

## Good King, Bad King

April 26, 2015

2 Chronicles 29:1-19

### 1) A Great Start.

Hezekiah repaired and cleaned the temple.

Hezekiah restored temple worship.

Hezekiah sent word to all the people to return to the Lord.

Hezekiah kept the Passover.

*Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: "Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. <sup>7</sup> And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. <sup>8</sup> Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. <sup>9</sup> For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him." <sup>10</sup> So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; **but they laughed at them and mocked them.** **2 Chronicles 30:6-10***

Hezekiah wasn't concerned about following others or those before him, but following God. The many others who had gone before him were not God followers.

*And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered. **2 Chronicles 31:21***

Regardless of where you are now, those who have gone before you, whether or not you come from a godly line of believers or you are one of the first in your family to lead a godly life, God can work in and through you.

Nothing is stronger than God's grace, strength and love! The chain **can** be broken. **It can begin with you.**

### 2) A Struggle and a Prayer.

*After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself. <sup>2</sup> And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem. **2 Chronicles 31:21-32:2***

*And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> Then Hezekiah prayed to the LORD, saying: <sup>16</sup> "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. <sup>17</sup> Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God. <sup>18</sup> Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands, <sup>19</sup> and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. <sup>20</sup> Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD, You alone." **Isaiah 37:14-20***

*Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. **Isaiah 37:36***

His prayer showed his dependency on God and his hope was in Him.

**Where else do I have to go? What are my other choices?**

**3) A failure to “lead” and pass the torch.**

Manasseh was 12 yrs old (2 Chron. 33:1) when he took over as king. Remember, the Lord had extended Hezekiah’s life 15 years. During that 15 years Manasseh was born.

*But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.* **2 Chronicles 33:2**

God got Manasseh’s attention!

*And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. <sup>11</sup>Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. <sup>12</sup>Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, <sup>13</sup>and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God. <sup>14</sup>After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. <sup>15</sup>He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city. <sup>16</sup>He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel. <sup>17</sup>Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the LORD their God.* **2 Chronicles 33:10-17**

“Apparently, Manasseh reigned all this time. When he was a helpless captive in Babylon, God heard his prayer. This reveals how gracious God is! Here is a son of godly parents who went into sin to the very limit and then came back to God. That should be an encouragement to parents who are reading this today. Maybe you have a son or a daughter who has gone the very limit, and you despair that your child will never turn back to God. I would have given Manasseh up, but God didn’t. God heard his prayer.” -J Vernon McGee.

Don’t give up on your prodigal and don’t give up on God!

The best we can gather, in the last 15 years (extra years) that the Lord gave Hezekiah, he didn’t exactly lead his family, at least not Manasseh from what we can see.

*In fact he almost becomes complacent or doesn’t care. So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!” For he said, “At least there will be peace and truth in my days.”*

**Isaiah 39:8**

We must lead our kids, teach them and love them.

*You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup>You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

**Deuteronomy 6:7-9**

**Have you started? Have you continued? Where else do you have to go? Are you leading and passing the torch? Would you pray concerning these?**