

“THE TEST OF SUCCESS”

2 Chron. 32:25 & 31

(Life's Greatest Tests Series, #2)

INTRODUCTION: Hezekiah was one of the greatest kings in Judah's history (2 Kings 18:5-7). He passed the “Test of Attack” when God miraculously delivered Jerusalem from Assyria (2Kings 19:35-37; Isaiah 37:36-38; 2 Chron. 32:21-23). He prepared the city for siege (2 Chron.32:1-8,30; 2 Kings 20:20; Psalms 46:4). When the attack came, Hezekiah trusted and prayed (2 Chron.32:20; 2 Kings 19:1, 14-20). At this time, Hezekiah became fatally ill, but God did a phenomenal miracle and sign and healed him (2 Kings 20:1-11; Isaiah 38:1-22). God exalted him before the nations (2 Chron.32:23-30). This exaltation led to his greatest test – the test of success (Proverbs 27:21, ESV).

I) THE LORD LEFT HIM TO TEST HIM, 2 Chron.32:27-31.

A) LEFT, AZAB, (HEB), ‘to leave, forsake, to loosen, to relinquish’.

1. “I will never leave or forsake you.” Joshua 1:5; Deut. 31:6; Heb. 13:5; Gen.28:15; Psalm 37:25,28; 38:21; 94:14.
2. AZAB can also mean, ‘to loosen’. Perhaps this is the emphasis in the test of Hezekiah. God did not leave him but stopped influencing and helping him. God ‘loosened His grip’ on Hezekiah. AZAB is used of a man ‘leaving’ father and mother to cleave to his wife (Gen.2:24). All that Potiphar had was ‘left’ in Joseph’s hand (Gen.39:6). See also Isaiah 54:7,8; Psalm 119:8; Psalm 22:1.
*Think of the picture of a dad running along side his child when the child is first learning to ride a bike. The father is still there but has let go of his grip on the bike.
3. Never forget what we were and what we would have become without Jesus! Rom. 7:18; Ro.3:23; Ps. 130:3,4; Isaiah 64:6; Isaiah 53:6

B) TEST, NASA, (HEB), ‘Proving the quality of something or someone. Not like the English word, tempt. Such testing by God is not without intent. It was to refine the character of the man that he might walk more closely to God’s ways.” - TWOT.

1. Used negatively, don’t tempt God: Num.14:22-24; Deut. 6:16; 33:8; Psalm 78:18,56; 95:8,9; 106:14; Exodus 17:2,7.
2. Used of God testing men, Deut. 8:2,8,16; Exodus 20:20; Deut. 13:3; Judges 2:22; 3:1,4; Gen. 22:1. It is also used of testing armor, 1 Sam.17:39 and of testing Daniel’s appearance after special diet, Dan. 1:12-14. See also James 1:12-15.

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- C) The ambassadors from Babylon, 2 Chron.32:31; 2 Kings 20:12-19. Hezekiah's response to these visitors demonstrated that he forgot an essential truth about God and material success: Deut. 8:1-20; 6:10-12; 31:20; Jud. 8:34; Psalm 78:7-11; Prov.28:26.

II) HEZEKIAH FAILED THE "SUCCESS TEST". 2 Chron.32:25.

- A) The Lord's favor, 2Kings 18:7; Gen. 38:2,4,5: 39:21-23; 45:18; Deut. 32:6.
- B) Hezekiah's Pride, 2 Chron.32:5. See also 2 Chron.26:15,16; Prov. 11:2; 16:18; 21:1-4; Hab.2:4; Dan. 4:30ff; 1 Cor. 4:7. God's wrath came upon Hezekiah, Judah, and Jerusalem, 2 Chron.32:25,26. See also 1 Pet. 5:5; James 4:6.
- C) How should have Hezekiah responded to God's favor and blessing?
1. Gratitude, Deut. 8:10; Ps. 100:4; 107:22; Col.1:12; Col.3:15; 1 Thes. 5:18; Deut. 32:6; Ezek. 16:17,18; Luke 17:17,18; Rom.1:21.
 2. Worship (both individually and corporately in the house of God), Psalm 56:11-13; *Psalm 116:12-19; Ps. 84:4,10; 26:8; 27:4; 122:1; 107:20-22; Jer. 17:26; 33:11; Heb. 13:15,16.
 3. Humility, Repentance, Contrition: Ps. 138:6; Isaiah 66:2; Isaiah 57:15; Romans 2:4.