

# Keeping It Real

2 Kings 18-20; 2 Chronicles 29-32

## Introduction

Hezekiah's life serves as a lesson to ensure that God is always on the throne and is never upstaged by our distractions.

## 1. Faith Revival

People often take the opportunity to revive old styles to bring back a feeling of nostalgia and excitement. This type of revival is often based on fascination. Hezekiah sought to bring a faith-based revival to Judah, not a fascination revival. This revival was not just a novelty but a call to cling to God with all their heart and to live differently so that others may recognize the truth of God. Despite the obstacles of immorality, idolatry, and wars with the northern kingdom, Hezekiah's revival was so powerful that it even extended an invitation to the northern kingdom to join in the Passover celebration.

## 2. Fervent Repentance

Hezekiah faced the daunting task of preparing his people to defend against the King of Assyria, who had already taken several cities of Judah and defeated their allies. He set to work immediately to ensure that the people of Judah were fully prepared to defend Jerusalem. Hezekiah ordered the construction of new fortifications and stockpiles of food and weapons so his people would be ready to stand their ground. The situation was dire, and then Hezekiah became ill. At first, Isaiah told him to set his house in order because he would die. Hezekiah prayed to God and was granted a sign of healing and an additional 15 years of life. Eventually, Hezekiah was approached by representatives from the kingdom of Babylon. Hezekiah showed them all of his treasures, distracting them from God's glory. Isaiah warned Hezekiah that his failure to give God the glory for his treasures would bring judgment upon him. He seems to shrug the judgment off, relieved it would not take place in his lifetime. Hezekiah was declared a good king of Judah and was held up as one of the great kings who loved the Lord. However, as he grew older, his tenacity of cleaving to the things of the Lord began to slip, and this serves as a warning to us not to settle for feigned repentance.

## 3. Full Redemption



Hezekiah's lesson is that for those in your senior years, you should not compromise, even when the children have grown and are not around. Cling to the things of God, and do not let your grasp slip. Young people must remain vigilant against the enemy, who may enter their lives through seemingly harmless backdoors and can use reconnaissance to pinpoint how to attack. The older and younger generations must fight to protect what is precious. The youth must take the initiative in learning the Word of God and be passionate about it, as teenagers often bring revival and repentance to their communities.

## Conclusion

Hezekiah overcame the difficulty of bad parenting and the judgment of God due to his father's reign, and despite his lack of a role model to look up to, he chose to cleave to the Lord and follow Him with all his heart. He was a good king who faithfully followed the Lord and sought to lead the people of Judah away from idolatry and immorality. He implemented reforms to try and turn the people's hearts back towards the Lord. Hezekiah initiated a great revival in Jerusalem, restoring the temple worship process that had long since been neglected. He called on the people to provide for the Levites, and through their generous contributions, they could have plenty and return to full-time service of the Lord. Hezekiah's efforts were not in vain, as his actions helped to revive faith in the Lord and encouraged the people to return to the proper worship of the Lord. His actions were seen as an example for future generations and reminded the people of Jerusalem of the importance of upholding the laws of the Lord.