

HEZEKIAH AND JEREMIAH

I. THE WORK OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF HEZEKIAH

Hezekiah did what was right in the sight of God, and that's because God had chosen him and was working in his heart. "*The hand of God was also on Judah.*" 2 Chronicles 29:1-2, 10-11, 30:12; Philipines 2:12-13; 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

II. THE CHARACTER OF HEZEKIAH

A. Hezekiah was a holy man, a man of faith, and he clung to the Lord.
2 Kings 18:1-6, 2 Chronicles 30:9

B. Hezekiah was not fearful, but courageous. He knew God, trusted God, and obeyed God. 2 Chronicles 32:5-8

C. Hezekiah was a good man, a righteous man, and a truthful man, and therefore, did what was good, right and true. He sought the Lord. He was wholehearted, a man who was zealous for God and His work. 2 Chronicles 31:20-21

III. THE WORK OF HEZEKIAH

A. In general, Hezekiah brought spiritual reform and revival, reestablishing the offering of sacrifices. He helped defeat their enemies. He was a great builder.

B. Under Hezekiah's leadership, the priests and Levites consecrated themselves and the temple. They started offering sacrifices. With singers and instruments, they worshiped the Lord. The people were very encouraged. 2 Chronicles 29

C. They celebrated the Passover. Some from the northern kingdom joined them in celebrating this feast. God was gracious and merciful to the people. 2 Chronicles 30

D. God was working in the hearts of the people, so much so, that the people went out and destroyed many of the idols. They also brought in the tithe, and there was an abundance. 2 Chronicles 31:1-10

E. Hezekiah led a great military victory against the Babylonians.
2 Chronicles 32:20-21, 34-35; 2 Kings 18:14-19

IV. THE HEALING OF HEZEKIAH -- Isaiah 38:1-9

Hezekiah was mortally sick. He prayed, and God added 15 years to his life. If you are sick, it's a good thing to pray to God and ask Him for healing. 3 John 2

V. THE PRIDE OF HEZEKIAH - 2 Chronicles 32:24-32

Hezekiah's sickness was God's way of humbling Hezekiah, of testing him, but he remained proud. Later he humbled himself. We see that Hezekiah was very successful, but in the last part of his life, there were areas of pride. James 4:10

VI. HEZEKIAH WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST KINGS OF JUDAH

Hezekiah was a godly man, and a great leader, one of the greatest kings to rule over Judah. He did what was right, followed God's word, led the people, encouraged the people, and was used by God to bring about spiritual reform and revival.

VII. THE LIFE OF JEREMIAH – Jeremiah. Lamentations

A. God chose Jeremiah to be a prophet before he was even born.

B. Jeremiah's main message was calling on Jews to repent of their sins. The Jews, in large part, rejected Jeremiah and his message.

C. Jeremiah suffered greatly. He was threatened, forced to flee, put in stocks, and publicly humiliated. He never got married.

D. Jeremiah had great compassion for the people, and openly shared his feelings of sadness and sorrow. The book of Lamentations gives a vivid description of his heartache. He saw the people's rejection of God, and God's rejection of them.

E. Jeremiah kept preaching the word of God, even though most people rejected his message. He shared what is called the New Covenant – *"I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."* He gave hope to the people. Jeremiah 23:28-29, 25:1-3, 31:31-34

HEZEKIAH DID WHAT WAS GOOD, RIGHT AND TRUE BEFORE THE LORD HIS GOD.
IN EVERYTHING THAT HE UNDERTOOK IN THE SERVICE OF GOD'S TEMPLE
AND IN OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW AND THE COMMANDS,
HE SOUGHT HIS GOD AND WORKED WHOLEHEARTEDLY.
AND SO HE PROSPERED. 2 Chronicles 21:20-21

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. What aspects of Hezekiah's character stand out to you?
3. What was Hezekiah's main accomplishment? Why was that so important?
4. When you think of both Hezekiah and Jeremiah, how do you define success?
5. Why was Jeremiah such a godly man? Which of his character qualities encourage you?