

Commentary on Second Kings chapters 20&21 by Chuck Smith 2.22.23

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February memory verse Luke 24:45 (NKJV)

And **He** opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the **Scriptures**.

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Chapter 20

Now in those days Hezekiah was very sick ([2Ki 20:1](#)).

Actually he was dying.

And Isaiah came to him, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Set your house in order; for you're going to die, and not live ([2Ki 20:1](#)).

The word of the Lord from Isaiah to Hezekiah. Set your house in order, you're going to die and not live.

And so Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and he prayed unto the LORD, and he said, I beseech you, O LORD, remember now how I have walked with you in truth, with a perfect heart, and I have done that which is good in your sight. And Hezekiah just really wept before God. So it came to pass, when Isaiah was leaving, as he was going through the middle of the court, the LORD said, Go back and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears: behold, I will heal you: on the third day you will go up unto the house of the LORD ([2Ki 20:2-5](#)).

I've heard your prayer, see your tears. Okay, you'll be healed. In three days you'll be going up to the house of the Lord.

And I will add to your life fifteen years; and I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for my own sake, and for my servant David's sake. And Isaiah said, [Now take a make a poultice from figs.] And lay it on the boil, and he recovered. And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, What will be the sign that I'm going to be healed? And Isaiah said, Well, you want the sun to go back ten degrees on the sundial, or you want it to go ahead ten degrees? ([2Ki 20:6-9](#))

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Imagine asking for a sign for something and God working a sign with the sundial, either moving the sun backward or forward ten degrees for you. What would you like? He said, "Well, if it goes forward ten degrees, that wouldn't be too much." You'd think the earth is just tilting that much faster. "Let it go back ten degrees." And so the sun went back ten degrees on the sundial.

You say, "Impossible." Yes, if you've got a puny little God of your own creation. But if you can believe the first verse of Genesis, why would you have any problem with that? "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" ([Genesis 1:1](#)). That's how big our God is that we serve. It is important that we remember that especially when we pray over our little problems. "O Lord, thou art God, thou hast created the heaven, and the earth, all that in them is" ([Acts 4:24](#)). That's the way the apostles began their prayer, and it's a good way to begin prayer. Just sort of reminding you who you're talking to.

Now there were emissaries that came from Babylon, when they heard that Hezekiah was recovered from his sickness, and they came in to Hezekiah and they said, "Oh, we're so glad that you're well." And Hezekiah said, "Oh, let me show you around." And he took them into the treasury. He showed them all the treasures, all of the gold and silver that was in the house of the Lord. All the treasures of the land. And so Isaiah came to Hezekiah and said, "Who were those fellows? Where they come from?" And he said, "Oh, they came from a long way out. They came from Babylon." "What they want?" "Oh, they wanted to tell me they were glad I was..." "What did you show them?" "Oh, I showed them the treasures." "What? How much?" "Oh, I showed them everything." He said, "Ah, that's foolish because all of those treasures that you showed to them will be carried away captive to Babylon."

Hezekiah said, "Well, that's good." He said, "What do you mean that's good?" He said, "Well, you said it won't happen in my days."

So the rest ([2Ki 20:20](#))

Strange way to look at it, isn't it? The rest of the acts of Hezekiah are recorded in Second Chronicles and in Isaiah. An awful lot about Hezekiah in Isaiah. How he made this tunnel from the spring of Gihon to the pool of Siloam in order that they might have a fresh water supply when they were anticipating the attack from the Assyrians. And this conduit that he built, the tunnel...and I hiked through that tunnel on a few occasions, and you feel like you're hiking in history as you are walking through the water as the spring of Gihon flows through that and on out to the pool of Siloam.

Chapter 21

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Now Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign ([2Ki 21:1](#)),

Manasseh was the son of Hezekiah, and here is something that I think is interesting for speculation. Would it have been better for Hezekiah had he died instead of being healed? Was the healing of Hezekiah God's perfect will and plan? God had sent the message; "You're going to die." Hezekiah began to weep and of course, in Hezekiah he says that he all night long, he sort of chattered like a dove and all, you know, and just weeping before God and all. And so God sent Isaiah back and say, "I've seen his tears; I've heard his prayer. I'll give him fifteen years." Was that really God's real purpose and plan? Would it not have been much better had Hezekiah died at that time?

For his son Manasseh began to reign when he was twelve years old, which means Manasseh was conceived and born after Hezekiah had his life extended. Had Hezekiah died at that point, Manasseh would never have been born. And I say that because we read concerning Manasseh,

He did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. He built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, he made a grove, as did Ahab the king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. He built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem I will put my name. He built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. He made his son pass through the fire, he observed times, used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. Made the graven images ([2Ki 21:2-7](#)),

And it was because of Manasseh's leading the people into such depths of sin they could never recover. And thus, Judah fell as a result of Manasseh's leading them to the depths of sin. Now what would have happened to the nation had Hezekiah not insisted in prayer that God heal him? The whole story of the nation could have been much different. The whole history could have been much different. But here is a man insisting with tears, begging, "Oh God, heal me please. Lord, I'll serve you. I love you. Please heal me, God." This is a part of the problem that evolves when I start ordering God rather than taking orders from God.

When I think that prayer is that instrument and tool whereby I am to get my will done, rather than the instrument whereby we can get God's will done, I wonder how much damage is done by these insisting prayers that we hear so much about today. The nation could have been spared the horrors of Manasseh had

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Hezekiah died. It's something to contemplate and think about. I don't have any answers for it, but it's just something to think about.

But Manasseh was an extremely wicked king and God testified in verse twelve.

I am going to bring such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever hears about it, their ears will tingle. For I'm going to stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, the plummet of the house of Ahab: I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipes a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all of their enemies; Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger ([2Ki 21:12-15](#)),

And so forth. Now in the New Testament we read of the prophets of God, men of faith in Hebrews chapter eleven, men of great faith who stop the mouths of lions, who survived through the fires. And yet it says they were stoned, they were sawed in two. According to tradition, and extra-curricular scriptures, Isaiah was the man referred to who was sawed in two. And this was done by Manasseh, the wicked son of Hezekiah. This glorious prophet Isaiah, he had him sawn in two. Evil, wicked man who never would have existed had Hezekiah not insisted on God healing him.

Manasseh died, was buried in the garden of his own house, and his son Amon reigned in his stead. He was twenty-two years old when he began to reign; he reigned for two years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, walking after the ways of his father Manasseh. He served the idols that his father had served; he worshipped them ([2Ki 21:18-21](#)):

Actually he grew up in it. He was one of the children of Manasseh who Manasseh made to pass through the fire to this pagan in the rites to these pagan gods.

And the servants of Amon conspired against him ([2Ki 21:23](#)),

The walk, fire-walking and all, causing your children to do the fire walk, and you know, they get into these trances and so forth, and walk across coals, but you notice it also says along with these things that they dealt with familiar spirits or with demon spirits and all. And this is all a part of demonology. He reigned for two years. His servants conspired against him.

and killed him in his own house. And Josiah his son began to reign as king in his stead ([2Ki 21:23-24](#)).

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Kings of Judah	Bible	Good/Bad	Kings of Israel	Bible	All Bad
Rehoboam	1 Kings 11-14	BAD	Jeroboam I	1 Kings 12-14	BAD
Abijam	1 Kings 14-15	BAD	Nadab	1 Kings 15	BAD
Asa	1 Kings 15	Good	Baasha	1 Kings 15-16	BAD
			Elah	1 Kings 16	BAD
			Zimri	1 Kings 16	BAD
			Omri	1 Kings 16	BAD
			Ahab	1 Kings 16	BAD
Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22	Good	Ahaziah	1 Kings 22	BAD
Jehoram	2 Kings 8	BAD	Jehoram	2 Kings 1	BAD
Ahaziah	2 Kings 8-9	BAD	Jehu	2 Kings 3-9	BAD
Athaliah	2 Kings 11	BAD	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 9-10	BAD
Joash	2 Kings 11-12	Good	Jehoash	2 Kings 13-14	BAD
Amaziah	2 Kings 14	Good	Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14	BAD
Azariah	2 Kings 15	Good	Zechariah	2 Kings 14-15	BAD
Jotham	2 Kings 15	Good	Shallum	2 Kings 15	BAD
			Menahem	2 Kings 15	BAD
			Pekahiah	2 Kings 15	BAD
Ahaziah	2 Kings 16	BAD	Pekahiah	2 Kings 15	BAD
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18-20	Good	Hoshea	2 Kings 15-17	BAD
Manasseh	2 Kings 21	BAD	Assyrian Captivity - No return		
Amon	2 Kings 21	BAD			
Josiah	2 Kings 21-23	Good			
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23	BAD			
Jehoiakim	2 Kings 23	BAD			
Johoiachin	2 Kings 24	BAD			
Zedekiah	2 Kings 24-25	BAD			
Babylonian Captivity - 70 years					

