

Speaker : Associate Pastor Steven Kum
Title : Living in the Favour of the Lord
Text : 2 Kings 18:1-8

Background

“¹ In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. ² He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah” (2 Kings 18:1-2)

Hezekiah did right in the eyes of the Lord

“He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done” (2 Kings 18:3)

Hezekiah's father Ahaz was not a good role model. He committed despicable spiritual acts and died at the age of 38 (Isaiah 8, 2 Kings 23).

1. Hezekiah chose to see things from God's perspective
2. Hezekiah chose not to go along with the flow
3. Hezekiah chose his own role model

Hezekiah removed, smashed and cut down what stood that which was not helpful

“He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan)” (2 Kings 18:4)

1. What distracted from what God demanded in worship, he removed (2 Kings 18:4a)
2. What was evidently evil, he shunned (2 Kings 21:3)
3. What was apparently “spiritual” in origin but had degenerated into “form” he destroyed (2 Kings 18:4)

Hezekiah faithfully trusted in the Lord

“Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him” (2 Kings 18: 5)

1. Through threats of invasion (2 Kings 18:14-16)
2. Through sickness (2 Kings 20:1)
3. Through failure (2 Kings 20:12-19)

Hezekiah held fast to the Lord

“He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses” (2 Kings 18:6)

Hezekiah re-established the Passover pilgrimage festival. (2 Chronicles 30:5, 10, 13, 26)

1. He knew God as Deliverer
2. He knew the need to obey God’s commands
3. He knew the paramount importance of thanksgiving and worship

Conclusion

The Lord was with Hezekiah

“And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. ⁸ From watchtower to fortified city, he defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory” (2 Kings 18:7-8)

1. Hezekiah experienced wisdom in his many endeavours
2. Hezekiah experienced strength and victory in times of challenges
3. Hezekiah’s influence was widespread