### 2 Chronicles

## Chapter 29

1HezekiAh was 25 years old when he started his reign, and he reigned in JeruSalem for 29 years. His mother’s name was AbBa and she was the daughter of ZachariAh.  
  
2HezekiAh did what was upright before Jehovah, as his ancestor David had done. 3And after his kingdom was established, in the 1st month, he reopened the doors to the Temple of Jehovah and had it repaired.  
  
4Then he brought back the Priests and Levites… He had them assemble on the east side [of the Temple] 5and said to them:  
  
 ‘O Levites, listen to me!  
  
 ‘Now, purify yourselves, and then purify the Temple of Jehovah the God of your ancestors... Clear out everything from the Holy Place that’s unclean, 6because our fathers have been [guilty of] rebellion and they’ve done evil things before our God Jehovah when they abandoned Him and turned their faces away from the Tent of Jehovah, showing Him the backs of their necks!  
  
 7‘They have locked the Temple doors; they extinguished the lamps; they stopped burning the incense; and they stopped sacrificing whole burnt offerings in the Holy Place of the God of IsraEl.  
  
 8‘That’s why Jehovah has been so angry with Judah and JeruSalem, and why He appointed them as objects of wonder and destruction by the Syrians… As you can see is happening with your own eyes!  
  
 9‘Look! Your fathers have been attacked with swords, and your wives, sons, and daughters have been carried off as captives into a land that isn’t their own… And that’s where they still are!  
  
 10‘So, because of these things, you must decide in your hearts to conclude a sacred agreement with Jehovah, the God of IsraEl; for only then will He turn His anger and rage away from you!  
  
 11‘Don’t give up, because Jehovah has selected you to stand before Him and to serve Him by officiating and burning the incense.’  
  
12Then all the Levites stood up.  
  
 • From the sons of KoHath, there was MaAl (son of AmaSi) and JoEl (son of AzariAh).  
  
 • From the sons of MeraRi, there was Kish (son of AbDi) and AzariAh (son of JalLelEl).  
  
 • From the sons of GerSham, there was JodaAd (son of ZemMa) and JoAdam (son of JoAcha).  
  
 • 13From the sons of EliShaphan, there was ZamBri and JeiEl.  
  
 • From the sons of Asaph, there was ZachariAh and MathanAniAh.  
  
 • 14From the sons of HeMan, there was JeiEl and Semei.  
  
 • From the sons of IdiThoun, there was SamaiJah and OziEl.  
  
15These went back and gathered all their brothers, and they were purified just as the king had commanded them (and following the directions of Jehovah), so they could do the work of cleansing the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
16Then the Priests went inside and threw out everything that was unclean, both in the building and in the courtyards… The Levites took it all out and threw it into the Cedar (Kidron) Wadi.  
  
  
17Well after that, on that 1st day of the month, they celebrated their first New Moon festival.  
  
And on the 8th day of the month, they went into the Temple of Jehovah to make everything holy, which took 8 days.  
  
So they finished the project on the 16th day of the month.  
  
18Then they went to see King HezekiAh and said:  
  
 ‘We have purified all the things in the Temple of Jehovah, from the Altar for the whole burnt offerings and its utensils, to the table where the [sacred bread] is placed (along with its utensils)… 19All the things that King Ahaz defiled during his defection.  
  
 ‘So, everything has been prepared and purified, and look… It’s all there in front of Jehovah’s Altar.’  
  
  
20Well, King HezekiAh arose early the next morning and gathered all the city officials, and they went up to the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
21They brought along:  
  
 • 7 calves,  
 • 7 rams,  
 • 7 lambs, and  
 • 7 winter-yearling goats...  
  
...as sin offerings for the kingdom, for the holy things, and for IsraEl.  
  
Then he told the Priests (the sons of Aaron) to go up to the Altar of Jehovah, 22where they sacrificed the calves and collected the blood and poured it out on the Altar.  
  
Then they sacrificed the rams and poured their blood on the Altar.  
  
And after that, they sacrificed the lambs and poured their blood on the Altar.  
  
23Finally, they brought the winter-yearling goats to be sacrificed as sin offerings before the king and the gathering.  
  
So everyone placed their hands on [the goats], 24and the Priests sacrificed them, pouring their blood against the Altar to cover the sins of all IsraEl.  
  
For the king said:  
  
 ‘We are sacrificing these whole burnt offerings and sin offerings [on behalf of] all IsraEl.’  
  
25The Levites had also come to the Temple of Jehovah carrying their cymbals, stringed instruments, and woodwinds, just as King David had instructed them, along with the king’s Seer Gad and the Prophet Nathan, following the Commandments of Jehovah… Since the order of events had been entrusted to the hands of the Prophets.  
  
26So the Levites stood there with the instruments of David, and the Priests had their trumpets. 27Then when HezekiAh [said it was time] to sacrifice the whole burnt offerings on the Altar, they all started singing to Jehovah, accompanied by the trumpets and the instruments of David (the king of IsraEl), 28as the whole assembly bowed with their faces to the ground.  
  
Well, the singers kept singing and the trumpets continued to be blown until all the whole burnt offerings had been sacrificed. 29And as they were completing the offering, the king and all his guests also bowed to the ground.  
  
30After that, King HezekiAh and his dignitaries told the Levites to [sing] praises to Jehovah in the [psalms] of David and of the Prophet Asaph.  
  
So they sang these praises joyfully, and they also fell and bowed low to the ground.  
  
31Then HezekiAh [told the people]:  
  
 ‘Now that you’ve filled your hands for Jehovah, come forward and bring your sacrifices of praise to the Temple of Jehovah!’  
  
So, the people eagerly started bringing their sacrifices of praise to the Temple as whole burnt offerings to Jehovah.  
  
32The gathering offered as whole-burnt-offerings to Jehovah:  
  
 • 70 calves,  
 • 100 rams, and  
 • 200 lambs.  
  
33They also set aside some 600 calves and 3,000 sheep for sacred use.  
  
34Well, because there were so few Priests, they were unable to cut up all the whole burnt offerings; so their brothers the Levites had to assist them until all the work was done and all the Priests were purified (for the Levites had been more eager to purify themselves than the Priests had been).  
  
35But there was more than enough of the whole burnt offerings and fat for the sacred deliverance offerings and drink offerings.  
  
Well, the work in the Temple of Jehovah had finally begun [again]. 36And HezekiAh and all the people were very joyful, because God had prepared the people, and everything came together so quickly.