 30:17

"For *there were* many in the congregation that were not sanctified: therefore the Levites had the charge of the killing of the passovers for every one *that was* not clean, to sanctify *them* unto the LORD."

"This was not the rule: in the case of the paschal lamb, the father of the family who slew the lamb had to hand the blood to the priest, that it might be sprinkled upon the altar; here the Levites did it for the reasons given in v. 17. Because many in the assembly had not sanctified themselves, the Levites presided over the slaying of the paschal lambs for every one who was unclean, to sanctify (the lambs) to the Lord."

Keil and Delitzsch

2 Chronicles 30:18

"For a multitude of the people, *even* many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one"

2 Chronicles 30:19

"*That* prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though *he be* not *cleansed* according to the purification of the sanctuary."

2 Chronicles 30:20

"And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people."

SHARING THE VISION

1. Invites Judah and Israel to the Passover at Jerusalem to educate them.
2. Removes the competing religions (leaven).
3. Prays for his brothers and sisters.

2 Chronicles 30:22

"And Hezekiah spake comfortably unto all the Levites that taught the good knowledge of the LORD: and they did eat throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings, and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers."

SHARING THE VISION

1. Invites Judah and Israel to the Passover at Jerusalem to educate them.
2. Removes the competing religions.
3. Prays for his brothers and sisters.
4. Guides the teaching of the good knowledge of Yahweh.

2 Chronicles 30:23

"And the whole assembly took counsel to keep other seven days: and they kept *other* seven days with gladness."

2 Chronicles 30:24

"For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves."

2 Chronicles 30:25

“ And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced.”

2 Chronicles 30:26-27

“ So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel *there was* not the like in Jerusalem. Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came *up* to his holy dwelling place, *even* unto heaven.”

During the reign of King Hezekiah, many refugees from the Assyrian invasion of the northern tribes came to Jerusalem for protection. As the city on the Eastern Hill was too small to accommodate the new comers, they settled on the Western Hill. Eventually, King Hezekiah built a new city wall around this hill to protect it from invasion.

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