

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did God wait to defeat the Assyrians until Hezekiah asked Him?
2. Why do you suppose God did not use the Israelites to destroy the enemy?
3. Did Hezekiah consider the Lord only in the time of need?
4. Why do we pray?
5. Describe a successful prayer life?
6. What role does faith play in prayer?

SUMMARY:

What a tremendous amount of grief and suffering the children of Israel were spared because their king went to the Lord with his trials and concerns. They would no doubt have undergone a period of subjection to the Assyrians had Hezekiah not laid the problem before the Lord. Consider the number of times you have been perhaps spared suffering—spiritual suffering—because you called on the Lord. And consider the times when God would have caused you to be spared, but could not because you failed to ask. The Word tells of the earthly father's desire to respond to his children's requests with good gifts, and asks us, how much more our heavenly Father desires to give the Holy Spirit. To whom? To those who ask Him! This is true not only of the gift of the Holy Spirit but also the other gifts, the comfort, the joy, and the consolation that He wants for each one who would be reconciled to Him.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

November 13, 2011

Fourth Quarter

HEZEKIAH, A PRAYING KING

LESSON TEXT: 2 Kings 19:14-37

LESSON SETTING: Judah, during the reign of Hezekiah

TIME: Approximately 726 - 710 B.C.

I. HEZEKIAH SEEKS GOD. 2 Kings 19:14-19

- A. The Need (vs. 14)
- B. The Prayer
 1. Recognition of God (vs. 15) Nehemiah 9:6; Acts 14:15; Hebrews 11:3
 2. Seeking Deliverance (vs. 19) Psalm 43:1; 59:2; 71:4-5

II. ISAIAH REVEALS GOD'S ANSWER. 2 Kings 19:20-34

- A. Prayer Heard (vs. 20) Psalm 34:15; Isaiah 59:1; 65:24; Luke 11:9
- B. God's Answer
 1. Sennacherib Defies God (vs. 23) Psalm 2:2; 36:1
 2. Used as a Judgment (vs. 25) Jeremiah 5:15; Luke 19:43
 3. Proud Will Be Humbled (vs. 28) Isaiah 2:12; Proverbs 15:25; James 4:6

III. GOD FIGHTS FOR ISRAEL. 2 Kings 19:35-37

- A. God Smites the Enemy (vs. 35) 2 Chronicles 26:20; Acts 12:23
- B. Sennacherib Abased (vs. 36) 2 Chronicles 32:31; Isaiah 2:12; Luke 1:52
- C. God's Judgment (vs. 37) Isaiah 13:11; Romans 2:8; 10:12

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH.* James 5:16

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 2 Chronicles 33:9-20

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Kings 21:1-26; Acts 16:25-34

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Judah

TOPIC: MANASSEH, A KING WHO REPENTED

INTRODUCTION:

Perhaps many reasons could be given for King Manasseh's doing that which was evil. One might be the fact that his father set him a very poor example. One might consider the fact that he was very young when he was placed in a position of very great responsibility.

The fact remains, however, that there are always people who will set a bad example and people who will provide the encouragement that "itching" ears want to hear. It will always be easier to follow the path that seems natural to man. The Word tells us that there is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof is death. To rise above all this is a worthwhile endeavor and one that is possible through the leading of the Lord. He is willing to guide our lives and it is only through this guidance that we can please Him.

In the case of Manasseh, circumstances served to open his eyes to that which was truth. He cried out to the Lord from Babylonian captivity and the Lord heard his cry. He trusted the Lord, in faith, and this was reckoned righteousness unto him.

Today also, men often fail to give God His rightful place. God can either choose to allow them to prosper that their "fall may be great" or He may allow circumstances to occur in such a way as to make them harder, or to bring them to their knees. Upon our response to the love of God depends our eternal resting place.

CENTRAL TRUTH: God forgives and restores those who repent of their sins.

GOLDEN TEXT: *THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET, THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW.*

Isaiah 1:18

People today would generally like to consider this an age of reason. Young people are not satisfied to do something today and learn tomorrow why it should be done. This generally is to their detriment. Is it not wonderful, though, to consider the first portion of this verse where God says, "Come let us reason together"? If anything is reasonable, the ways of God are. It just makes sense that the only way man can get along with his fellow man is for them to live together in love and not fear, or hate, or greed, or envy. It just makes sense that breaking a law must have a penalty and to forego the penalty repeatedly, can only undermine the laws to the point that they are not obeyed. Is not our very society a prime example of this truth?

God's Word says that man has chosen his own way, a way that is not God's way. He has established a means through which the law may remain strong and man may still be reconciled to a righteous God and scarlet sins washed as white as snow. Our God is a wonderful God and a God who is willing and anxious to subscribe to the tenets of reason.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF November 14 – 20

M. The Way to God. 2 Chronicles 7:12-22
T. The Wicked King. 2 Chronicles 33:1-8
W. *The Repentant King 2 Chronicles 33:9-20
T. The Psalm of Confession. Psalm 51:1-19
F. The Prayer of Confession. Nehemiah 1:4-11
S. The Formula for Confession. Luke 13:23-30
S. The Answer to Confession. Luke 18:9-17

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