

GOOD KING HEZEKIAH
(2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32; Isaiah 36-39).

Introduction:

1. The US Marine Corps has a motto: “A few good men.”
2. Only a few were saved from the Great Flood (1 Pet. 3:20).
3. The Lord can save by many or by few (1 Sam. 14:6).
4. Few choose the way that leads to Life (Matt. 7:13,14).
5. Israel had many kings, but only a few were faithful.
 - a. There were three kings of the United Kingdom.
 - b. The Northern Kingdom had 19 kings who were all wicked.
 - c. The Southern Kingdom had 19 kings and one queen, most of whom were wicked.
 - d. Just a handful were good and faithful to GOD.
6. Hezekiah was a good king and one of the greatest kings of the Southern Kingdom.
7. What made Hezekiah a good king and a great leader?

Discussion:

- i. **HEZEKIAH WAS NOT GOOD BECAUSE OF HIS BACKGROUND.**
 - A. We often excuse bad behavior today because of the bad upbringing of an individual.
 - B. Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz, one of the most wicked kings of Judah (2 Kings 16).
 1. Ahaz “did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD, his GOD. . . ” (2 Kings 16:2).
 2. Ahaz “walked in the way of the kings of Israel . . . he made his son pass through the fire . . . he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places’ on the hills” (2 Kings 16:3,4).
 3. Hezekiah proves that one can be good even if he comes from a bad family.
- ii. **HEZEKIAH WAS GOOD BECAUSE HE LED JUDAH BACK TO GOD.**
 - A. He led a “restoration movement” back to GOD’s ways (2 Chron. 29).
 1. He reopened the temple which had been closed by his father.
 2. He sanctified the priests so they could serve acceptably.
 3. He cleansed the temple by removing the accumulated rubbish.

4. He restored the temple offerings, worship, and observances.
5. He destroyed the brazen serpent which had become an idol.

B. Hezekiah restored the observance of the Passover (2 Chron. 30).

1. It had not been observed for a long time.
2. Judah kept the feast for seven days and added an extra seven.

C. Hezekiah led the people in the destruction of idols (2 Chron. 31:1).

“Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke the sacred pillars in pieces, cut down the wooden images, and threw down the high places and the altars - from all Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim and Manasseh - until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned to their own cities, every man to his possession” (2 Chron. 31:1).

C. Hezekiah restored the support for the priests and Levites which had been neglected (2 Chron. 31).

1. He set an example by giving generously of his possessions.
2. The people gave so generously that storerooms had to be built to contain all the gifts.

III. HEZEKIAH WAS GOOD BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN OF PRAYER.

A. All great men and women of GOD have been people of prayer.

1. “Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.”
2. The English poet, Lord Tennyson, wrote: “More things are wrought by prayer than this old world dreams of; for what are men better than sheep or goats, if, knowing GOD, they lift not hands in prayer both for themselves and those who call them friend; for so the whole round earth is bound by gold chains about the feet of GOD” (Idylls of the King).

B. When Hezekiah restored the Passover, some participated who were unclean (1 Chron. 30:18-20).

1. Hezekiah prayed to GOD on their behalf (James 5:16).
2. “The Lord listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.”

C. When Assyria invaded Judah, Hezekiah prayed (2 Kings 18,19).

1. Sennacherib boasted that as the gods of other nations had not saved them, neither would Judah's GOD be able to save Judah.
 2. GOD sent His angel that night; he slew 185,000 Assyrians.
 3. Sennacherib fled to his homeland where he was assassinated by two of his sons as he worshipped his idol (Isa. 37:37,38).
- D. When Hezekiah was sick and near death, he prayed (Isa. 38).
1. The LORD had sent Isaiah to him with the message: "Set your house in order for you shall die, and not live."
 2. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed.
 3. GOD added 15 years to his life.
 4. GOD gave him a sign; the sundial would go back ten degrees.
 5. In the words of James: "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

IV. HEZEKIAH WAS GOOD, BUT NOT PERFECT.

- A. The king of Babylon sent a delegation to Hezekiah (Isa. 39).
1. Babylon was beginning to challenge Assyria as the dominant power in the Middle East.
 2. Perhaps Hezekiah thought Babylon would be a good ally against Assyria?
- B. Hezekiah, motivated by pride, showed them all his treasures.
1. "Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem" (2 Chron. 32:25).
 2. "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).
 3. Isaiah asked the king, "What have they seen in your house?"
 - a. He told Hezekiah all would be taken to Babylon.
 - b. The king's sons would be eunuchs in Babylon's palace.
 - c. "Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come in the days of Hezekiah" (2 Chron. 32:26).

Conclusion:

1. Hezekiah "did what was right in the sight of the Lord" (2 Chron. 29:2).
2. Hezekiah did his work "with all his heart and prospered" (2 Chron. 31:21).
3. Hezekiah trusted completely in the LORD (2 Kings 18:5).

