

Gleanings of Grace

2 Kings 20

Lesson 13

After the reign of King David, his son Solomon reigned over Israel. After Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was divided into two parts, each having its own king. 300 years later, after a series of kings who did either good or evil in the sight of the LORD, King Hezekiah reigned over Judah, the southern kingdom. Hezekiah *did what was right in the sight of the LORD*. May you glean from both the high points and low points of his life as you study.

OBSERVATION: Read 2 Kings 20

1. Read 2 Kings 20 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD*, *Hezekiah*, and *Isaiah*.
Key Words: *LORD*, *Hezekiah*, and *Isaiah*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used one time in 2 Kings 20. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. King Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, has been described as possibly the worst king of Judah. Using 2 Kings 16:2-4, describe this king.

2. After his father's sixteen year reign, Hezekiah began ruling over Judah. In contrast to his father, Hezekiah did *what was right in the sight of the LORD*. Using 2 Kings 18:1-7, describe King Hezekiah.
 - a. Add further insights from 2 Chronicles 31:20,21.

Read Isaiah 37:14-20

1. Sennacherib, King of Assyria had conquered many of the nations and had become a formidable foe. In about the tenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib threatened Judah. King Hezekiah received a *letter from the hand of Sennacherib's messengers* which provoked great fear in Hezekiah. What did Hezekiah do? verse 15
2. What did Hezekiah acknowledge about:
 - a. God
 - 1.) In light of his fears of captivity, why do you think Hezekiah chose to acknowledge these attributes of God?
 - 2.) What are some attributes of God that you acknowledge in times of fear?
 - b. the king of Assyria and his gods
 - 1.) King Hezekiah acknowledged both God and his enemy. Why is it helpful to acknowledge both the attributes of God and the actual power of an enemy or fear when we pray?

3. According to verse 20, what did Hezekiah request from God?
 - a. Why?
 - b. As you consider the intent of Hezekiah's request, how might you apply this to your own prayers?
4. Write the first six words of God's response as delivered by Isaiah in verse 21.
 - a. Isaiah told Hezekiah God's word concerning Sennacherib ending with the promise in Isaiah 37:35. What did God promise?
 - 1.) What was God's reasoning?
 - a.) When God answers a prayer, He does so not only for you, but *for His own sake*. In what ways might you give Him the credit and honor when He answers your prayers?
5. 2 Chronicles 32 follows the closing words of chapter 31, which recorded Hezekiah's prosperity because he did *what was good and right and true before the LORD His God*. We can tend to believe that a prosperous life is one without trials. According to 2 Chronicles 32:1, what happened *After these deeds of faithfulness*?
 - a. What does this teach you about trials amidst *prosperity*?
 - 1.) Describe a *prosperous* life as you would like to be personally experiencing.

Read 2 Kings 20:1-11

1. On the heels of God promising victory over Sennacherib, the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah with a message from the LORD. What was it?
 - a. How do you think you would have reacted to such news?

b. Hezekiah *turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD*. What did he pray?

1.) What did he do after he prayed?

a.) Although Hezekiah prayed, he did not rise from his prayer feeling like he had secured his petition from the LORD. What are some of the assurances we can have after we have prayed, even though we don't know how God will respond?

2. Using verses 5,6, what was the message the LORD gave to Isaiah for Hezekiah?

3. What did Isaiah instruct them to do? verse 7

a. Apparently, God used a medical treatment as part of healing Hezekiah. What are your thoughts about this?

4. 2 Kings 20:8-11 records Hezekiah's request for a sign that God was going to heal him. Isaiah gave him a choice between the shadow of the sundial going forwards or backwards ten degrees. Hezekiah chose backwards, which would indicate an addition of time, paralleling God's promise to extend Hezekiah's life. God did not have to prove Himself. Yet, in this case, He chose to do so. What might be the downside of asking God for signs to prove Himself?

Read Isaiah 38:15-21

1. Before Isaiah applied the lump of figs to Hezekiah's boil, Hezekiah was moved to make a promise to the LORD. What was it?

2. He was also moved to consider his motives. Was reason did Hezekiah give in verse 17?

a. Although our motive should always be for God's honor and glory, what does this say to you that God understands and cares about our own desire for peace/the things that will bring relief in our life?

5. Alas, the extended 15 years of Hezekiah's life had come to an end. The last two verses of chapter 20 reflect upon *the rest of his acts* and his body being put to rest. *Manasseh his son* (born during that 15 years) *reigned in his place*. Hezekiah's *acts* were recorded in history for all to read. If you could write two sentences that reflected your life, what would you want them to say?

REVIEW: Read 2 Kings 20

1. What impressed you the most about Hezekiah?
2. In what ways have you been inspired by God's words to Hezekiah, *because you prayed*?
3. What did you learn from Hezekiah's response (positive and negative) to God extending his life that you want to apply when God grants your requests?

*Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name;
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*

- Psalm 29:2

Observation Worksheet

2 Kings 20

¹ In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'" ² Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, ³ "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. ⁴ And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ⁵ "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. ⁶ And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.'"⁷ Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered. ⁸ And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?" ⁹ Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?" ¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees." ¹¹ So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz. ¹² At that time Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. ¹³ And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures--the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory--all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them. ¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon." ¹⁵ And he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them." ¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁷ 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. ¹⁸ 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"¹⁹ So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?" ²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah--all his might, and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city--are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ²¹ So Hezekiah rested with his fathers. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.