

=KINGS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 9

Hezekiah

AIM: to teach my pupils the life and reign of the king, Hezekiah.

POINT OF CONTACT: Here are two ideas that could be used to get the pupils' attention: (1) Since great revival came under Hezekiah, the pupils could tell something of a personal revival in their own lives, a time when they were especially revived and renewed their vows to God; (2) One of the things Hezekiah did in his reign was to break the brazen serpent, which had become an object of worship. It would be good to bring a picture of a snake to class. The lesson could be started by asking what a snake would have to do with a king, and then you could explain.

INTRODUCTION: Hezekiah was the thirteenth king of Judah. He was a good king. For the lesson, we will discuss his strengths and weaknesses.

- I. HEZEKIAH WAS THE SON OF AHAZ AND ABIJAH. Ahaz was a wicked king; in fact, Hezekiah did not have the best heritage in the world. Again, this could be an encouragement to pupils whose parents are not spiritual. In spite of parents who are not Christians, or parents who are worldly, a boy or girl can still amount to something for God! Such was the case in the life of Hezekiah.

- II. HEZEKIAH ROSE TO THE HEIGHT OF HIS PROFESSION. Read II Kings 18:5; 23:25. He was one of the three most perfect kings of Judah. This means that he had great ambition to become the best in his field. Ambition is a wonderful trait for a person to have. Whatever we do, we should do it well. Whatever we plan to do with our lives, we should try to be the best we can be for God. (Teacher, pause for a few moments here to ask the pupils what they plan to be or do in life. In the case of young people and children, ask them their ambition. Then tell them that they ought to be the very best that they can be. Whether we are businessmen, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, or whatever, we should do our best to become our best.)

- III. HEZEKIAH LED JUDAH IN A GREAT REVIVAL.
 1. He himself did what was right in the sight of the Lord. Notice II Chronicles 29:2. In other words, he set the example. Everyone is watched by someone. We should set the right example.
 2. He opened the doors to the house of the Lord. When a person has revival, the house of the Lord is always in the center of it. So many people try to build their lives around some organization other than the church. This is not the plan nor the will of God. It is not wrong to support organizations other than the church if they are spiritual, Scriptural organizations; but the church is the only organization in the world that offers the right thing to the entire family.
 3. He got the preachers right. See II Chronicles 29:4, 5. If real revival is going to come, we must have the right kind of preachers. Let us pray that preachers will stay right with God and build soul-winning churches, and let every young man examine his own life to see if God would have him preach the Gospel.
 4. He led the people to turn from sin. Read II Chronicles 29:5.
 5. He gathered the rulers together to make them right with God. This is found in II Chronicles 29:20. Probably one of the great revivals in the life of Judah came under Hezekiah. He was a great king. He led in a great revival.
 6. He destroyed the idols from Judah. See II Chronicles 31:1. An idol is anything that we put before the Lord Jesus Christ. (Discuss with the class what an idol could be. An idol could be sports, a game, a hobby, a girlfriend, a boyfriend, money, etc.)
 7. For the rest of Hezekiah's great revival, read II Chronicles 31:2-21. Key verses in all this are verses 2, 12 and 21.

- IV. HEZEKIAH DESTROYED THE BRAZEN SERPENT. (Teacher, tell the story of the brazen serpent back in the book of Numbers as the Jews were going through the wilderness.) Many, many years had passed. Moses had lived and died. Joshua had lived and died. The judges had ruled for many years.

Saul had been crowned king. David had been king. Solomon had been king, followed by Rehoboam and a dozen or so other kings. The brazen serpent had been kept all that time. The people, however, were worshipping it as a shrine. They were bowing down before it. Hezekiah broke it. Nothing should be before God!

- V. THE WORD “HEZEKIAH” MEANS “JEHOVAH STRENGTHENETH.” The secret to any successful work for God is the strength of God. If we succeed in a church, a class, or a department, we must do it in God’s strength.
- VI. HEZEKIAH BECAME VERY ILL AND WAS HEALED AND GIVEN FIFTEEN MORE YEARS OF LIFE. Read about this in II Kings 20:1-6. Several things are interesting.
1. God does heal.
 2. Hezekiah turned to the prophet, Isaiah, which was a wise thing.
 3. God does add years to our lives.
- VII. HEZEKIAH MADE A BIG MISTAKE. Read II Kings 20:14-17. When Hezekiah was healed, an embassy came from Babylon trying to form an alliance between the two powers. Hezekiah looked with favor toward this alliance, and Isaiah warned that punishment would come to his house because of this alliance. (Teacher, you could spend a while here talking about the danger of alliances with non-Christian people. Marriage, associations, etc. should definitely be discussed.)
- VIII. HEZEKIAH WAS PUNISHED BECAUSE OF HIS SIN. (Teacher, remind the class that sin must be punished. Give them a few examples in the Bible such as David, Saul, Solomon, Samson, etc. This is a point that could not be stressed too much.)