

HEZEKIAH DISCOVERS THE POWER OF PRAYER
2 KINGS 18:5-7 / 4-22-18 / PM

I. HEZEKIAH'S LIFE.

A. His family background.

1. His father was Ahaz, so wicked that he was denied a royal burial.
2. The prophets who were his contemporaries included Isaiah, Hosea and Micah.

B. His accomplishments.

1. When he became king at age 25, he immediately set out to correct all the wrongs his father had done which started with sanctifying the Temple because it had had been unused and neglected—2 Chron. 29:3 and 17.
2. He ordered the priests to consecrate themselves so they could start offering sacrifices brought by the people—2 Chron. 29:31.
3. After repairing the Temple and resuming sacrifices Hezekiah once again held Passover—2 Chron. 30:1-5, 26.
4. His next course of action was to see to it that idols were destroyed—2 Chron. 31:1.
5. He also directed that many of Solomon's proverbs be preserved—Prov. 25:1.
6. Additionally, he helped insure Jerusalem's survival during a siege by securing a constant source of water within the city gates—2 Chron. 32:30.

2 Chronicles 32:30 *** (VIDEO)**

It was Hezekiah who blocked the upper outlet of the Gihon spring and channeled the water down to the west side of the City of David. He succeeded in everything he undertook.

II. HEZEKIAH'S CHALLENGES.

A. He faced a challenge from "without".

1. In his 14th year as King, Sennacherib of Assyria threatened to destroy Judah unless they paid him tribute, which Hezekiah did. Eight years earlier Assyria destroyed Israel—2 Kings 18:13-16.
2. Assyria reneged on their deal and once again threatened Judah—2 Kings 18:32b-36.
3. This time Hezekiah did the right things and asked God for deliverance—2 Kings 19:14-17.
4. God sent the prophet Isaiah to give Hezekiah His answer—2 Kings 19:20, 35-37.

- B. Hezekiah faced a challenge from “within”.
1. Shortly after all this he became deathly ill—2 Kings 20:1.
 2. Again Hezekiah asked God for deliverance—2 Kings 20:2.
 3. God sent Isaiah again with an answer—2 Kings 20:4-6.
 4. Hezekiah due to his lack of faith asked Isaiah for a sign which God granted—2 King 20:8-11.
- C. Hezekiah faced another challenge caused by his own pride.
1. Hezekiah became prideful and refused to give God praise for how He had restored his health—2 Chron. 32:24-25.

2 Chronicles 32:24-25

24 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. He prayed to the Lord, who answered him and gave him a miraculous sign. 25 But Hezekiah’s heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord’s wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

2. Hezekiah eventually repented of his pride—2 Chron. 32:26.

2 Chronicles 32:26

26 Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the Lord’s wrath did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah.

III. HEZEKIAH’S LESSONS.

1. We don’t have to follow in the sinful steps of others
2. Everything we have comes from God.
3. Wealth can be more of a curse than a blessing.
4. Prayer is powerful—James 5:16b.
5. We need Godly leaders.
6. Obedience does not guarantee a lack of trials.
7. God doesn’t owe us anything because of our obedience
8. God can deliver us in ways we will never understand

9. Nothing is impossible for God
10. We should trust God with the challenges of life.
11. We can expect great things from God and we should ask great things from God—James 4:2b.
12. We must remember to praise God for his deliverance of us.