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**KING HEZEKIAH**

**Known for:** Pride before the fall

**Scriptures to study:** 2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 28:27-32:33

Hezekiah’s name means “God has strengthened.” Hezekiah’s godliness was in direct contrast to his father’s wickedness. King Ahaz was an evil, idolatrous king. For the most part, King Hezekiah faithfully walked with God (2 Chronicles 31:20), and “there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him” (2 Kings 18:5). He was compared to King David in 2 Kings 18:3. After his wicked father’s reign, Hezekiah committed himself to set things right again in Judah.

As Hezekiah restored Temple worship and reformed Judah, revival came to God’s people. They returned to God, His Word, and the Old Testament blood sacrifice for sin (2 Chronicles 29:15, 22-24). God rewarded and prospered him personally too. 2 Kings 18:6-7a says the righteous king “held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.”

However, in time Hezekiah’s heart became proud and he failed to “respond to the kindness” God has shown him (2 Chronicles 32:25). Marduk-Baladan, the son of the king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift by envoys to Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:12). Hezekiah had great wealth and honor from the Lord, and God had given him great success (2 Chronicles 32:27-30). In pride, the king showed Marduk-Baladan’s ambassadors all the “precious things” in Jerusalem—his personal treasures, the riches of the city, and everything in the arsenal. “There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them” (2 Kings 20:13).

Hearing of this, Isaiah went to Hezekiah and rebuked him for the foolish pride that endangered Jerusalem and God’s people. The prophet made a terrible prediction (2 Kings 20:16-18). Everything Hezekiah had shown the Babylonians would be taken from him—carried off to Babylon. Even the king’s descendants would be taken to serve as eunuchs in the Babylonian palace. Isaiah’s prophecy came true during King Zedekiah’s reign (2 Kings 24:13-16).[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Key thoughts:**

* Hezekiah was obedient to God, restored temple worship and removed the evil idols of his predecessor.
* God blessed Hezekiah greatly and he was both wealthy and successful in his endeavors.
* Hezekiah became prideful and did not credit God for the great abundance he had amassed.



* What is something you are proud of in your life and leadership? Is that “good pride”? Why or why not?
* Have you ever caught yourself being prideful over something and later on felt you had acted poorly?
* How do you react when you see someone who is proud of their wealth of success? What does that pride tell you about the person?



* Read 2 Kings 18:3-8. Describe the initial reign of Hezekiah. How was he successful? What did he do that pleased God?
* Read 2 Kings 19:14-19. How did Hezekiah respond to the threatening letter from the king of Assyria?
* Read 2 Kings 19:35-36. What did God do in response to Hezekiah’s prayer?
* Read 2 Kings 20:1-2. When Hezekiah became ill, what did he do?
* Read 2 Kings 20:12-13. When foreigners came to Hezekiah what did he do? Why was this arrogant and prideful?
* Read 2 Kings 20:14-18. What did Isaiah tell Hezekiah was God’s response to his pride?
* Why do you think God looks so displeasingly toward those who are full of pride?



* Do you have any unhealthy pride in your life or work? How can you rid yourself of personal pride?
* How might pride keep you from being obedient to God in life and work? How can you adjust your actions and attitudes to ensure you choose obedience over pride?
* Where did Hezekiah find success? What can you do in your own life to emulate the success that Hezekiah had?
1. https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-you-need-to-know-about-hezekiah-in-the-bible.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)