

Hezekiah - A Lilly Among Thorns

“And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered” (2 Chronicles 31:21).

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2 Chronicles 29-32 covers the account of the reign of King Hezekiah. He was a descendant of Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:27) a wicked king and was succeeded by Manasseh (2 Chronicles 32:33) another wicked king; but he was a righteous God fearing King that accomplished much for God. His life furnish valuable insights and lessons for our eternal benefit, including:

- (1) Righteousness is not genetically transmitted, and God has no grandchildren. Except a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3). The wicked influence of his father did not rub off on him, neither did his righteousness prevent his son, Manasseh from becoming wicked. God created man as a free moral agent. We must all make personal decisions about our destiny.
- (2) Righteousness is not a product of the environment. God did not design man to be subject to his environment. Spotlessly white lilies still grow in dirty marshy swamps. Hezekiah remained upright despite being sandwiched in time and surrounded in space by wicked kings. Like Lot became a saint in Sodom, although iniquity may abound, **“... the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits”** (Daniel 11:32).
- (3) He made a good start to his reign by not only making a clean break from his idolatrous past, but also opened the house of the Lord, repaired it and restored godly worship from the first year of his reign. His priorities were right from the beginning! His change was not gradual and slow but immediate and prompt (2 Chronicles 29:3).

“So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them. Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem” (2 Chronicles 30:10-11).



- (4) Levites assisted the priests to flay sacrifices as the priests were too few. Rather than become critical spectators, they rose to the challenge of divine service and stepped in to help (2 Chronicles 29:34).
- (5) Hezekiah was not deterred by the mockery of the people in pressing ahead with the organising the Passover. His perseverance yielded great success, revival, divine pleasure and triggered decimation of idolatry (2 Chronicles 30 & 31).
- (6) His trust and reliance on God brought victory against enemies, healing and 15 years extension of life (2 Chronicles 32).
- (7) Despite his good deeds, he was not spared divine judgment when he sinned (2 Chronicles 32:25). God is no respecter of persons. “The soul that sinneth, it shall die...” (Ezekiel 18:20).
- (8) Wholeheartedness, right perspectives / priorities and humility were the secrets to his success (2 Chronicles 31:21; 32:26).