

According to All That His Father David Had Done  
By Trey Sullins

Imagine yourself as the child of a very wicked king set in ancient Judah. Your father, the king, was Ahaz and it was said of him that he did according to the “abominations of the nation whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel” (2 Kings 16:3). Needless to say, your father is a very wicked man. With this heavy influence of evil over you what would choose: to serve God or to serve Satan? This is the exact situation in which Hezekiah found himself in 2 Kings 18. Who does he choose? He chose to serve God almighty! From studying the life of Hezekiah, we can learn that even in great adversity we can still choose to follow God.

2 Kings 18:3 says “And He [Hezekiah] did what was right in the sight of the Lord.” Though Hezekiah had this great influence towards evil he made the right choices in life. Hezekiah removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars (2 Kings 18:4). One of Judah’s great sins was setting up places of worship to false gods. In Exodus 20:3-4 God gives clear command that these things were completely against His law. Hezekiah proved to be a great example for the people of God to see that these practices and places were not sanctioned by God.

Hezekiah also had an amazing amount of trust in God. In 2 Kings 18:5 the Bible says, “He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.” He didn’t trust in himself but solely trusted in God. Because of this God delivered him from adversaries and made him prosper in many ways (2 Kings 18:7). One example is in 2 Kings 19:35 where the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in their own camp. God did this because as verse 20 says Hezekiah prayed to God and asked for His help.

The question for us is will we do what is right in the sight of the Lord? Though Hezekiah made mistakes, like all humans do, he truly is a great example of what we can be if we make the most important that life offers: to serve God. The world around us has not changed much. The Empires and technology are different, but man’s situation has not changed. We are still God’s creation plagued with sin and needing His salvation. Consider Paul and the change he experienced in his life. He started out living a life of evil and driving God’s people to their deaths. Later in his life he chose to come to the light of Christ and leave the darkness of the world. In 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 we find numerous evils and struggles which we experienced. Yet, Paul never changed and gave in to the evil that could have so easily influenced him. This is exactly what we must choose today! We must make the choice everyday that we will serve right in His sight (1 Peter 4:19).

Just like Hezekiah we too must trust in the Lord with all our being. We find another great example of this in Ezra 8:22. When Ezra was returning to Jerusalem, he didn’t ask the Persian king for soldiers to escort them, but instead relied upon God (23). In Verse 31 God delivered them from their enemies on the road. Is that the kind of trust that we have? Titus 1:2 tells us that God cannot lie. Because this is true then we have no reason not to trust him! When God looks down on us as individual Christians will He describe us like He did Hezekiah, as one whose trust far exceeds others?

When you put all the pieces together Hezekiah really is a powerful example of how we should serve today. He started his life with world’s evils stacked against him but set himself apart as a

man that obeyed God. We must apply these principles in our lives and choose to do what is right and trust in God. Consider the final verse 2 Corinthians 31:21. “And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did *it* with all his heart. So, he prospered.” Does this match our lives?