

WHAT MADE HEZEKIAH GREAT?

2Kings 18:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

- A. United kingdom of Israel stood only three generations - 120 years with three kings: Saul, David, Solomon
- B. After death of Solomon kingdom divided into two parts - one known as Israel (North) and Judah (south)
- C. Israel had nineteen kings beginning with Jeroboam and ending with Hoshea (number could be different depending on the counting of co-regents)
- D. Judah had twenty kings beginning with Rehoboam, Solomon's son, and ending with Zedekiah (number could be different depending on the counting of co-regents)
- E. Hezekiah, king talking about today, thirteenth king of Judah and text says there was none like him before or after
- F. For our lesson, we want to see what made Hezekiah great

DISCUSSION:

I. FAMILY NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR GREATNESS

- A. His father - Ahaz 2Kings 16:2,3
 - 1. Reigned 16 yrs - did not that which was right
 - 2. Walked in the ways of idolatrous kings of Israel
 - 3. Made his son pass through the fire Lev 18:21
 - a. Consecration to sun god (Molech). Some think he actually sacrificed his son; others say only passed between two fires
 - b. Regardless, it was a heathen rite
 - 4. Filled kingdom with false worship - made people forget God
- B. Hezekiah's son, Manasseh 2Kings 21:1-7; 10-12
 - 1. Hard to say which was worse Ahaz or Manasseh
 - 2. Put images in Temple; consecrated son to Molech
- C. A bad father can have a good son - good father can have a bad son
 - 1. This is exception rather than rule Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4
 - 2. Possible Hezekiah spent so much time running the kingdom he didn't train his son
 - 3. Maybe Hezekiah learned from mother; possibly Isaiah.
 - 4. Usually someone to learn from if we desire to learn

II. TIMES AND CIRCUMSTANCES NOT CONDUCTIVE TO GREATNESS

- A. The nation at its lowest ebb morally and religiously
 - 1. Idolatry, impurity all around, iniquity was rampant
 - 2. Doors of God's house were closed
- B. Was unsound politically
 - 1. Assyrians ready to devour; Judah was helpless

- 2. And now a new king was taking over
- C. This kind of times produces great men - when tried we become stronger or weaker. Tree in forest and one in open that doesn't have to fight for sun and air, which one grows tallest and strongest

III. AGE WAS NOT A FACTOR 2Kings 18:2

- A. King at age 25 - not young - some started younger (Josiah 8; Manasseh 12) some older
- B. Reigned 29 years died at age 54
- C. Samuel very young when God called and served to a ripe old age
- D. Age counts little with God old or young can serve Him
 - 1. Become as little children Lk 18:15-17; Matt 18:1-5
 - 2. It is spiritual maturity that counts Heb 5:12-14

IV. GREAT BECAUSE HE DID RIGHT 2Kings 18:3

- A. He destroyed Idolatry 2Kings 18:4
 - 1. Altars groves and images
 - 2. Even brazen serpent - people had begun to worship
- B. Re-instated true worship 2Chr 29:3-5; Jhn 4:24
 - 1. Opened God's house and cleaned it - took 16 days to clean it
 - 2. Put priest & Levites back to work, held great feasts
- C. Not enough to think right Matt 7:21; Jas 1:25 - must do right - uproot evil, then do what is right Jer 1:10

V. GREAT BECAUSE HE TRUSTED GOD

- A. When his kingdom was threatened by the Assyrians he went to God 2Kings 19:1,14,19
- B. When sick and death near he turned to God 2Ki 20:1-6
- C. Taught to trust in God Prov 3:5; Matt 6:33
 - 1. Fail because we can't bring ourselves to believe God will help us
 - 2. Are dependent: whether we acknowledge it or not

CONCLUSION:

- A. We can learn a great lesson from this great king. When it seems that obstacles are insurmountable, just put our trust in God, do what He ask and he will see us through.
- B. Hezekiah's task seemed impossible he had to turn a whole kingdom around and make them go another way
- C. Paul said: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil 4:13
- D. With God on your side you can't lose. Is God on your side? If you are not doing what is right, He is not!