# II Kings 20

## Review…

- **I Kings 19 – The seige of Jerusalem…**
  - Hezekiah had a real problem – the enemy was at the door and things looked desperate…
    - But rather then wallow in despair – Hezekiah ran to prayer…
    - He tore his clothes – a sign of anger over the blasphemous words of the Assyrians…
    - He covered himself with sackcloth – as a sign of humility…
    - Hezekiah went into the house of the Lord – which gave him perspective…
    - Hezekiah sent word to Isaiah the prophet – because he did not have to stand alone!
  - The prophet Isaiah sent a message back to Hezekiah with 3 promises…
    - God was going to send a RUMOR to distract the King of Assyria!
    - God would send a SPIRIT upon the servants of Assyria – the Angel of the Lord!
    - And the king of Assyria was going to FALL by the sword – in his own land!
  - God also sent a message to Sennacherib king of Assyria…
    - The only reason Assyria was great was because of the Lord…
    - He had raised them up as a power to bring judgment upon Israel…
    - But as surely as the Lord raised them up – He would just as quickly tear them down!
    - Sennacherib would never step foot inside the city / or even shoot a single arrow at it…
    - Because the Lord Himself would defend the city and keep it safe!
  - It came to pass on a certain night – the Angel of the Lord went out…
    - It killed 185,000 men – only a handful lived to see a camp full of corpses in the morning…
    - Sennacherib returned defeated to Nineveh – and FELL by the sword…
    - While he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch (*eagle*) – two of his sons killed him!

## The failure of Hezekiah… (*2 things*)

- **1st – Doubting the Lord… vs. 1-11** Read: II Kings 20:1-11
  - 1st – Hezekiah was sick – VERY sick… vs. 1
    - The prophet Isaiah came to Hezekiah and told him he was going to die…
      - Hezekiah reigned in Jerusalem for 29 years – **II Kings 18:2**
        - Sennacherib attacked Jerusalem in the 14th years of Hezekiah's reign – **II Kings 18:13**

- And Hezekiah ended up living another 15 years after Isaiah told him he would die…
- Meaning the news potentially came right during the siege of Jerusalem by Assyria!
- Suggesting this passage backs up a bit – and the city was in peril!

- There are times when we are left to ask the Lord – really – when it rains it pours!
  - God knows when hard times come - our first reaction is to depend on ourselves...
  - But God can 'turn up the heat' - till we can no longer handle our problems...
  - So we would learn not to trust ourselves - instead trust in God - **II Corinthians 1:8-10**
- Because we find Strength in Weakness - **II Corinthians 12:9-10**
  - We pride ourselves in our strength - what is our strength in comparison to God's...
  - In truth we are weak – but it is in our weakness we find true strength...
  - When we realize we are weak we learn to depend on God's strength!
  - Like a tree that has grown on the weathered windward side of the hill...
  - We become unmovable / unshakable / grounded and rooted in Christ - **Colossians 2:7**

- Hezekiah was to set his house in order…
  - Most likely Isaiah was telling Hezekiah to make arrangements for a successor…
  - Because Hezekiah had no children – no heir to the throne of Judah…
  - It would have to be someone from the House of David – a close relative…
  - Because God promised an heir of David would always sit on the throne - **II Samuel 7:16**
- But could also refer to taking care of the practical details – a will / settling financial needs…
  - A brother came into the church last week – he has terminal prostate cancer…
  - He wanted to make sure all the arrangements were in place for his memorial service…
  - He did not want his wife to have to worry about anything when he passed away!
  - We are called to trust in the Lord – but that does not mean we are not wise…
  - We do not know the day the Lord will call us home – but we can be prepared…
  - Making sure there is a Will / plans for our kids / finances to take care of the family

- 2nd – Hezekiah turned his face to the wall – prayed – and wept bitterly… vs. 2-3
  - The picture is almost like that of a pouting child…
    - Hezekiah did not like the news – and thought he deserved better than death…
    - He argued that he had always followed the Lord with a loyal heart – done what was right…
    - **Isaiah 38:9-20** – according to the words of Hezekiah (*after he recovered*)…
    - He also argued in the grave he could not praise God - in the pit he could not hope in God…
    - Hezekiah did not understand – death was not a punishment – it was the finish line!
  - This tent/body we live in is not our 'permanent home' - it grows old and wears out...
    - But we know that when it 'folds up' - we have a building (*a true home*) in heaven...
    - **II Corinthians 5:1 –** "For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
    - The idea is that our bodies are not who we are - any more than the clothes we wear are...
    - Our bodies are simply a 'home' for our eternal spirit to live in - for a short time...
    - When we die we 'change clothing' - and put on our eternal body!
  - Because our physical - sinful - corrupt bodies cannot inherit eternal life...
    - Our bodies were not designed to live forever - they were not meant to go to heaven...

- But God has a new body - a MUCH better one - prepared for each one of us...
- I like the idea of a tent - tents are not permanent - our bodies are only temporary
- One day the Holy Spirit will give us new bodies - meant and designed for eternity!

- While we are still in this body - we struggle / groan…
  - As we get old we start to slow down / aches and pains / wrinkles and grey hair...
  - Aging is God's grace - as you look in the mirror and see you body getting old...
  - It is God's way of telling saying 'you have an expiration date'...
  - If you never aged - just one day died - there would be no warning to prepare...
  - You are going to see Jesus soon - aging is God's way to get us ready!
  - We get tired of this old achy body - it makes us long for the new model!
- Not that we want to die - we want to live forever...
  - When you get home from a long day of work - your clothes are dirty / stink...
  - You cannot wait to get out of those old stinky clothes - into something new...
  - In the same way we want to get out of these old stinky bodies - and get the new...
  - When we are resurrected we will be just like Jesus - when He was resurrected - **I John 3:2**
  - There will be no more pain / no more sickness / no more tears - **Revelation 21:4**
  - And this is just the LITTLE we know about our resurrected bodies...
  - FAR GREATER than anything we have now - beyond what we can imagine!

- 3rd – Given another 15 years… vs. 4-7
  - Before Isaiah had even left the Palace – God spoke to him…
    - God heard the prayer of Hezekiah – and would heal him in 3 days (*with the help of figs*)…
    - And God would give Hezekiah another 15 years – Hezekiah's pouting had worked…
    - Which brings up an interesting question – did God change His mind because of the prayer
    - God cannot lie - **Hebrew 6:18** - and God will not change his mind – **Numbers 23:19-20**
    - If God says something it happens - if He makes a promise He fulfills it!
    - God will always be faithful to His Word - if God says something - you can count on it!
    - Our challenge is to get to know God's Word - so we know what He has promised!
  - Yet God does not force us to obey – he will give us a choice…
    - Hezekiah doubted the Lord – doubted that his death was for the best…
    - As a result he pleaded with the Lord to spare him – and got an extra 15 years…
    - But it was during those 15 years that his son Manasseh was born…
    - Manasseh who was the most wicked king ever to reign in Judah!
    - It was because of the sins of Manasseh that Judah was taken into captivity – **II Kings 24:3**
    - Chuck Smith told the story about a beautiful girl in college he wanted to marry…
    - He prayed daily for the Lord to bring them together – but it never happened…
    - He ran into the woman years later – and THANKED God for not answering his prayer!
    - God has amazing plans for our lives – beyond anything we could imagine…
    - But we have the power to undo that plan – we can stop the blessing of God…
    - If we choose our plan – if we insist on going our own way – God will let us…
    - And rather than the blessings of God – we will end up with our choice!
  - God sees the end from the beginning - everything – knows what is best for our lives...
    - So it is only logical for us to desire 'God's will' for our lives...
    - Prayer is not about changing God's mind - getting Him to agree to our plans...

- Prayer is about God changing our mind - getting us to line up with His plans!
- **Luke 22:42** - "Nevertheless not my will, but Your will, be done."

- 4th – The sign of the healing… vs. 8-11
  - Hezekiah asked for a sign from the Lord – to prove that he would be healed…
    - Isaiah agreed – move the shadow forward / backwards 10 degrees on Ahaz sundial…
    - Hezekiah thought it nothing special to go down 10 degrees – like the setting sun…
    - What was impossible – was to see a sundial go back 10 degrees – reverse the sun…
  - It seems a little silly to ask for a sign – Hezekiah only had to wait 3 days to find out…
    - But Hezekiah wanted proof – because he doubted the Word of the Lord…
    - The only reason why we would want to test God - is because we doubt God / His Word...
    - It is much easier to believe if we see – it takes no faith – it takes no trust…
    - Yet Jesus desires that we have a relationship with Him – friendship with God…
    - What kind of friendship would it be if God always had to prove Himself…
    - God desires that we have faith in Him – not have Him always prove Himself to us...
    - That is why to have a truly blessed relationship with the Lord – we need to trust the Lord!

- **2ND – CONFIDENT IN SUCCESS… VS. 12-21** READ: II KINGS 20:12-21
  - 1st – Berodach-Baladan king of Babylon sent letters and presents to Hezekiah… vs. 12
    - But God was using Babylon to test the heart of King Hezekiah…
      - **II Chronicles 32:31** – "Regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was *done* in the land, God withdrew from Hezekiah, in order to test him, that He might know all *that was* in his heart."
      - The war with Assyria had humbled Judah – stripped the nation of all its wealth…
      - But Hezekiah had become wealthy again after the defeat of Assyria…
      - He no doubt had a lot of plunder from the Assyrians after the death of the 185,000…
      - He had been given many gifts by other nations after the fall of Sennacherib…
      - But in his success – his heart had been lifted up – and he was in danger of falling…
      - **II Chronicles 32:25** – "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."
    - We need to be careful if we think we stand - lest we fall **– I Corinthians 10:12**…
      - Be careful not to get caught up in the pleasures of this world...
      - Be careful not to get our eyes of Jesus - start getting too confident / prideful...
      - Be careful because we are all susceptible - anyone of us could fall into sin!
    - But along with every temptation - which is common - God is faithful to give a way out...
      - **I Corinthians 10:13 -** "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*."
      - We will never be tempted beyond what we can handle - God always gives us a way out...
      - That way out might be to run away from temptation – or to pray for strength...
      - Or to be strong in the Lord - by growing in His Word...
      - But more often the way out - is not to put ourselves in a place to be tempted!
  - 2nd – Hezekiah showed the ambassadors from Babylon EVERYTHING… vs. 13-18
    - Every treasure in the house of the King – and the Temple of the Lord…

- Boasting in the riches and wealth of his great nation – making no mention of the Lord!
- When they left Isaiah asked - 'where were they from' / 'what did they see'…
- Hezekiah was quick to defend – they were from a far country – no threat to Judah…
- Isaiah said - hear the Word of the Lord – the day was coming when Babylon would be back
- They would take every treasure that Hezekiah had shown – nothing would be left!
- They would take away the descendants of Hezekiah as servants!

▪ Life does not exist in the abundance of your possessions...

- There is an old saying - he who dies with the most toys wins...
- But the truth is - he who dies with the most toys - is just dead...
- **Ecclesiastes 5:15** - "People who live only for wealth come to the end of their lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day they were born."
- When we were born we had nothing - when we die we will 'leave' with nothing...
- So even if we had all the possessions - money in the world - it does not last...
- That does not mean we are not to work hard - it means we work hard for God...
- Strive after the eternal riches that come through living your life for God!

○ 3rd – Hezekiah repented at the word of Isaiah… vs. 19-21

▪ He recognized his foolishness – and repented before the Lord…

- **II Chronicles 32:26** – "Then 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 upon them in the days of Hezekiah."
- Because if we confess our sin - any sin - Jesus will forgive us and make us clean again!
- Godly repentance brings freedom - we are not longer bound by our past mistakes...
- We are able to move beyond our failures - we begin to grow again in Christ!
- **I John 1:9** – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

▪ Hezekiah did ask if there would be peace in his lifetime…

- Hezekiah was forgiven - but that did not mean there were no consequences…
- Judah would one day be taken captive – the nation carried off in chains for 70 years!
- It was an extreme consequence – so that Judah would never forget…
- If the consequence for stealing a million dollars – was you had to say you were sorry…
- A lot of people would become a thief – which is why the consequence is years in prison!
- If sin did not have any lasting consequence – we might be tempted to sin again…
- But like the child who only has to touch a hot flame once...
- Severe consequences teach us a lesson that we will never forget!

▪ God loves us too much to let us get away with our sin…

- Not because He is angry - or mad at us - but because of His great love for us!
- God desires to teach us - His kids - how to live a pure and holy life…
- **Hebrews 12:5-8 - "**You have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD... For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and punishes every son whom He receives...'"