

**Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church**  
**Life group notes**  
**A Song In The Night**  
**7 July 2019**

**2 Chronicles 29:1-5**

We see in 2 Chronicles 29 that Hezekiah instructed the priests to consecrate the temple.  
**What was the significance of that act?**

The key to understanding revival is : The presence of God. It is the felt, tangible.

Worship and revival are so closely linked in terms of the of what revival brings to worship.  
**What was the significance of that back then? What could the significance of this be for the church of the 21st century?**

Rhys Bevan Jones<sup>1</sup> described a scene in Anglesey during one of the most powerful meetings he ever experienced in Wales in 1904: *“The whole place at that moment was so awful with the glory of God.”*

On Sunday Kevin preached that **in worship we sometimes move from awful to awesome. What does that mean?**

**How do we move from awful to awesome in worship? What scriptural examples can you think of?**

**Worship and joy are found together in the revival in Hezekiah’s day in 2 Chronicles 29-30. See below:**

2 Chronicles 29:30

King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed down and worshiped

2 Chronicles 29:36 (NIV)

Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.

2 Chronicles 30:21 (NIV)

The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests praised the Lord every day with resounding instruments dedicated to the Lord.

2 Chronicles 30:23(NIV)

The whole assembly then agreed to celebrate the festival seven more days; so for another seven days they celebrated joyfully.

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<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Rhys Bevan Jones, pastor of the Tabernacle English Baptist Church, Porth, and founder and hon. principal of the South Wales Bible Training Institute. During the revival in the early part of the 20th century he was to the fore as a revivalist, and swept North Wales with his preaching.

2 Chronicles 30:26 (NIV)

There was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the days of Solomon son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.

### **Acts 16:22-26**

We need this text on many levels, but especially to see that we, like Paul and Silas, must not grumble or murmur when we find ourselves in less than ideal circumstances but praise God the same whether we are in need or in plenty.

Paul and Silas have been severely beaten placed into the inner part of the prison and their legs fastened in the stocks. They were bloody, extremely exhausted, and in much pain.

The jailer, having been ordered to keep these prisoners secured, places them in the innermost cell at the heart of the prison—more than likely a dungeon. There would be no light at night, and little light during the day. There would be little provision for sanitation or ventilation, so the stench would be terrible. Beaten backs would be subject to infection. Feet fastened in stocks would add physical discomfort. Unable to shift positions, prisoners would grow more uncomfortable by the minute. It is difficult to imagine a more terrible place.

### **What would have happened if instead of praying and praising Paul and Silas were complaining and grumbling?**

Notice what Paul and Silas were doing at midnight because they couldn't sleep.

**They had “a song in the night.” What does that mean and how can you practically apply that?**

**How can we have a song in the night?**

**What do you think the other prisoners were thinking as they listened?** They might have desired that they be quiet so they could sleep? They may have welcomed the interruption of the mundane? They may have even enjoyed the entertainment. But whatever they thought, one thing was certain they all were puzzled. **Why would two men who had just been unjustly punished be praising God?**

In the original language, it is clear that they sang for an extended period of time and the prisoners listened to them intently. **The secret was, they had a song in the night! Is there an experience you can tell the Life Group about when you had a song in the night?**

Others heard Paul and Silas praying and singing to the Lord. **What was the significance of that? What would be the significance of others hearing our worship? What impact do you think that a praying and worshipping Christian can have on their world? Think back to the testimony that Kevin invited Stacey to give on Sunday.**

Psalm 43:4

Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.

Psalm 98:4-6

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises. Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, With the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn Shout joyfully before the King, the LORD.

Psalm 33:3

Sing to Him a new song; Play skilfully with a shout of joy.

Psalm 42:4

These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me For I used to go along with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God, With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

Psalm 47:1

O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy.

Psalm 81:1

Sing for joy to God our strength; Shout joyfully to the God of Jacob.

Psalm 95:1

O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

What will a song in the night potentially do for you and others?

ACTS 16:34

Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

The jailer had moved from an awful situation to an awesome situation.

These men were disrupting the city. They prayed and sang and God sent an earthquake to disturb the city.

This would come into play later as there would be a disruption when a church is formed in Philippi. We have the Letter to the Philippians.

**Thinking of the influence our words and worship have on others – what responsibility does that place on our attitude towards worship?**

**What practical steps may we have to take to become more bold in our prayer, worship and witness?**