

I. Intro

A. Text: **2 Kings 18:1-5**

Now 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. ² He 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. ³ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He 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. (2 Sam. 18:1-5)

B. Background

1. Kingdom Split

a. Solomon

i. Jehu (Israel)

ii. Rehoboam (Judah)

iii. Hezekiah was the 12 King in the divided kingdom

b. Hezekiah (chizkiyah #2396): Jehovah is my strength.

c. The only thing that Hezekiah knew was what his father, Ahaz, had done.

II. Body

A. Repent for the Sins of Fathers

³ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. ⁴ 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. (2 Kings 18:3-4)

1. High Places: Mentioned 117 in the O.T.
 - a. Canaanite places (often on hilltops) that hosted the worship of various gods.
 - b. Baal (the god of the heavens and rain) and Ashtoreth (the goddess of fertility).
 - i. Local farmers often visited Baal and Ashtoreth shrines to have sex with cult prostitutes to assure fertile harvests.
 - c. Molech (Canaanites) and Chemosh (Ammonites).
 - i. Families sought out to win the favor of the gods by any means necessary (even sacrificing a child here or there).
 - d. Common for Israelites to worship YHWH and mix it with the worship of other gods in the “high places” of worship.
2. By the time that Hezekiah was born, decades and decades had passed where the normal practice in the land was to worship at the high places.

B. Restored The Plans Handed Down From David

1. Temple

³ In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them. ⁴ Then he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them in the East Square, ⁵ and said to them: “Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place. ⁶ For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the LORD our God; they have forsaken Him, have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned their backs on Him. ⁷ They have also shut up the doors of the vestibule, put out the lamps, and

have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel. (2 Chron. 29:3-7)

- a. In the past... neglected the building.
- b. Hezekiah repaired that which had been neglected in the house
- c. Re-instituted Ministry of the Priests.

2. Worship

²⁵ And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by His prophets. ²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. ²⁷ Then Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord also began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸ So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. ²⁹ And when they had finished offering, the king and all who were present with him bowed and worshiped.

³⁰ Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped. (2 Chron. 29:25-30)

- a. Priests & Levites were assigned as singers and musicians in the house.
- b. The nation was called to offer God an acceptable sacrifice.
 - i. Sin Offerings: Bulls, rams, lambs, goats (2 Chron. 29:21-24)

3. Passover (2 Chron. 30)

- a. The one celebration that depicts the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

4. Tithing and Sacrificial Giving

- a. Priests were too few to deal with all the abundance of sacrificial giving (**2 Chron. 29:33-34**)
 - i. Brought in the Levites to help.
 - ii. Organized divisions of the priests and Levites.
- b. Appropriated a portion of the giving to contribute “support” for the priests and Levites
 - i. *“That they might devote themselves to the Law of the Lord”* (**2 Chron. 31:2-4**)

C. Resisted Temptations Within and Testings Without

- 1. Watched Israel continue to serve other gods.
 - a. Witnessed God punish Israel’s disobedience.
 - b. Assyria was the Rod of God’s anger (**Is. 10:5-19**)

“Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it?” (**Is. 10:15**)

- i. Assyria’s capital city was Nineveh.
 - ii. Gave Israel so much trouble that Jonah refused to bring the word of God to them.
- 2. Hezekiah watched Israel get carried away as slaves in Assyria (Hezekiah’s 6th year).

⁹ *Now 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.* ¹⁰ *And 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.* ¹¹ *Then 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,* ¹² *because 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.* (**2 Kings 18:9-12**)

- a. The Assyrians were known to be fierce in battle and showed little mercy to those they conquered.
- b. Hezekiah kept serving the Lord as his brothers and contemporaries fell by the wayside.

3. 8 years after watching this fierce army take the Northern Kingdom, Hezekiah looked up and they were back for him (Judah).

¹³ And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. ¹⁴ Then 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. ¹⁵ So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king’s house. ¹⁶ At 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. (2 Kings 18:13-16)

- a. Captured 46 fortified cities in the Judean territory and surrounded Jerusalem.
- b. Refused to try and even protect himself.
 - i. *“Whatever you charge I will pay it. Just let us be.”*
(v.14)
- c. Hezekiah gave up so much that he gave all the gold and silver in his house.
 - i. Stripped all the gold off the doors of the temple and gave it to the king of Assyria.
- d. No matter how much ground Hezekiah gave to the Assyrians, they were never satisfied.

III. Conclusion

- A. The Enemy’s Attack Against the People of God Was Really an Attack on God

⁹ ...So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying, ¹⁰ “Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: ‘Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, “Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.” ¹¹ Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered? ¹² Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar? (2 Kings 19:9b-12)

1. Don’t let the God that you trust in deceive you. (v.10)
 - a. Do you really think He can deliver Israel?
 - b. Have any of the other gods delivered from the hands of the Assyrians?
2. Hezekiah immediately appealed to Yahweh about God’s dominion and identity. (2 Kings 19:14-15)

¹⁴ And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵ Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: “O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth... ¹⁹ Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone.” (2 Kings 19:14-15, 19)

- a. Do you hear what they are saying about you?
 - i. You are God alone!
- b. Save us, I pray, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you are God!
- c. Hezekiah was concerned primarily with the glory of God.
 - i. It moved God’s heart.

- B. God is eager to defend His own name, glory (2 Kings 19:32-34)

³² “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: ‘He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. ³³ By the way that he came, By the same shall he return;

And he shall not come into this city,’ Says the LORD.³⁴ ‘For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’” (2 Kings 19:32-34)

1. He won’t come into this city. (**v. 32**)
 - a. The same way he came in... he’ll go back out. (**v. 33**)
2. I will defend this city for my own sake... (**v. 34**)