



## JUDAH

### THE KINGS OF JUDAH

- Litmus test of the kings
  - What makes a “Good” king in God’s eyes?
  - Comparison to King David
    - Worship of God ALONE with their lips AND their lives
    - Worship of other “gods”
      - Personally syncretizing the gods of the culture
      - Passively tolerating the peoples’ syncretism
  - 3 Categories:
    - EVIL
    - GOOD, but...
    - GOOD

**EVIL:** Rehoboam, Abijah, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah (Queen), Ahaz, \*Manasseh\*, Amon, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah

**GOOD, BUT...:** Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, Jotham

**GOOD:** Hezekiah, Josiah

### A GOOD KING

<sup>20</sup> This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God. <sup>21</sup> 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 31-20-21

<sup>32</sup> “Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the king of Assyria:

“He will not enter this city  
or shoot an arrow here.

He will not come before it with shield  
or build a siege ramp against it.

<sup>33</sup> By the way that he came he will return;  
he will not enter this city,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>34</sup> I will defend this city and save it,  
for my sake and for the sake of David my servant.”

<sup>35</sup> That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! 2 KINGS 18:32-35

<sup>22</sup> So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all others. He took care of them<sup>in</sup> on every side. <sup>23</sup> Many brought offerings to Jerusalem for the LORD and valuable gifts for Hezekiah king of Judah. From then on he was highly regarded by all the nations... 2 CHRONICLES 32:22-23

<sup>6</sup> I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.”

<sup>8</sup> Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, “What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?”

<sup>9</sup> Isaiah answered, “This is the LORD’s sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?”

<sup>10</sup> “It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps,” said Hezekiah. “Rather, have it go back ten steps.”

<sup>11</sup> Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

<sup>12</sup> At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of Hezekiah’s illness. <sup>13</sup> Hezekiah received the envoys and showed them all that was in his storehouses—the silver, the gold, the spices and the fine olive oil—his armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

<sup>14</sup> Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, “What did those men say, and where did they come from?”

“From a distant land,” Hezekiah replied. “They came from Babylon.”

<sup>15</sup> The prophet asked, “What did they see in your palace?”

“They saw everything in my palace,” Hezekiah said. “There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD: <sup>17</sup> The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your predecessors have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. <sup>18</sup> And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

<sup>19</sup> “The word of the LORD you have spoken is good,” Hezekiah replied. For he thought, *“Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?”*

<sup>20</sup> As for the other events of Hezekiah’s reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? <sup>21</sup> Hezekiah rested with his ancestors. And Manasseh his son succeeded him as king. 2 KINGS 20:6-21

## **HOW WILL YOU RESPOND IF GOD GIVES YOU WHAT YOU ASK FOR?**

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT GOD IN THE HISTORY OF JUDAH?**

- God’s longsuffering patience
  - Exodus 34:6-7
- God’s covenant promise
  - 2 Samuel 7:16
- God’s salvation plan
  - Galatians 3:19-25; Romans 5:20-21

### **WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT OURSELVES IN THE HISTORY OF JUDAH?**

- Faithfulness to God must be INTENTIONALLY CHOSEN over our lifetime
  - Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Mark 12:28-31
- Faithfulness to God must be INTENTIONALLY TRANSFERRED to the next generation
  
- Faithfulness to God is the primary characteristic of LEADERSHIP THAT LASTS