

July 4

2 Chronicles 29, 30, 31

Independence Day!!! Hope your day is filled with hot dogs, fireworks, and celebrating the freedom that we have as Americans to worship and serve Jesus!

### Hezekiah

- A real bright spot in the nation of Judah.
- Came to power at age 25 and reigned for 29 years.
- We read about his reforms in Judah
  - Cleansing and Consecrating the temple
  - Reestablishing the service of the temple
  - Initiating that celebration of the Passover
    - Reaching out to the Northern Tribes in an act of unity
  - Last verse, "In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.
- What a stud!

### Points us to another King that would come. THE King.

- You can almost feel the hope in Judah as you read. Finally!
- It was a great season of reform, but ultimately, Hezekiah would die and his influence would die with him.
- The very next generation, the very next king was a bad King, and the kingdom comes unraveled once again!
- It points us to an eternal King and an eternal Kingdom!
- On this Independence Day, it's important that we celebrate what it means to be an American. It's good to engage in the political system and it's important that we vote in the upcoming election.
- But it's MORE important that we don't misplace our hope in an earthly King or President. We, instead, put our hope in Jesus, the King, and his coming Kingdom, that is coming in us and through us as we submit to the rule and reign in our hearts and minds.
- And we celebrate, as it says in Galatians, that it is for Freedom that Christ has set us free! That is our real freedom!
- Freedom from sin, Satan, and death.

Happy Independence Day!