



Don't Miss It: Lessons from Hezekiah- part 1



What do you want to be when you grow up?

What does a successful life look like?

2 Kings 18 Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. 2 Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah. 3 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did.

4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. 5 He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. 6 For he clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses. 7 And the Lord was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. 8 He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

Hezekiah's story is told in 2 Kings 16:20—20:21; 2 Chronicles 28:27—32:33; and Isaiah 36:1—39:8. He is also mentioned in Proverbs 25:1; Isaiah 1:1; Jeremiah 15:4; 26:18-19; Hosea 1:1; and Micah 1:1.

Hezekiah, a son of the wicked King Ahaz, reigned over the southern kingdom of Judah for twenty-nine years, from c. 726 to 697 BC. He began his reign at age 25

(2 Kings 18:2). He was more zealous for the Lord than any of his predecessors (2 Kings 18:5). During his reign, the prophets Isaiah and Micah ministered in Judah.

After Ahaz's wicked reign, there was much work to do, and Hezekiah boldly cleaned house. Pagan altars, idols, and temples were destroyed. The bronze serpent that Moses had made in the desert (Numbers 21:9) was also destroyed, because the people had made it an idol (2 Kings 18:4). The temple in Jerusalem, whose doors had been nailed shut by Hezekiah's own father, was cleaned out and reopened. The Levitical priesthood was reinstated (2 Chronicles 29:5), and the Passover was reinstated as a national holiday (2 Chronicles 30:1). Under Hezekiah's reforms, revival came to Judah.

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5 Obstacles to overcome in life to be successful

✓ Family background

(AHAZ) And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord: this is that king Ahaz. 23 For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel. 24 And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. 25 And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the Lord God of his fathers.

26 Now the rest of his acts and of all his ways, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel. 27 And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, even in Jerusalem: but they brought him not into the sepulchres of the kings of Israel: **and Hezekiah his son reigned in his stead.**

- ✓ **Age**
- ✓ **Familiarity**

Breeds contempt

Ill.- Pastor Johnson's comment- be prepared for people to say that I am using you for my own benefit!

- ✓ **Circumstances**
- ✓ **Opposition**

5 Pillars of a successful life



➤ **Considering God's sight**

Verse 3

Isaiah 38:3 Jeremiah 4:1
Malachi 2:17

Psalm 69:31; Proverbs 16:7

John 8:29; Romans 8:8;
1 Thessalonians 1:3, 4:1; Hebrews 11:6;
James 4:10



➤ **Being willing to initiate**

Verses 4, 7b, 8

Bronze serpent - 800 years

Making leaders idols

Making education an idol

Making human eloquence an idol

Making customs and habits of ministry an idol

Making forms of worship an idol

You have to take a stand.

People who stand for nothing are apt to fall for everything,

Examples- Jesus and the money changers

What's the big deal?

Tv shows, movies, books, etc.

Potions, crystal balls, immorality etc.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18; James 4:4

III.- Big Papi- David Ortiz

We need the holy church involved in our lives!!



**➤ Understanding the
blessed life**

Verse 7

2 Chronicles 29

3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them. 4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, 5 and said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

Don't be negligent!!!! (deceived)

Trusted, clave, kept- PROSPERED

10 Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us. 11 My sons, be not now negligent: for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.



➤ Recognizing the power of song and worship

A major battle in the church today involves music!

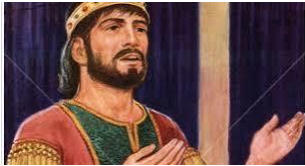
25 And he set the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the Lord by his prophets. 26 And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. 27 And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. 28 And all the congregation worshipped, and

the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished. 29 And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped. 30 Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praise unto the Lord with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshipped



➤ **Living life in the joy of the Lord**

36 And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.



One-minute take-away