

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR READ THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY FOR /01/02/13

1. HOW IS HEZEKIAH'S ACTION- TO "REMOVE ALL THE DEFILEMENT FROM THE SANCTUARY" (2 CHRONICLES 29:5) AND TO CLEANSE EVERYTHING IN THE TEMPLE THAT WAS UNCLEAN BY TAKING IT TO THE KIDRON VALLEY (2 CHRONICLES 29:16) TO PURIFY IT- SIMILAR TO OUR OWN BAPTISM? THINK ESPECIALLY OF THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IN LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM. WHAT DOES SUCH BAPTIZING WITH WATER INDICATE?
2. AS YOU LOOK AT HEZEKIAH'S RULE IN 2 CHRONICLES 30-31, IDENTIFY SEVERAL ASPECTS OF GODLY ADMINISTRATION OF A GOVERNMENT, A CHURCH, OR ANY OTHER ENTITY AS EXEMPLIFIED IN HIS ADMINISTRATION.
3. AFTER READING THE ACCOUNT OF HOW GOD DESTROYED THE ASSYRIAN ARMY (2 CHRONICLES 32:21), WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT STATEMENTS SUCH AS "GOD DOESN'T TAKE SIDES IN WARS"?
4. TO TURN MANASSEH AROUND, THE LORD ALLOWED THE KING OF ASSYRIA TO "PUT A HOOK IN HIS NOSE" (2 CHRONICLES 33:1). WHAT KINDS OF "NOSE HOOKS" DO YOU THINK THE LORD USES NOW TO TURN HIS PEOPLE AROUND, CALL THEM TO REPENTANCE, SO THAT HIS WORD OF GRACE IN JESUS WILL BE RECEIVED?
5. REVIEW 2 CHRONICLES 35. ONE RECURRING SIGN THAT ISRAEL WAS FALLING AWAY FROM THE LORD WAS THAT THEY NEGLECTED THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT FESTIVALS, SUCH AS PASSOVER. THAT IS WHY THE RENEWALS OF THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION UNDER HEZEKIAH AND JOSIAH WERE SO SIGNIFICANT. WHY ARE CELEBRATIONS SO VITAL IN THE LIVES OF GOD'S PEOPLE? WHAT PARTICULAR FEATURES OF YOUR CHURCH'S CELEBRATIONS HELP YOU RECALL GOD'S PROMISES AND THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS, OUR SAVIOR?
6. VIEWING THE BABYLONIAN EXILE FROM A TIME AFTER THE EXILE, THE WRITER OF CHRONICLES SEES THE EXILE AS A TIME OF SABBATH REST (2 CHRONICLES 36:21) FOR THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE. WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS OF SABBATH REST (LEVITICUS 25:1-7; 26:2, HEBREWS 4:9)? HOW MIGHT YOU OBSERVE THE SABBATH SO IT IS A TIME OF REFRESHMENT?