

Episode: Kings and Prophets Series No. 15

Narrator: King Hezekiah, Isaiah

Primary Scriptures: 2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 25-32, *Isaiah, Micah*

Story Summary: The lives of King Hezekiah and Isaiah

Location: Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Time: 730-686 BC

Suggested Memory Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 25:2; 2 Kings 20:19

After King Joash, the Southern Kingdom was ruled by his son Amaziah; by Amaziah's son, Uzziah; by Uzziah's son, Jotham; by Jotham's son, Ahaz; and, by Ahaz's son, Hezekiah.

One of the saddest scriptures in the Bible is about Amaziah. "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not wholeheartedly."¹ Eventually, he abandoned the Lord completely.

Uzziah started off well, like his father had done. Also like his father, he eventually let his pride lead to his downfall. God punished him by making him a leper.

Jotham was a king who acted faithfully before God. However, he did not stop the people from worshiping false gods.

Ahaz was an evil king who worshiped false gods and led the people to worship them, too.. God punished him by letting his enemies defeat him in battle.

Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king and immediately began cleansing the Southern Kingdom of its idols and places of worship to false gods. He reestablished worship of God at the Temple.

Despite Hezekiah's faithful actions, the king of Assyria invaded the Southern Kingdom and threatened to destroy Jerusalem and all those in it. Based on the Isaiah's advice, Hezekiah remained faithful and God ended the threat.

Hezekiah became ill to the point of death. Isaiah prayed for him, and God agreed to give Hezekiah fifteen more years of life. Hezekiah was joyous, but he did not know that this was a very mixed blessing.

During those fifteen years, Hezekiah became prideful and showed off his treasures to Babylonian envoys. Eventually this led to an invasion by the Babylonians who carried off the treasure. Also, during those fifteen years, Hezekiah had a son, Manasseh. This son was to be the most evil king of all, and was the cause of the eventual destruction of the Southern Kingdom.

As a note of interest, 2 Kings 20:20 speaks of a pool and tunnel that Hezekiah built. That tunnel still exists and can be visited by tourists. It is called Hezekiah's Tunnel.

Discussion Questions:

¹ 2 Chronicles 25:2

1. 2 Chronicles 26:8 says that the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. Why was that mentioned?
 2. 2 Chronicles 28:19 says that the Lord punished the country for the actions of its leader. Does God still do that same thing today?
 3. Hezekiah's father promoted idolatry. Where did Hezekiah get his desire to follow the Lord?
 4. 2 Chronicles 31:1 tells of the Israelites destroying the idols of the country. Where did they get the impetus to do that? Could your country's leaders inspire your people to do similar types of acts?
 5. 2 Kings 20:6 says God gave Hezekiah 15 more years of life because he prayed to live longer. What two horrible events happened because God answered the prayer?
1. Under David, the surrounding countries were forced to pay tribute to him. Since the split of the kingdom, many of those countries had quit paying tribute. 5. He fathered his son, Manasseh, who turned out to be a horribly evil king; he showed off his treasures to Babylon which incentivized them to capture the country in later years.

Application Questions:

1. 2 Chronicles 25:2 says Amaziah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but not wholeheartedly. What do you think that means? Have you behaved that way? What would "wholeheartedly" look like in your life?
2. 2 Chronicles 26:5 says that the Lord gave Uzziah success as long as he sought the Lord. Does God behave that way today in your life? What does Jesus say about this matter? What does "success" mean to you? Why do you choose to define it this way?
3. 2 Chronicles 32:8 tells that Hezekiah relied on God when he was threatened by an enemy. Where did he get the confidence to do that? According to verse 20, who did Hezekiah have pray with him?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. 2 Chronicles 25:8 says the Lord has the power to help or to overthrow. Is it okay to pray for God to overthrow people you perceive as your enemies? Why or why not?
2. Read 2 Chronicles 25:12. Why did God allow his people to do such a thing?
3. 2 Chronicles 26:16 reminds us of Proverb 16:18, "Pride comes before the fall." Explain what that saying means. Have you seen this happen in someone's life?