



# THE CROSS *and* CROWN

*"No Cross, No Crown"*

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*"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." 1 Thessalonians 5:25*

The book of II Chronicles is such a rollercoaster ride. From one chapter to the next, from one king to the next, we see wild swings, from serving God faithfully, as their forefather David did, to abandoning him, serving false gods, and defiling the temple.

One lesson that comes through loud and clear is God's patience. He endures a lot before he finally lets loose his wrath. (Unfortunately, God's patience is often mistaken for his approval – but that's a story for another time.) God is slow to anger, and, on the other hand, quick to restore those who repent. God isn't like those people who hold onto their anger, so they have something to hold over people's heads and make them grovel. That's one of the lies that the devil tells about God, hoping to make us too ashamed or afraid to repent and be restored. The fact, though, is that God is just eagerly waiting, like the father of the prodigal son, for us to come to our senses and come back to him.



King Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, destroyed and defiled God's temple, cutting up its furnishings and shutting its doors while he set up altars to idols on every street corner in Jerusalem. Hezekiah, however, turned back to God. In the first month of his reign, he reopened the temple doors and called in the Levites to reconsecrate the building. The Levites reported back sixteen days later that they had purified the entire temple, the altar and all of the furnishings. When everything was restored, "Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly." (II Chronicles 29:16)

This is a wonderful account of God's faithfulness, but, believe me: God is not as interested in restoring a building as he is in restoring people! If you're praying for restoration – for yourself or a loved one – take heart! As far gone as someone may seem, God is able to restore fully and quickly! Have faith! Keep praying!

*I am the Lord; in its time I will do this swiftly. (Isaiah 60:22)*

# Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

We appreciate your faith and faithfulness so much! Please continue to pray with us for:

- more of God's Spirit, likeness, mission and vision,
- our upcoming summer ministry opportunities (and the challenges they bring),
- God's continued provision for the financial needs of the academy and church, and
- more people to be called to and excited about ministry in Tioga/Nicetown.

## We're praying with you!

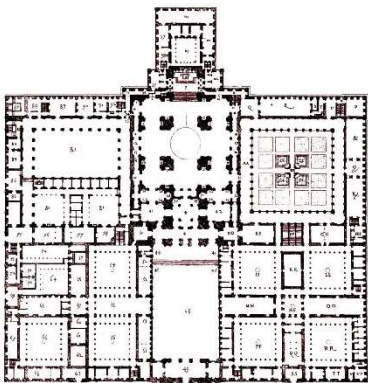
If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Please do keep in touch! We're always delighted to hear from you and to pray with you!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at [crossandcrown.online/subscribe](http://crossandcrown.online/subscribe) !



## Did You Know?

El Escoria, the traditional home of Spanish kings, was built over the course of 21 years in the sixteenth century. It is the largest Renaissance building in the world, and its floorplan is said to have been based on the biblical description of Solomon's temple.

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:24,25)



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