

Characters In The Making

"Hezekiah: The Man Who Lived Too Long"

(2 Kings 20)

- Introduction:
1. Would you like to know the time of your death?
 2. If so, how do you think it would change your life?
 3. This is exactly what happened to one of the great men of the Bible, King Hezekiah — who served well as King for 29 years.
 4. Hezekiah reigned in Judah during the fall of Israel — needless to say, it was a difficult and trying time.
 5. Let's examine this man's life in relation to the title of this lesson.

I. The Good In Hezekiah

- A. He overcame his upbringing (2 Kings 16:1-20; 2 Chronicles 28:1-27).
 1. His father, Ahaz was one of the most wicked Kings in Judah.
 2. He forced his children to pass through the fire.
 3. He was an idolater.
 4. He was so wicked, he was not permitted to be buried with the other Kings.
- B. He trusted In God like no other King did (2 Kings 18:5).
- C. He did that which was right (2 Kings 18:3).
- D. He cleansed the temple and restored the Passover (2 Chronicles 30:26).
- E. He even destroyed the brass serpent Moses made (2 Kings 18:4).
- F. He built the tunnels in Jerusalem that are still a marvel today.

II. However, It Appears He Lived Too Long

- A. He was told to set his house in order for he was going to die (2 Kings 20:1-2).
- B. Hezekiah wept bitterly and prayed to God asking Him to extend his life.
- C. God answered his prayer giving him 15 additional years (2 Kings 20:6).
- D. But in these years, he destroyed what he had accomplished (2 Chronicles 32:25).
 1. His heart was lifted up (2 Chronicles 32:25).
 2. In the third year of his borrowed time, he had a son named Manasseh.
 - a. Manasseh was a wicked King he reigned for 55 years (2 Kings 21:1-2).
 - b. Because of him, God said he would "wipe Jerusalem like a dish." (2 Kings 21:13).

III. Practical Lessons Learned From Hezekiah

- A. One's background is no excuse for their spiritual condition in life?
- B. There is tremendous power in prayer (Ephesians 3:20; James 5:16).
- C. Our past or present relationship with God does not secure our future (Revelation 2:10).

- Conclusion:
1. Since we don't know how long we have on earth, we should "set our house in order."
 2. Regardless of what one is able or unable to accomplish in life, if one dies in the Lord, he has succeeded in life.

