

Introduction

We have been looking at the reign of **HEZEKIAH** for the last several of our studies here in **2 KINGS**.

First we saw the **REVIVAL UNDER HEZEKIAH!** He immediately began to turn **JUDAH** back to the **LORD** after he assumed the throne of his father **AHAZ!** Scripture shows him to be the godliest of the Kings of **JUDAH!**

Then we saw **HEZEKIAH VS. ASSYRIA** and how that because he returned the nation of **JUDAH** to the **LORD**, it brought the blessing of the **LORD** fighting the battle for **JUDAH** against **SENNACHERIB!** After losing 180,000 soldiers in one night, the **ASSYRIAN** king left **JUDAH** and went back home where he was murdered by two of his own children!

Then last week we saw **HEZEKIAH** was very sick with a boil and was told by the **LORD** through the **PROPHET ISAIAH** to get his affairs in order because he was going to die of the sickness that he had!

HEZEKIAH prayed to the **LORD** that he might not die and the **LORD** granted him a **fifteen year extension on his life**. One might think that would be a blessing, but we're about to see that **those additional years brought problems rather than blessings!**

2 Chronicles 32:25-26, gives us some insight into what we are going to see in the SCRIPTURES. *2 Chronicles 32:25-26—"25 But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem. 26 Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.*

I. WE SEE THE FLATTERY OF A FOREIGN KING! (**2 KINGS 20:12**)

Here we see the **BABYLONIAN** King of that time sent ambassadors (**spies...spies** posing as ambassadors) with "**letters**" and a "**present**" to **HEZEKIAH** because he heard that **HEZEKIAH** had been sick.

"**At that time**" means that this happened when **HEZEKIAH** had been sick and was healed. So immediately we can see that **HEZEKIAH'S** problems began even though we will see that he was oblivious to what was happening!

We are not told what was in the "**letters**," but think along the lines of a Hallmark greeting card congratulating him for his recovery from his most recent sickness and his success against the **ASSYRIAN** king!

At this time **BABYLON** and **NINEVEH** were two great cities that were competing for supremacy in the then known world! **BABYLON** was on the rise and **ASSYRIA** was beginning to fade! **BABYLON** eventually conquered **ASSYRIA** and became the next world empire during the days of **NEBOPOLASSAR** and his son, **NEBUCHADNEZZAR**.

NEBUCAHDNEZZAR is the one the **LORD** used to carry **HIS** people into a 70-year captivity! But that would still be a number of years later! But important intelligence was being gathered by these ambassadors (**spies!**)!

So we can see where this is headed, but unfortunately, **HEZEKIAH** didn't! **HEZEKIAH** was so **flattered** that this strange king from a strange country was taking an interest in his health and well-being that he couldn't see he was being played!

Here is a good principle to learn—Be careful of flattery!

The **PSALMIST DAVID** had this to say about his enemies:
Psalm 5:9—"For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is very wickedness; Their throat is an open sepulchre; They flatter with their tongue."

And he had this to say about those who use flattery for advantage:
Psalm 12:2—"They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: With flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak."

SOLOMON also penned some words in the book of **PROVERBS** about **flattery**: *Proverbs 26:28—"A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; And a flattering mouth worketh ruin."*

That is what was happening here, but that ruin that would come to **JUDAH** and to **HEZEKIAH'S** house after his days!

WE SEE THE FLATTERY OF A FOREIGN KING...

II. WE SEE THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE FLATTERED KING! (**2 KINGS 20:13**)

HEZEKIAH was so **flattered** by the attention of these ambassadors (**spies**) from this foreign king that **he showed them all his riches!**

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
HEZEKIAH'S PROBLEMS

2 KINGS 20:12-21; 2 CHRONICLES 32:25-33; ISAIAH 39:1-8

How foolish can you be? Pretty foolish if you fall for flattery, which HEZEKIAH did!

It was customary for Eastern kings to amass great quantities of treasure merely for show! Some kings, including **HEZEKIAH**, had such immense treasures that it took great buildings to house them! (It was a matter of **PRIDE!**)

See *2 Chronicles 32:27-31*.

Isaiah 39:2—“And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.”

“glad” = “rejoiced”

Proverbs 11:2—“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: But with the lowly is wisdom.”

Proverbs 16:18—“Pride goeth before destruction, And an haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 29:23—“A man's pride shall bring him low: But honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

HEZEKIAH had been blessed of the **LORD** with much treasure! But he was so **PROUD** about what he had that he showed **ALL** of it to the ambassadors (**spies**) of **BABYLON**, which they reported back to their king!

That's some great information to have when you go to invade a land, which they eventually did and used this information!

III. WE SEE THE PROBING OF THE PROPHET!
(2 KINGS 20:14-15; ISAIAH 39:3-4)

The **PROPHET ISAIAH** posed several questions to king **HEZEKIAH**. He asked these questions, not because he didn't know the answers to them already, but to have **HEZEKIAH'S** own mouth show his foolishness!

A. “What Did These Men Say And Where Are They From?”
HEZEKIAH answered the second question, but not the first!

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
HEZEKIAH'S PROBLEMS

2 KINGS 20:12-21; 2 CHRONICLES 32:25-33; ISAIAH 39:1-8

“They are from a far country, even BABYLON”

B. “What Have They Seen In Thine House?”
HEZEKIAH admits to the prophet that he showed these men **EVERYTHING!**

Do you think that by these questions and listening to his own answers that **HEZEKIAH** might have figured out pretty quick that he messed up?

IV. WE SEE THE FALLOUT FROM THE FAILURE!
(2 KINGS 20:16-18; ISAIAH 39:5-7)

There was **FALLOUT** from the **LORD** for **HEZEKIAH'S FAILURE!** Primarily for his **PRIDE** that was involved in the **FAILURE!**

A. ALL The Treasures He Had Laid Up For Judah And His Son's That Would Rule After Him Would Be Carried Away Into Babylon! (2 Kings 20:16-17; Isaiah 39:5-6)

B. He Would Beget Sons (Descendants) That Babylon Would Carry Into Captivity Who Would Become Eunuchs In The Palace Of The King Of Babylon! (2 Kings 20:18; Isaiah 39:7)

The **“sons”** mentioned here would be his great-grandsons as the Babylonian captivity was still about 125 years away!

V. WE SEE THE SELF-CENTERED STATEMENT!
(2 KINGS 20:19; ISAIAH 39:8)

HEZEKIAH doesn't appear even the least bit concerned for the anguish that he has brought on his descendants by his actions!

HEZEKIAH seemed to only care about his own days!

VI. WE SEE THE DEATH OF HEZEKIAH AND THE ASCENSION OF HIS SON MANASSEH TO THE THRONE OF JUDAH!
(2 KINGS 20:20-21; 2 CHRONICLES 32:32-33)

HEZEKIAH'S son, **MANASSEH**, was born three years after the **LORD** extended his life! **MANASSEH** would reign after his father's death and undo all his father's good in the land of **JUDAH!**