



Clarence Park Baptist Church

Questions following on from sermon 14th Feb 2021



Big Idea of the Series

The book of 2 Kings covers almost 250 years of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, focusing on rulers, prophets, and the many different currents that ultimately led the Hebrew people to the Babylonian exile. This series will consider six people whose chose to remain with God or to turn away from him.

Week 5 – Hezekiah Reading 2 Kings 18:1-12 & 19:12-14

Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/GnUKoVIYg84>
2. Read 2 Kings chapters 18 – 21 to gain more of an insight into the whole of the story.

Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

Reading:

2 Kings 18:1-12 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Hezekiah king of Judah

18 In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. ²He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. ³He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. ⁴He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)

⁵Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. ⁶He held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. ⁷And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. ⁸From watch-tower to fortified city, he defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory.

⁹In King Hezekiah's fourth year, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria marched against Samaria and laid siege to it. ¹⁰At the end of three years the Assyrians took it. So Samaria was captured in Hezekiah's sixth year, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel. ¹¹The king of Assyria deported Israel to Assyria and settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the River Habor and in towns of the Medes. ¹²This happened because they had not obeyed the LORD their God, but had violated his covenant – all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. They neither listened to the commands nor carried them out.

2 Kings 19:14-19 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

Hezekiah's prayer

¹⁴Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. ¹⁵And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: 'LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. ¹⁶Give ear, LORD, and hear; open your eyes, LORD, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

¹⁷'It is true, LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. ¹⁸They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. ¹⁹Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, LORD, are God.'

New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

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Questions for discussion

Take time to talk through as many of the questions as time allows for your group.

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How important are our parents in the way we grow up?
 - How does Hezekiah's story challenge your answer to the above question?
 - Can you think of someone who went the opposite way of their parents, in a positive way? Can you share this with the group? *(please do not break any confidences)*
3. Hezekiah took it upon himself to truly "be the change" in Judah. In what ways did he go about cleaning the house of the Lord?
4. As a result of Jesus's work on the cross, we as the church have become the house of the Lord. What might Hezekiah say to us today about cleaning the house of Lord?
5. What does Hezekiah's prayer in 2 Kings 19 teach us about how we pray when facing trouble?
6. Our talk touched on Hezekiah's weakness. How aware are you of your weaknesses and how do you overcome them in the right way? *(how does this involve God or/and others?)*
7. How can the group pray for you this week?

Big Idea of the Message:

Trust of and obedience to God are the keys to answering life's greatest challenges.

Application Point:

When God says he will be faithful, we must accept that his faithfulness is worthy of trust. He has a proven track record.