

King Hezekiah

Seeking to Live a Life that Fully Glorifies God

2 Kings 18:1–6 (NKJV)

¹Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

²He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.

³And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.

He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.

⁵He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.

⁶For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses

- *Hezekiah is an example of a godly man and a godly king.*
- *Hezekiah is described as a man of such integrity and devotion to God that there was no king in Judah before or after him that was like him.*
- 2 Kings 18:7–8 (NKJV)
- ⁷The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.
- ⁸He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.
- *God prospered king Hezekiah because he sought to serve God fully.*
- 2 Kings 18:9–12 (NKJV)
- ⁹Now it came to pass in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it.
- ¹⁰And at the end of three years they took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is, the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

- ¹¹Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and put them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,
- ¹²because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God, but transgressed His covenant and all that Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded; and they would neither hear nor do them.
- *The northern Kingdom of Israel is an example of what happens when we do not obey the voice of the Lord.*
- *The northern Kingdom of Israel was oppressed, conquered and finally taken away as captives by the Assyrians.*
- *Up to this point we may think we can see a clear-cut example of what happens if we obey the Lord and what happens if we disobey the Lord.*
- *The Northern Kingdom of Israel was oppressed and scattered while Judah prospered and enjoyed blessings.*
- *But all of a sudden a turn of events takes place that may pose the question, "why do bad things happen to godly people?"*
- 2 Kings 18 (NKJV)
- ¹³And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.
- ¹⁴Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.
- ¹⁵So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord and in the treasuries of the king's house.
- ¹⁶At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.
- *There may be times in our lives where we have resisted sin and the flesh and have walked in freedom and then for no apparent failing on our part we are confronted by temptation or tragic events that seems so strong that it can be overwhelming.*
- *However we have not done something wrong but are being tested in our resolve to live before the Lord in purity and trust no matter how difficult things become.*

- *God used the king of Assyria to bring judgment to rebellious Israel but He used the same king to strengthen Judah's faith and resolve to serve the Living God.*
- *When we go through times of hardship our hearts are tested and purified so that we learn to not only seek God's blessings but to seek God.*

Romans 6:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

- *There are two truths in this verse. One of them we will experience. Our choice will determine which one it will be.*
- *If we obey God it will lead us to righteousness and freedom and life.*
- *If we obey sin it will lead us to bondage and destruction and death.*
- **¹⁷Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.**
- **¹⁸And when they had called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them.**
- *You can never compromise with the flesh or with sin because it will never be satisfied until it has taken you totally captive and brought total destruction.*
- **¹⁹Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust?"**
- **²⁰You speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. And in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me?**
- **²¹Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.**

But if you say to me, 'We trust in the Lord our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?''

- *The flesh causes us to question our chose to trust in the living God.*
- *The flesh challenges us in our resolve to consecrate our lives fully to God.*

Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses—if you are able on your part to put riders on them!

²⁴How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master’s servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?

- *The flesh mocks our faith.*
- *Matthew 27:43 (NKJV)*
- *⁴³He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”*

²⁵Have I now come up without the Lord against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me, ‘Go up against this land, and destroy it.’ ”

- *In the midst of temptation and hardships the enemy tries to get us to question whether it is God who is actually against us.*
- *The enemy wants us to feel like God has forsaken us and that He is now against us.*
- *Condemnation, shame and guilt are the prison that the enemy tries to build around us but our faith in the blood of Jesus tears those bars down so we can walk in freedom and joy.*

The words spoken by the king of Assyria not only tested the resolve of king Hezekiah to trust in God but tested the resolve of all the men of Israel.

²⁸Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, saying, “Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!

²⁹Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand;

³⁰nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, “The Lord will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” ’

The great lie is that you will never be able to overcome your struggles so you might as well give up.

Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: ‘Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern;

³²until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive groves and honey, that you may live and not die. But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, "The Lord will deliver us."

- *We are all going to die.*
- *Let us die doing the will of God rather die not doing the will of God.*
- ³³*Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria?*
- ³⁴*Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand?*
- ³⁵*Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the Lord should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?' "*
- *Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? - Again the enemy uses the tactic of doubt and fear to try to get Judah to give up.*

It is so important for us to share our testimonies of God's faithfulness in our lives. It does not matter if the testimonies are big or small but each one is very important and valuable

³⁶*But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him."*

³⁷*Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.*

- *The people obeyed the king's commandment of not answering the words of the enemy. The people were able to overcome the enemy's tactic of trying to get them to break rank.*
- *The people listened to the words of their king and not to the enemy.*
- *The strategy of God is to focus on God's Word and not the words of the enemy.*
- *2 Kings 19 (NKJV)*
- ¹*And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.*
- ²*Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz.*

- ³And they said to him, *“Thus says Hezekiah: ‘This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.*
- ⁴It may be that the Lord your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.’ ”
- ⁵So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.
- ⁶And Isaiah said to them, *“Thus you shall say to your master, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.*
- *“Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard” – God’s answer to this difficult situation is simply don’t worry about the words you have heard.*
- *We are simply to trust in God’s Word and not pay attention to the enemy’s words.*
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- *How many times are our minds so filled with fearful thoughts instead of God’s Word?*
- ⁷Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.” ’ ”
- *God says basically, “I will take care of him Myself”*
- *Matthew 16:21–27 (NKJV)*
- ²¹From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.
- ²²Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, *“Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!”*
- ²³But He turned and said to Peter, *“Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*
- *Get behind Me Satan – Just as the king of Assyria was saying, “you don’t have to suffer war, simply surrender and I will take you to a land similar to this one and you can enjoy life.” However they would have to abandon the promise of God.*
- *“You are an offense to Me” – Jesus recognized this type of thinking would trip Him up if He listened and followed it up.*

- *“for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men” – this is the fleshly mind;*
²⁴Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
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- *True discipleship is extremely simple but it can only be accomplished if we fully surrendering to the grace of God.*
- *what makes us happy versus what pleases God.*

²⁵For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- *Christians who seek to please themselves end up destroying their lives but those that seek to please God find life.*
- *²⁶For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*
- *²⁷For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

Let us not compromise with the flesh and exchange God’s eternal purposes for our lives for a fleeting moment of pleasure with sin.

- *Let us pray that God will teach us how to walk in the Spirit and live lives that are fully yielded to Him.*
- *Let us pray that God will teach us how to deny our own selfishness and take up our cross and follow Jesus.*

Let us give thanks to God for the growth, maturity and life we have experienced in those times we have been able to deny ourselves and seek to do God’s will.