Kings and Prophets 15-08-06

This is Thursday the 6th of August 2015 in our study of Kings and Prophets almost at Kings and Chronicles kind of the same thing Kings and Prophets we are Looking at the reign of King Hezekiah, which gets a great deal of coverage in the Old Testament One of those places where there is not just parallel passage, but two parallel passages for the account for a total of three and This deserves our attention. So we're just spending a little time Breaking it down and seeing exactly what each of these accounts contributes we will be resuming in the vicinity of 2nd Kings chapter 18 where the Kings account of Hezekiah's reign begins and We're going to compare and contrast The account in Kings with the account in Chronicles with the objective of Finding what is useful to us It's one thing just to note the differences. But as ever the burning question is so what? that's interesting, but why do I care and we'll endeavor to make sure that we Not only ask that question But answer it tonight as we as we look at these accounts and see what God has for us in his Word But let's begin by going to the Lord in prayer father it is always impressive to see your grace in taking us as we are with our flaws and our shortcomings our inadequacies and our weaknesses and Finding the Ways in which your strength can be made manifest that your glory can be revealed and You transform us into the image of your own dear son.

We thank you for the Lord Jesus We thank you for the privilege. We have of being called by his name of representing him on this earth and of being Initiated into the heavenly truths that are imparted in your word We thank you for the ministry of the Holy Spirit his ongoing presence with us is convicting work his teaching work his work of reminding us of what we have learned of our identity in Christ and our standing before you and we pray that Tonight as we look at these truths from your word that he will be our teacher that illuminate the page of Your word in a way that will be meaningful and helpful to us Not just in understanding the historical events of so long ago, but in understanding the events of this day and this time and our Walk before you as we await the return of the Lord Jesus to take us to himself. We pray these things in Jesus name Amen Well, we have spent some time looking at Hezekiah and we're going to be pretty soon moving forward into the reign of his son Manasseh and beyond but it As we have noted calls for some Slowdown and some perusal here to figure out why God has has Invested so much ink and paper in this particular account As I have suggested there is a different perspective in the three accounts.

We're talking about 2nd Kings Chapter 18 and following 2nd Chronicles chapter 29 and following and then those four chapters in the first part of the book of Isaiah chapters 36 37 38 and 39 all three of which deal with this particular period these particular episodes Much of the material overlaps. Some of it is unique and some of it is offered similarly, but with different emphasis Why is that? If we just closed our books and took out a blank sheet of paper and said, okay, I'm going to list Chronicles I'm going to list Kings and I'm going to list Isaiah and Tell as much as I know about why these three accounts are there. What could we say so far? I have suggested that Starting with Kings where we begin tonight in our sort of synthetic study This is

Kind of the way the king saw it This is the human take on it the king's perspective what he would like to be remembered for His diary if you will I have suggested that Chronicles is the the message for the people at large and I Affirm that with one eye addition as I've continued to study and Soak myself in these three different accounts It has occurred to me or been impressed upon me perhaps that This is the the Chronicle the newspaper for the people, but this is God's newspaper this is The wouldn't it be great if like everybody else, you know, God had a blog You know God sent out a monthly newsletter like so many ministries do and you know, here it is Hot off the angelic press straight from the throne room.

Here's God's take on things for our Consumption for our benefit. This is God's news report. It's better than any particular news network.

You might choose Better than any particular political perspective that you might want to hear because it's the truth and it's the truth From Formulated by God for us So that's Chronicles and then you have the prophetic element here in Isaiah He's quite obviously a prophet Isaiah is quite obviously the biggest the baddest the most impressive Monumental prophetic book in the entire Old Testament. It doesn't get any better than Isaiah and As you think about that God's perspective presented to the people whose business is that in the Old Testament day who? Mediates between God and man. What what do we call that job? Priest right and so in these three accounts, you've got the Prophet Isaiah You've got the priests delivering God's news in Chronicles and you've got the king in Kings So I think this is is a helpful memory aid in Sorting the material in these three accounts.

Isaiah is going to give us the prophetic perspective Chronicles is going to give us the priestly perspective. Hey people This is what God has to say to you. This is God's take on things and kings.

This is the way man Would like it to be reported. This is what impresses us. This is what the king thinks and that's particularly Both helpful and amusing to me because as I have looked over and over and over at the Kings account, I realize that This is like an autobiography In the sense that it tends to Emphasize things that I find impressive about myself Perhaps more so than the Lord would or that some nearby prophet would and so comparing particularly Kings and Chronicles you can see the difference between what impresses us as men what impresses us in in the king Hood and dominion of our own souls and and what makes it into God's news account and then of course Isaiah is going to be the means of delivering some information to King Hezekiah and you have this overlap the The center of the Venn diagram if you will is kind of nailed into place by Isaiah's presence and prophecy so as we begin tonight without further ado, I Want to I want to share with you something that I dug up out of one of my early textbooks way back when I first Get out of the Marine Corps and went to seminary up in Tulsa at a small school my first hermeneutics textbook was called and it was unlike most textbooks you get that are big and fat and impressively Good for gluing things that are flat you get the weight, you know, and it They're good for that, but this book was Large format and very thin and I thought well, not only am I going to an unusual school, but I get unusual textbooks I

haven't seen a Thing that you could almost put in a picture frame, but it was called principles of hermeneutics by J Edwin Hartal h a r t i l l and it's a classic.

It's it's from the days gone by I Remember exactly when it was published, but it's an oldie, but a goodie. It's from a long time ago and Here's what J Edwin Hartal has to say buried down in one of the chapters Where he's talking about the the synoptic Gospels. He's talking about parallels between the Psalms and He's talking about the book of Revelation.

He's talking about the ministry of Paul and Here's what he has to say about our section Sort of out of nowhere in the middle of talking about something else. He says the book of Chronicles and Kings In the books of first and second Chronicles and first and second Kings with first and second Samuel really a part of Kings Samuel Kings is really If we had done our Bible, right it would be Samuel and Kings as a sort of a volume 1 volume 2 there they just are That part 1 part 2 of a continuous narrative and then you have Chronicles which is complementary to both in the books of first and second Chronicles and first and second Kings including particularly the latter part of Samuel The same period of history is recorded Chronicles. However is a repetition with a spiritual application spiritual thought and Spiritual information and you would expect this because this is God's newspaper to the population This is what you should this is your Takeaway this everybody wants to take away these days you go to a meeting you go to a seminar What's my takeaway another verb turned into a noun and my favorite thing? so Chronicles spiritual application spiritual thought spiritual information Layered within embedded in The account in Kings history is recorded from man's viewpoint We had already kind of figured this out in Kings We have the facts of history in Chronicles.

We have God's thoughts and words about those facts God's editorial page in Kings God reveals the course of events in Chronicles we have God's thoughts and words The reason for or meaning of those events the reason for and meaning of interpretation in Kings we see how man ruled the Kings diary in Chronicles we see how God overruled Catchy this is the stuff they love in seminary, you know Kings we see how man ruled in Chronicles. We see how God overruled Kings is governmental Chronicles is ecclesiastical Which loosely speaking means material versus spiritual Kings is kingly Chronicles is priestly Kings is written from the viewpoint of the natural Chronicles from the supernatural Kings things earthly Chronicles things heavenly God's purpose in Kings is to give the whole history of Israel's kingdoms in a complete way Differences between Kings and Chronicles. This is still J Edwin Hartle in this great book on Bible interpretation hermeneutics the priestly aspect of Chronicles compared with the kingly and natural aspect of Kings a Wars versus revival and this these most of these are things that we've already kind of gleaned independently and I was kind of happy to see that I Don't know if I remembered this from Hartle or if he just is a happy Co-conspirator in observing them wars versus revival in Kings.

There are three chapters 88 verses given to the wars of Hezekiah's reign three chapters on the wars of Hezekiah's reign second Kings 18 19 and 20 and There are three verses given to the great revival in Israel during his reign second Kings 18 4 through 6 Three chapters on the

conflicts with the Assyrians and the Philistines and the Babylonians right three verses on the revival Here the emphasis is upon his wars in Chronicles There are three chapters given to the great revival under Hezekiah. We reviewed that in great detail second Chronicles 29 30 and 31 Only one chapter is given to the wars second Chronicles 32 So this confirms our earlier observations that there is much more of What should you people be taking away from Your observation of the reign of Hezekiah and remember I've suggested to you that there's a threefold purpose in this record So we've got three records Kings Chronicles and Isaiah and we've got three audiences to whom it is meaningful The first is the original audience the original living observers during the reign of Hezekiah and and shortly thereafter people in Judah Us now and I would suggest this is going to be some extremely important scripture for millennial Believers who will continue to study the Word of God. I will pour out my spirit on all flesh I will put my word in your heart So I've no need that a man teach you You'll be able to take the scriptures with the Holy Spirit and in the Millennium Israel will be able to do what you and I do now They're going to be we are looking back some 2650 years They will be looking back even further, but it has particular meaning for them because this is a What they like to call an adumbration of foreshadowing and anticipation of The way the Millennial Kingdom is going to run and Hezekiah represents in his initial enthusiasm and great hilarity and celebration of restoration of worship the beginning of that kingdom the latter days of his reign are going to Foreshadow the latter days of the Davidic kingly reign in the Millennial Kingdom We are in the middle between those two Taking these Timeless truths and making application in the kingdom of our own soul So it we recognize just as when we study revelation that these future things are as meaningful to us as studying the past so three accounts three audiences who can benefit from them in whatever Circumstance they find themselves those who have died and gone before us in the Old Testament age us now and Then in the Millennial age three different dispensational groups are going to benefit from this threefold account It's like a three times three.

It's like the breastplate of the high priest and Then there is an element kind of like the trumpets. Do you ever wonder about that? You know, you got the the seals the trumpets and the bowls. I've been looking back through Revelation here recently and we always think about that the seals the trumpets and the bowls the seals the trumpets and the bowls and we tend to leave out the what the thunders the seven thunders Because John's not allowed to write about those he starts to put his pen to the paper and God says nope Don't write that down, but there's actually four of those sets and There's three and then there's four there's three and there's just like the three synoptic Gospels and then John and so often ask myself well when you have Kings Chronicles and Isaiah and then you wonder about the Lord walking on the road with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus and He opened the Old Testament scriptures and told them all of the things about himself Why don't we have that written down? Why isn't there the the epistle of Emmaus? Where the Bible class that Cleopas guy should have sat right down and written down every single thing the Lord said This is my view.

And if I ever see Cleopas, that's the first thing I'm just gonna say is man. Why didn't you write

that down? It's it's the it's another window You've got Stephen reviewing you've got Paul reviewing but the Lord Jesus Christ himself teaching everything about himself It says he he covered all the stuff in the Old Testament about himself. It's a long walk and it's That nobody flipped on the tape recorder.

Do you ever see a thing? You say? Oh, I should have videotaped that my my two My cousin's sons that that play the piano and played Carnegie Hall and and they sat down at the piano in our living room when we lived on Fieldcrest and Played a piece that they had played together at Carnegie Hall on our piano in our living room And it's one of these gymnastic things. It was Franny and tightrope. They're reaching over each other They're both sitting on the same bench that rickety bench that would barely hold Anna These two young men are standing there Sitting there and standing in some cases and just playing and the most fantastic thing and I thought why didn't I record that? I wish it was recorded in more than my memory Well, I think that there is probably a fourth perspective on this as well But I say all that to to remind you that when Hartle summarizes these things it is Confirmation of what we have seen in our own observations that God has a distinct purpose in each of these accounts and We should want to know what it is God's not Wasting his time.

He's not just trying to load us down with busy work Did you ever feel like your teacher was just kind of giving you homework for the sake of keeping you busy? Well, the more they have the less they'll talk, you know They I'll make it do by the end of the hour and they keep them quiet That's not what God is doing these things are not just tired old dusty Myths from goat herds. They're here for a reason and they really do inform us. They inspire us They instruct us they correct us and in some cases rebuke us but they They open the window Beyond time into those invisible things that are the genuine reality.

So Wars versus revival and you can see the difference because what impresses us as human beings Well, I had this great challenge and here is how I met it I had this struggle and here's how I overcame three chapters on the wars Three verses on the spiritual renewal in Kings you go to Chronicles. What's God's Evaluation he passes over lightly the the conflict When it is compared to everything that took place in the temple God was impressed wouldn't it be great if When you get to heaven and the books are opened and we are judged at the Bama seat of Christ That the efforts that we've made to learn to grow to understand the scripture sitting through hours and hours of Bible class going back and reflecting and reviewing and talking with each other and and Banging our heads to try to understand better that we get three whole chapters like Hezekiah does on that effort That's what's in God's book. That's we God says well done good and faithful servant.

That's the wrestling. That's the effort. That's the stuff I'm interested in that's what's going in my book We're down here on earth people say yeah, you know You can't help it when you get an alumni magazine you flip to the back and there's the obituaries How do they summarize somebody's life even if they're a flaming Comet of a believer the obituary doesn't say and then as he was deep in the study of the book of Romans one day the light dawned his relationship

with God through the Lord Jesus Christ stepped up to a whole new level and Things began to fall into place it transformed his mental attitude He had peace and joy and the fruit of the Spirit and here's all the ways that it was that's not in your obituary Well, Sam was born in Barstow and he went to school in Southern, California And then he moved to Oklahoma and then he went to the Naval Academy And they then he got a job and then he got another job and he cranked off some artillery rounds Then he got out of the Marine Corps and then he went to school and then he had another job and yet another job and nearly starved to death and Kind kind people fed him and you know kept him alive some of whom are here and That you know it that's that's the old dry dusty stuff.

That's Kings in the Kings account. Here's the man visible stuff so Well, look at what has a guy did against the Philistines and look what he did with the Assyrians and look what he did with The Babylonian envoy and so on visible it meaningful to us at ground level Chronicles and this is something Hartle points out The word because in Chronicles in Chronicles we oftentimes find the word because or a similar word in Kings the record says this happened in Chronicles this happened because Man looks on the outward appearance Where does the Lord look on? the heart thoughts and intents motivations the Word of God Is alive and powerful sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the soul and the spirit Dividing them asunder Joints in the marrow and is what a judge of the thoughts and intents the because The why the so heard the Word of God and what happened? Because of that he did or in spite of that he didn't of course, I think I'm Probably going to be glad that my obituary just covers the superficial man visible things and not you know Some of my catastrophic spiritual failures that would also have to be included But the because the the God is behind the scenes showing something not revealed before the cause of the event Despite all of his efforts and machinations and perambulations Things didn't change Because he fell on his face before the Lord Everything changed that's Chronicles. So just for example, look at 2nd Chronicles 12 14 and this is just characterizing the the book looking at rea bohem Back when we first started the divided kingdom Jeroboam in the north rea bohem in the south King rea bohem strengthened himself in verse 13 in Jerusalem and reigned rea bohem was 41 Years old when he became king he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem the city Which the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there You get the Lord's perspective on Jerusalem his mother's name Not a ma an ammonitis God keeps track of such things that it's important to God who? Speaks the truth to others in love who provides the potential sometimes that potential is exploited other times It's completely ignored and bypassed and he did evil Because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord Look at the next chapter 2nd Chronicles 13 18 During the reign of Abijah Abijah and his people struck The People of Judah and 500,000 choice men of Israel fell slain the children of Israel were subdued at that time Judah struck Israel's what I'm trying to say and the children of Judah Prevailed because they relied on the Lord God of their fathers because they relied the victory is because of something The next chapter 2nd Chronicles 14 11 and 12 Asa cried out to the Lord is God and said Lord It is nothing for you to help whether with many or with those who have no power help us Oh Lord our God for we rest on you and in your name we go against this multitude.

Oh Lord You're our God do not let man prevail against you This is you know Zero the Ethiopian and all that and so the Lord struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah and the Ethiopians fled There is a reason So the Lord struck the Ethiopians. Why did the Lord strike because of Asa's prayer? You have this cause and effect in the spiritual realm. So that's that's kind of the idea So as we as you think about these books now or in the future It's helpful to remember that many commentaries will say well Chronicles is the priestly account well that that's good as far as it goes and they deduce this from the fact that there's a lot said about the temple and about the Levitical forms of worship and so on but what's a priest for? Why would God have a priestly account in his Bible? What's the priest's job? In the Old Testament age and in the new the Lord Jesus is our great high priest.

What does he do? He communicates the truth of God to us God's perspective God's take God's priorities God's analysis God's becauses God's sows and So Chronicles as the priestly Newspaper, if you will, here's what happened and here's God's editorial commentary is useful to us as That divine perspective and some people call divine viewpoint So back now to Hezekiah real quickly in 2nd Chronicles chapter 29 We have a different account than you find in 2nd Kings Where we began this evening and the not only the emphasis or the difference between the Wars versus the revival, but the analysis Look in 2nd Kings chapter 20 at the Babylonian envoys At that time Baradak Baladan the son of Baladan king of Babylon sent letters and a present to Hezekiah For he heard that Hezekiah had been sick Hezekiah was attentive to them showed them all the house of his treasures the silver and gold the spices and precious ointment all of his Armory all that was found among his treasures There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and said to him. What did these men say and from where did they come to you? In this typical God speaking through the prophet. He did this in the garden Well, why are you where you are? Have you eaten of the tree, you know, God always leads with a question Jesus so often with the disciples would lead with a question to Get the rusty gears turning think think God doesn't just preach he questions.

He wants us to analyze and think so God through Isaiah says what did these men say and from where did they come? Hezekiah says well, they came from a far country from Babylon. It's a far country. I doesn't matter what I show them They're they're way off we from our perspective know how important and How significant a threat Babylon already is Hezekiah doesn't see it So as I says, what have they seen in your house Hezekiah says well, they saw everything There's nothing among my treasures that I've not shown them.

Isaiah said to Hezekiah hear the word of the Lord Behold the days are coming when all that is in your house What your fathers have accumulated under this day shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left says the Lord They shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you whom you will beget They will be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon think Hananiah Michelle Azariah Danielle These royal princes Will literally fulfill this Hezekiah said to Isaiah the word of the Lord which you have spoken is good Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days? I Don't care about the ozone layer. I Won't be here when the thing burns

away.

I Don't care about batteries in the landfill that stuff's not gonna leak out and poison the water until well after I'm gone Well, you ask yourself Isn't this the book of Kings and isn't this the sort of man? Centered view. Yes, it is. And what impresses us when a prophet of God comes and says you goofed You've made a strategic error here and Hezekiah says well, it's okay because somebody besides me is going to suffer for it.

It won't be me. It'll be my sons I'll be okay. There'll be peace in my day The Prophet says your sons are going to be carried and made eunuchs in Babylon.

You think well Doesn't that bother you as a guy says? Well It's smooth sailing as long as I'm in the boat. That's all I care about But here's what's interesting when you go to Chronicles the the parallel for this and If you have a Bible that that shows you the parallel passages Does your New King James up at verse 12 of? 2nd Kings chapter 20. Do you have the Babylonian envoys and then a little parallel passage notation? Where do you see Chronicles in there? You don't where is the parallel? Isaiah the Prophet who was given the message to deliver to Hezekiah Isaiah records it and Kings records it the king was impressed by it But it's not in Chronicles Why? Why this is one of the most interesting things I? can think of Remember why God grants Hezekiah extra life? What did he do? He humbled himself Repented and sought the face of the Lord what happens when you repent to your sins? God forgets them They're gone Won't it be wonderful if you get to the judgment seat of Christ and those catastrophic significant I hope those aren't on the big screen with all the people behind me looking when I get to the judgment I hope it's a private interview.

I hope we can settle this thing behind closed doors because oh my gosh, you know, it's just so I've done so many stupid things so many embarrassing things so many cataclysmically moronic sins If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all Unrighteousness our sins are separated from us as far as the East is from the West and in that Chronicles perspective God says that's not the important part Yes, I sent Isaiah. Yes. I gave the word to Hezekiah, but that episode isn't What is included in in sort of God's newspaper God's newspaper has to do with What was the response? What kind of a man was Hezekiah? Did he respond to the word or did he ignore the word and This is not unique in the book of Chronicles Many times you will see that For example when you think about David David's great sin you remember Bathsheba you're either hit tight.

There's adultery. There was murder. Where do you find that whole account? 2nd Samuel 2nd Samuel Chapters 11 and 12.

There's two whole chapters in the human account of this grievous Grievous biggest mistake David ever made set of mistakes cluster of sins How much space is devoted that in Chronicles Zero verses it's never mentioned in the book of Chronicles at all There is a Because what did David do? Were there consequences? Yes, there were but in God's Newspaper, what's the report? It's not not mentioned When God forgives God forgets Praise God for that grace The

Prophetic Message is to confront us with the word of the Lord. That's what Isaiah does That word is recorded in his four chapters the situation into which it was preached The content that God had on that occasion That's the prophets message and in Kings Isaiah shows up time and again because from man's point of view when God's messenger comes we tend to pay attention and many times an issue is made of the messenger and So you here's here's the the man of God coming. Here's the man of God speaking.

Here's the the message that he brings from God But in Chronicles Isaiah gets very short shrift Because to God Isaiah is the telephone he dialed up Hezekiah on the Isaiah phone and said You know, here's here's what's going on. Here's here's my promise and it's the it's the response to the word of the Lord that God is interested in and God is impressed with and God is not unrighteous to forget Hezekiah's work of faith and labor of love in restoring the temple God is not unrighteous to forget his repentance and even though the kingdom is on a decline God's account in Chronicles presents Hezekiah in a very favorable light and That's the grace of God. It's the grace of God toward you and me.

What is the application of this for us? Claim the grace of God We were saved by grace through faith as You have received Christ. So walk in him. We were saved by grace walk by grace don't get caught up in the Emphasis on well, here are the particulars of my battles.

Here are the details of my wars How do I stand before the Lord God am I abiding in The Lord Jesus Christ am I abiding in the vine so that I can bear fruit? We don't measure ourselves by our successes so many churches I think tend to fall into this trap Well, have we grown do we have a building yet? How many programs how many people how many media outreaches how many different kinds of amenities and Opportunities do you have for people who come? What can young people do what can young marrieds do? What can the young singles do probably should have put that one first? and It's it's the human perspective and are all of these things important Yes, they are They're in the book of Kings not that they shouldn't be but this is just what we tend to be occupied with and concern ourselves with what God is far more interested in is Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you take no thought for Meaning, you know be careful for nothing. Don't be full of care We obviously plan we concern ourselves we take steps we have duties and responsibilities we we're Not supposed to just be fools for Christ in the sense of navigating life But the perspective should be much more for us Chronicles than Kings We see what happens when you get too much in this world and too much in this life The grass withers and the flower fades the material expressions of life that seems so real and seems so important fade It's the Word of God. It's what we do with the Word of God.

It is how we respond and what it does to us that lasts The immaterial is going forward. The material is going to perish Remember what Peter says what kind of people ought we to be if the whole material universe is gonna Melt into I always think of molten lead, you know, it's just all gonna pool in some gigantic Cataclysmic puddle the the elements are gonna melt with a fervent heat it's all it started with a big bang and it's going out with a big bang and We're we

will still be here. You're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and you have existence in Dimensions that are not reflected in this material universe You can take the computer out from under the software but the content in the software is still there and God's going to put us on entirely new hardware in an entirely new network whole new environment But the software is the same Dr. Grizzles famously says you will be you and I will be I we shall be we and It's true.

It's one of the most miraculous things. I've often thought well, how do I know some guys not gonna wake up? You know They had these shows where a clone is is imbued with somebody else's memories and they think that they're the person and they're not How do I know that when I woke up this morning? I'm not a clone of the Sam that was alive yesterday and he's Sitting off in some cold corner somewhere thinking well, why is that guy living my life and he thinks he's me and I'm over here How do I know it's me that's resurrected when I see all of you in the resurrection? I don't know. That's really you and not just a real good copy of you It's the promise of God the individual ineffable self is an immaterial in this universe, but real thing and It is imperishable for those of us who are in Christ we have been given eternal life our Immaterial self doesn't depend on this hardware When this hardware starts to go the program can start expressing real strangely the memory center doesn't get through the logic Can be lost you can your your human brain can get Alzheimer's and your mind Can't get through to the material interface your mind is there and in glory all of your memories all of your loves All of your righteousness by faith is going to shine like the Sun in the kingdom of the Father So don't worry about the hardware here The hardware upgrade that we're getting we do not know what we'll be like, but we know we'll be like him and If you're like the Lord Jesus Praise God for that.

That's as good as it gets doesn't say we'll be like the angels in that sense We're gonna be like him. He is higher than the angels for a time He was made lower than the angels now. He's higher.

We are lower than the angels We will be on hardware higher than the angelic civilization But it's still going to be you same program better computer same software much better hardware eternal and capable and Think about it the more that you have invested in your soul the more you have learned of the things of God In other words, what do you do if you've got a real simple pong game? How much of a computer do you need to run that? I can get an old IBM 8086 with a double floppy drive on a monochrome screen and play pong Right if the program is just pong very simple hardware will suffice If you've got one of the latest 3d first-person shooters that puts you in a terrain and you can fly helicopters and drive Jeeps and it's it's virtual reality You know the the the best computer hardware on the planet is developed for gamers because those programs are so complex Think about your soul The more righteousness by faith you have the more you have learned and the more capacity you have to serve God To be pleasing in his sight to carry out his plans and purposes in the eternal future The more hardware it's going to take to run your program This is why as star differs from star in glory. So shall it be in the resurrection 1st Corinthians chapter 15 Don't be a pong game Look at Hezekiah. Look at God's perspective.

Where does he get credit in God's book? His spiritual accomplishments his resuscitation and revitalization of worship of God gets three entire chapters in God's Newspaper account that's who we want to be It's not your obituary Published in in the newspaper or your alumni magazine that counts It is the record of how you invested the minutes and the hours of your life when it comes to transcendent spiritual attainment Righteousness by faith fruit of the spirit love joy. Peace long suffering by the way Find a scientist that can give you a test tube full of joy. I'm talking about joy not some sort of electrode in your brain for stimulation peace The transcendent eternal Verities and realities are not accessible to the clumsy ham-fisted tools of science How much does it weigh? How long is it? How wide is it? How dense is it? Does it float? life for human beings is transcendent in quality and eternal in duration in Christ in him those seven branched candlestick Realities and truths pertain so we want to be recorded in the book of Chronicles for three chapters not in the book of Kings for three verses That's the emphasis as we look at these three accounts together.

We're out of time for tonight. Let's close in a word of prayer father Thank you for the truth of your word and the multiple ways that it communicates to us Not only in what it says but in where it says it and how it says it We thank you for the gift of your spirit to enable us to grasp things that are well beyond our mortal minds and our carnal natures, we pray that as we reflect and as we Examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith, and if we are truly Offering ourselves as living sacrifices that your Holy Spirit will illuminate our souls so that we can Cleanse our temple so that we can repair and restore our worship before you and then to Enable us to see clearly how we should walk and where we should go the priorities. We should set the goals that we should pursue the values that we should reflect and adhere to in our culture and with one another as We celebrate our standing in Christ and the immanency of his return for us.

We pray these things in Jesus name Amen