

THE LEGACY TEST

2 Kings 20:1-7,16-31

INTRODUCTION: Clinton and Leavenworth in their book, *Finishing Well-Establishing a Legacy*, state that in a study of 86 leaders in the Bible, only 11 finished well. Another study estimates that no more than 1 out of every 4 leaders finish well. Did Hezekiah finish well? Barna gives us a definition of finishing well, "At the end of a person's life, they have a vibrant, growing relationship with Christ, and have essentially fulfilled their calling, and left behind a legacy of righteousness for generations to come", *Leaders on Leadership*, page 152.

The difference between one's TESTIMONY, and one's LEGACY. Testimony is what you were and what was said about you. Legacy is what you were able to impart to others who will outlive you. Hezekiah's testimony was great, 2 Kings 18:5-7. But what was his legacy? THREE LEGACY SHAPING STATEMENTS:

I) **"SET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE...", 2 Kings 20:1.**

- A) 'Set/Order' both words are translated from the Hebrew word SAVA, 'to command, appoint, order'.
 - 1. Hezekiah was in the royal line of David and so his son would become the next king. See God's covenant with David, 2 Sam. 7:1-29.
 - 2. 'House' can mean family, Josh. 24:15; 1 Chron. 7:2-9,23,40; 2 Sam.7:11,16; 1 Sam.25:3; 2:11; 3:1. See also Gen. 18:17-19 and 1 Tim.3:4.
 - 3. Who would be the next king? For example, David appointed Solomon to be king over Adonijah, 1 Kings 1:1-2:46.
 - 4. Was this a rebuke for Hezekiah not marrying and having a son? (He was 39 years old at this time and perhaps single)
- B) "PREPARE TO MEET GOD", Amos 4:12. (APPLICATION FOR US)
 - 1. Life is fleeting, Ps. 39:5; James 4:13-15; Job 7:6; Isaiah 38:12; Ps. 102:11; Job 8:9; Job 9:25; Ps. 102:3; Ecc.12. All will die, Rom. 5:12-14; Ps. 49:10; 89:8; Jer. 9:21.
 - 2. All will stand before God in the Judgement, Heb. 9:27; 2Cor. 5:10,11; Rom.14:10-12; Rev. 20:10-12; Rom.2:2-11; Luke 19:11-27; Dan. 7:10-12.
*Heb. 10:26-31 or 1 John 4:17-19.
 - 3. Assurance of salvation, Rom. 8:9,15,16; 1 John 5:12,13.
*Are you ready for eternity?

II) **"I WILL ADD TO YOUR DAYS 15 YEARS...", 2 Kings 20:6.**

- A) Redeem the time. Eph.5:15-17; Ps. 90:1-12; 89:47.
- B) Live for what lasts. 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 1 Cor.7:31; Ps. 37:35,36; Prov.27:24; Prov.23:4,5. People, 1 Thes. 2:19. The Kingdom of God, Heb. 12:27-29; Matt.

6:19-24. Our relationship with God, Luke 12:16-21; Ps. 90:2; 102:26; John 17:3; 1 John 2:17.

C) TWO THINGS WE KNOW ABOUT HEZEKIAH'S LAST 15 YEARS.

1. Hezekiah's pride when the Babylonians visited, 2 Chron.32:24-31, 2 Kings 20:12-19. He also humbled himself and judgement was delayed, 2 Chron.32:26.
2. Manasseh was born and became the most wicked king in Judah's history, 2 Kings 21:1-9.
3. "Woe to those at ease in Zion", Amos 6:1. See also 2 Sam.11:1-12:25.

**What are you doing with the time you have?*

III) LIVE TO LEAVE A LEGACY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. "For the sake of David, my servant", 2 Kings 20:6. "And Manasseh reigned in his place", 2 Kings 20:21. The legacy of David, 2 Kings 20:6; 18:3. Positive legacy: 2Kings 15:3,34; 2Chron.26:4; 29:2. Negative legacy: 1 Kings 22:51-53; 15:26, 33,34; 22:52,53; 24:8,9.

A) Deal realistically with the legacy you received.

1. If negative (Ahaz to Hezekiah):
 - a. Tear down false idols and alters, 2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chron. 28:20-25; 2 Kings 18:1-7; 2 Cor. 10:1-6.
 - b. Reopen the Temple, 2 Chron.28:21-25; 2 Chron.29:1-30:27.
 - c. Consistent worship, 2 Chron. 29:10; 30:1-23; 31:26,27 (Passovers).

**You can only impart what you are, and you only become what you consistently do!*

2. BREAK THE CYCLE AND BEGIN A NEW GODLY ONE!

3. If you received a positive legacy, maintain and build upon it!

B) Mature for eternity, 2 Pet.1:2-11; Col.1:27-29; Gal.4:19; Phil.1:21.

C) Care about what happens after you are gone! 2 Kings 20:19.

1. 'Father' someone, 1 Cor.4:14-16; Phil.4:9; 2 Tim. 3:10,14,15; 2 Tim.2:2.
2. Declare God's power and works to future generations, Ps. 145:4-7; 78:4-8; 92:12-15; 71:17,18.

D) Be fruitful to the end, John 15:16; Ps,92:12-15; 2 Cor. 9:10; Rev.14:13; Prov.16:31; Prov.20:29.

**What are you imparting to others?*

FINISH WELL AND LEAVE A LEGACY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!