

## SPIRITUAL LESSONS FROM KING HEZEKIAH

Christian Formation

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Relevant passages:

2 Kgs 18.13 – 19.37P

2 Chr 29 – 32

Is 36, 37

From these passages we find:

### 1. Background

1.1. 2 Ch 29: Hezekiah calls for religious reform

1.1.1. Purification of the temple after it was closed by his father Ahaz (2 Chr 29.1ff)

1.1.2. Dedication of the people, priests, and leaders

1.2. 2 Chr 30: Passover celebration.

1.2.1. Hezekiah calls the people from Israel (northern kingdom) to join; some from the tribes of Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. (vs. 11)

1.2.2. Hezekiah prays for the unclean, and God hears (vss. 18, 19)

1.2.3. The feast continues seven days longer (vs. 23)

1.3. Smashed objects of false religion (vs. 14)

1.4. Encouraged the people to provide for the priests (2 Chr 31.1)

Summary of Hezekiah's life:

“Hezekiah trusted the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no king like him among all the kings of Judah either before him or after him.” (2 Kgs 18.5, 6; 2 Chr 29.2)

### 2. The coming crisis

2.1. In spite of Hezekiah's righteousness, a crisis came (2 Chr 32.1)

2.1.1. Adversity happens to the just and to the unjust (cf. Job!)

2.1.2. The crisis was not of Hezekiah's own doing; it was external

2.1.3. Note the following passages:

2.1.3.1. “Stumbling blocks must come, but woe to that man thru whom stumbling blocks come.” (Mt 18.7)

2.1.3.2. “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (2 Tim 3.12)

### 3. Hezekiah's response

3.1. DON'T PANIC!! Rather, calmly assess the situation and consider ways to lessen the impact of the crisis

3.2. Hezekiah prepares, appoints, encourages (2 Chr 32.1 – 8, 30):

4. Hezekiah encouraged the people and himself by reminding them that no problem was so great that God couldn't handle it. (2 Chr 32.6 – 8)

4.1. We must remind ourselves of God's control over all circumstances.

4.2. Several useful passages:

- 4.2.1. 1 Cor 10.13: No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
- 4.2.2. 2 Pet 2.9: The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation [trial], and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment
- 4.2.3. Ps 118.6: The Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?
- 4.2.4. P.S. 27.1 – 3: The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident.
- 4.2.5. Ps 23.4: Even though I walk through the [a]valley of the shadow of death,
- 4.2.6. I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 4.3. Hezekiah fully followed the Lord and this gave him the confidence to call upon God when times were tough
- 5. Sennacherib tried to shake Hezekiah's confidence in God (2 Chr 32.9 – 19)
  - 5.1. Sennacherib reminds Hezekiah and the people how successful he has been against other gods, and Hezekiah's god is no different
  - 5.2. The Devil takes the same tactic (1 Pet 5.8 – 9a: Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.)
    - 5.2.1. “There are many religious people and God doesn’t answer their prayers, what makes you think he’ll answer yours?” [Answer: Our God is the Lord, and if he doesn’t answer my prayer in the way I wish, he has promised to give me the strength to endure. (1 Cor 10.13) And I know that whatever happens is for my good (Rom 8.28), and that when all is finished, he will reward me in the next life.
  - 5.3. We can stand up to Satan w/ that answer (Jas 4.10: Resist the Devil and he will flee.”)
- 6. Hezekiah prays
  - 6.1. as though God did not know what happened and needed to be informed—i.e., he was specific
  - 6.2. Hezekiah realized that the answered prayer would not be just for his own good, but for God’s glory
- 7. Summary
  - 7.1. Crises do come even to the righteous
  - 7.2. Be prepared—some crises can be seen in advance, so pan—don’t panic!
  - 7.3. Be encouraged by God’s promises of help
  - 7.4. Stand up to Satan’s attacks
  - 7.5. Pray!!