

Week Eight – Hezekiah Part III

Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32; Isaiah 36-39)

Ex 18:21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

Before we get into the study tonight I want to encourage you with a passage of Scripture – Psalm 99. Turn there please. Let me read it to you and make a couple of comments. I thank Cory Witt for sending me this Psalm this week.

Heritage and Situation –

Let just mention a few things here and not get bogged down in repetition. Hezekiah spent 14 years as co-regent with his Father Ahaz. During that time he learned how not to be a godly king and how to destroy a nation. When he took the sole control of Judah he took an about face and did the opposite of his father. First he went through a personal revival. Then he led out in a revival among the leadership. Finally he and the priest and leaders led first Jerusalem and then towns and villages from Dan to Beersheba to assemble at Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. It was glorious and it started a lasting revival.

How to sustain a revival - chapter 31. Praise God this was a **sustained** revival. Why?

1. The revival had an extended **cultural impact**. 31.1.
2. The revival had an extended impact on **regular worship** (v.2-19)

How to survive a national crisis (Isaiah 36-37). We covered this last time. Let me summarize.

1. An act of **boldness** (2 Kings 18.8)
2. An act of **Contrition** - (2 Kings 18.14).
3. Wise preparation – as Hezekiah saw that the Assyrian army was coming he took measures to protect Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 32.3-8).
4. **Intimidation** and threats (32.9-19)

5. The prophesy of Isaiah (Isaiah 37.5-7)
6. A Royal **Prayer meeting** (Isaiah 37.14-20).
7. Divine Answer and **deliverance** (Isaiah 37.21-38).

How to handle a personal crisis. We need to combine the stories to see what was going on. Isaiah was terminally ill - Isaiah 38. Isaiah came and told him, put your house in order; your time is up (Isa. 38.1). [Read it]

1. **Go** to God – As soon as Hezekiah heard he would not recover from his boils he turned over in his bed toward that wall and begged God for more time (Isa. 38.2).
2. **Confess** your sin (if there is any). 2 Chronicles 32.24-25
3. Remember God's **goodness** (2 Kings 20.4-11).

How to pass a spiritual test (Isaiah 39). We are going to discover together what foolish things Hezekiah did toward the end of his life. The scenario is the following: Hezekiah's sickness was one of which most people did not recover. The news that he did recover reached far away Babylon. It too was a world power but still not like Assyria. It lay to the south and east of Assyria along the Euphrates river bed toward the Persian Gulf. They wanted to discover the wealth and power of a possible enemy or ally.

1. Don't let **success** go to your head. Hezekiah was impressed with foreign dignitaries giving him attention.
2. Don't be so easily **deceived**. Hezekiah was naïve concerning the purpose of the ambassador's visit. How much did boastful Hezekiah show them? He showed them all treasures and his armory (v.2)
3. Don't be so **self-centered** (Isa. 39.3-8). When told that all would be carried away to Babylon and that his descendants would not be free but slaves and eunuchs in the kingdom of Babylon; his answer is in V.8 is dumbfounding. *Well, at least I won't have to deal with it!* Wow! Any lessons here for us?
 - God is **able** no matter what the crisis.
 - It is still hard to **finish well**.
 - We can usually handle crisis, problems and affliction better than we can handle wealth, success and **affluence**.
 - We are all tempted by **pride**.