

## II KINGS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Kings chapter 19 as we continue our study through the Word of God. In our last study we saw the power of the Assyrian Empire as it came and took the Northern Kingdom of Israel into captivity. Now their power was used by God to bring judgment upon the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their idolatry. They thought they were in control, but God was using them for His plans, His purposes.

And this Assyrian Empire was now flexing its muscle against Hezekiah, king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. And at first Hezekiah paid tribute to the king, paid him off you might say, but in the end it was not enough and he demanded more. You see, you can never make alliances, make deals with the enemy and expect to win and Hezekiah was quickly finding that out! And, the enemy will always want more as we saw last time, he will never be satisfied in what you give him and he will keep taking and taking until he has all of you!

Thus, Sennacherib sends in his representatives and the Rabshakeh, who was like the chief of staff, and he meets before the representatives of Judah and is telling them they needed to surrender because nothing was going to be able to stop the Assyrians from coming and destroying them. In fact, he even tells them that no other gods could protect any other nation, not even the God of the Northern Kingdom of Israel; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob could deliver them. That is a bold statement and it is untrue. God allowed the Northern Kingdom to go into captivity for their idolatry as I have said.

And as we concluded last time in II Kings chapter 18, starting in verse 36 we read, **“But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, ‘Do not answer him.’ Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.”** II Kings 18:36-37. That is where we will pick up our study this evening, in II Kings chapter 19, starting in verse 1 as this news is brought before the king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Hezekiah. Let’s see how he will respond to this news, if he will turn to God or try to figure a way out of it on his own.

## **II KINGS 19**

### **VERSES 1-5**

1. As these men bring this terrible news to Hezekiah, what does he do? He doesn’t call for an emergency session with his therapist. He does not take an extra dose of antidepressants. He doesn’t even call 911. Then what does he do? He does three important things and things we can learn from.

First of all he was in mourning over the situation. He knew it was bad; there were 185,000 Assyrian soldiers ready to come against the Southern Kingdom, to destroy Jerusalem! In fact, he sees the situation so bad that he likens it to a woman who is in labor and does not have enough strength to deliver the child! Now if he was just in mourning of what the Assyrians were threatening to do, if he was sulking over what was going on, that would not be good. But he does not sit around and get depressed, he brings it to the LORD, he goes into the house of God, not the holy of holies but into the courts of the house of God! He went to seek God on this and that is also a good thing to do. You see, the king did not try to stand in his own righteousness so that they may be spared from this judgment but he calls for the Assyrians to be judged for their blasphemies against the Lord. You see, Hezekiah first assessed the situation and knew it was bad and then he came before the Lord, brought it before the Lord. And next, he brought this prayer request to a man of God to also be praying for the situation, he brought it to Isaiah the prophet.

2. Now we can learn a lot from this. When we are faced with a difficult situation, there is nothing wrong with mourning over it but don't stay there. Bring it before the Lord, seek His direction and let other godly men and women pray for you. We tend to sulk and remain there and never enter into the house of the Lord; never let others pray for us because we don't want them to know we are going through a tough time. I will tell you this; it won't matter because if you don't deal with it, they will find out!

VERSES 6-7

1. As Isaiah hears all these words, he brings this before the Lord. How do I know that? Because when he speaks he says, **“Thus says the LORD.”** In other words, Isaiah brought this to the Lord and the Lord spoke to him in what was going to take place and he then wants these men to go and let Hezekiah know that he should not to worry about the Assyrians, that God was going to deliver them! Now, were these words comforting to Hezekiah? Only if he believed that what God has said He is more than able to bring to pass. Let me turn this around a little. When you read God’s promises to you, when you are going through a difficult time, are His Words comforting to you? They should be and they will only be if you truly believe that God is able to do what He has promised you! And guess what? He is more than able or as Paul told us in Ephesians 3:20, **“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”** Or as The Amplified Bible puts his verse, **“Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams].”** Never lose sight of that fact!

VERSES 8-13

1. As time passes by the Rabshakeh returns towards Lachish and he finds out that his king, Sennacherib, is putting down a revolt in the area of Libnah. Now Lachish and Libnah were in close proximity to each other, about 10 miles, and they were located about some 30 miles southwest of Jerusalem. And at this point Hezekiah must have thought that the Words of the Lord were coming to pass. The Assyrians are heading home and their king would be killed. I find it interesting the wrong conclusions we come to because we think we have God figured out! Yes, God's promises will come to pass, but not necessarily the way we think or want!

2. Now word gets back to Sennacherib that the king of Egypt, Tirhakah, who was from Ethiopia, was coming up to make war with the Assyrians, and possibly to join forces with Judah. So this Assyrian king once again sends messengers to Jerusalem to warn them not to try this revolt, for you will only lose. In fact, they send a letter telling them not to count on their God to help them in this battle because other nations thought their gods would help them and they failed. Thus, learn the lessons and surrender or else. And think about it, the Assyrians had captured all the nations they wanted and how in the world did Hezekiah think that he was going to stop them! It was an intimidation letter and it was backed with evidence. What would Hezekiah do? Let's read on because we see another important point that we can apply to our own spiritual lives!

VERSES 14-19

1. Notice what Hezekiah does here. When he receives this letter from the Rabshakeh he brings it before the Lord. This is one of the reasons that Hezekiah was such a powerful king; he was a man of prayer. We at times find ourselves in situations that seem hopeless and wonder what God can do now. On the other hand, Hezekiah had his back up against the wall, surrounded by 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, and in his mind he is thinking, “I can’t do anything without God’s help”, and so he prays. And his request is simple. He tells God that all these nations have fallen and their gods burned, which were not really gods, and now Lord, if You would intercede for us You would not only show the Assyrians You are a living and powerful God, but also, all the other nations that trusted in their gods will see the same.

2. What I want you to also notice here are the words Hezekiah uses. He speaks of God as being the God of Israel, the God who dwells between the Cherubim, He alone is God, He has made all things, but why, did God forget that He was all these things? Absolutely not, it was a reminder to Hezekiah who the true and living God was and when you have a correct perspective of God, those fears can be pushed aside. It is when we lose sight of who God is that we are fearful! We need to learn the lesson and recognize who God is and then spread our requests before Him as Peter said, **“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”** I Peter 5:6-7.

3. And look at the passion in his prayers, incline your ear, hear, open your eyes, see and hear, save us, and-so-on. Are our prayers passionate, are we crying out to God or are we just throwing up prayers like, “Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub, Amen!” Now that may be a little tongue and cheek but look at the prayers in the Scriptures and these men are crying out to God to hear, to see, to act and our prayers are many times just pathetic, there is no emotion to them and thus, are we passionate about them? I don’t think so!

#### VERSES 20-21

1. Why did God speak to Hezekiah? Because he prayed to the Lord and God is now answering his prayer. I wonder how many times God is just waiting for us to pray about something so He can act. He doesn’t need us to do anything, but many times He will not do anything until we first come before Him. I wonder how many souls, how many blessings, how many victories are waiting to be answered by God, just waiting for us to pray about them, to bring them before Him? Remember what we have read, “**... Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘That which you have prayed to Me . . .’**” May we not forget that truth!

2. Now here we see God tell Hezekiah, through the prophet Isaiah, that He has heard his prayer and these words that he is going to speak forth will be words about the Rabshakeh and the king of Assyria. And Isaiah is saying that the Assyrians are truly the fools. Even the young girls of Jerusalem recognize that fact. Yes, the Assyrians came to ravish the daughter of Zion, the virgins, but God would not allow it to happen and thus, the lesson is simple, you can’t fight against God and win, and yet you are trying.

VERSES 22-28

1. Notice the pride of the Assyrians that God holds them accountable for. The Assyrians felt it was by their strength they were conquering the nations, but God tells them He is the one who gave them their strength so that His judgment could be poured out on the other nations through them. He was the one who created all this and He is the one who can take it away. There are many today who think they are doing their own thing, they don't need God, they don't believe in God, but their very existence is evidence that there is a God and God is orchestrating things to fulfill His plans and His purposes no matter what man may think, just like we see here with the Assyrians!

And remember that the Assyrians would put hooks in the noses of their captives and lead them away captive. Now God is saying that because you have rebelled against Me, I will do to you what you have done to others. Now what if they refuse to listen to what the Lord is saying? It won't matter because what God has said will come to pass, man can't escape it no matter how hard he tries and we will see that in a few minutes!

VERSES 29-31

1. God is now speaking to His people. Why did God give to them a sign? Because when this was accomplished, when it came to pass they would see that God is more than able to accomplish that which He has spoken and thus, it would encourage them. And here is the problem. Ever since the Assyrians have been causing all this trouble, the people have not been able to plant their crops. Even if they could the Assyrians would take them away. So now we see that God will provide food for them for 2 years and then in the third year they will be able to eat the food that they have planted. Here is the sign!



2. And also note that God will preserve a remnant. That is a great encouragement to me, especially in the days we are living in. Yes the Assyrian army was strong, and they destroyed many other nations, but God will preserve His remnant from Judah and He will do so today!

VERSES 32-34

1. God is telling His people not to fear the Assyrians but how can they not fear them? There were 185,000 Assyrians waiting to come against them, ready to cut the city off from the outside! The reason they were not to be fearful is because of God's Word. He tells the people that the Assyrians will not even be able to launch an arrow into your city, they will not build a siege mound against it, that they will leave as they have come because it is the Lord who will defend this city and not the armies of Judah!

2. We too have God's Word to us and it is easy to look at the children of Israel and see how they lapsed in their faith, how they did not trust in the Lord or His Word, but folk's, don't we do the same? Of course we do! Again, it is easy to believe God to do something easy, but it is sometimes harder to believe that God can do the impossible. We believe God can heal a headache and so we pray believing. But what about a brain tumor, do we still pray with that much faith that God can heal the person of a brain tumor? You see, sometimes there is a problem between our head and our heart. If we can't figure it out in our own minds, then we have a hard time believing it can be done. But it is the Lord who will fight for us, it is the Lord who is on the throne and thus, we should not fear because we have cast all our cares at His feet because He loves us!

#### VERSE 35

1. God delivers Judah by sending one angel who wipes out 185,000 Assyrians in one night! Now some feel that this was natural causes that these 185,000 Assyrians died, like bacillary dysentery which had a three day incubation period. Now you can believe what you want, but it does not say that God sent them some bad matzah balls but that He sent one of His angels and he wiped out this Assyrian army! I just believe what God's Word has to say, I don't need to know how, I just understand why and that it did come to pass!

Now think about this. Look at what just one angel did here and then, when you read in Matthew 26:53 when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said, **“Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”** Folk’s, one legion was made up of 6,000 soldiers and thus, Jesus had at His command or at the Father’s command some 72,000 angels to come to His side. A little overkill don’t you think! And Jesus did not even need them, but He came to die, He came to fulfill the will of the Father and go to the cross of Calvary for us and thus, the angels were not called into service!

#### VERSES 36-37

1. Just as God had said, these events came to pass and Sennacherib the king of Assyria went home in disgrace but still filled with pride. How do I know that? Because, after he retreated from Judah, Sennacherib commissioned a record of what he had done and they have been preserved in the Annals of Sennacherib, (the Taylor Prism) and this can be seen in the British Museum. Yes, he did not conquer Jerusalem, but he was still filled with pride! Listen to what is said,

I attacked Hezekiah of Judah who had not subjected himself to me, and took forty-six fortresses, forts and small cities. I carried away captive 200,150 people, big and small, both male and female, a multitude of horses, young bulls, asses, camels, and oxen. Hezekiah himself I locked up in Jerusalem like a bird in its cage. I put up banks against the city. I separated his cities whose inhabitants I had taken prisoners from his realm and gave them to Mitiniti, king of Ashdod, Padi, king of Ekron, and Zilbel, king of Gaza and thus diminished his country. And I added another tax to the one imposed on him earlier.

- Cited in Bultema, commentary on Isaiah

And T. C. Mitchell wrote regarding this,

The Biblical account concludes with the much debated statement that the Assyrian army was struck down in some way during the night with considerable loss of life, following which the siege was called off . . . The Assyrian Annals tacitly agree with the Biblical version by making no claim that Jerusalem was taken, only describing tribute from Hezekiah.

- T. C. Mitchell, The Bible in the British Museum

2. Now keep in mind that between II Kings 19:36 and II Kings 19:37 some 20 years passed by and maybe Sennacherib thought he had escaped the judgment of God, but that was not the case. As he goes into the temple of his gods his two sons come in and murder him! And thus, when his father was assassinated, Esarhaddon took the throne and ruled from 681 to 668 B. C. It is as Poole wrote, “God spared *Sennacherib*, not in mercy, but in wrath, reserving to him a more dreadful and shameful death by the hands of his own children.”

## **II KINGS 20**

### **VERSE 1**

1. We are not exactly sure when these events took place; some feel it took place before the Assyrian invasion others feel it took place after the events in II Kings chapter 19. But in either case, what we do know is that king Hezekiah gets word that the illness he has will lead to death, so get your house in order. I think that is a wise thing for all of us to do, for we do not know when the Lord will call us home, we all do not get a warning like Hezekiah did. It is important for all of us to make arrangements for our family that they will be taken care of when we are gone. It is just the right thing to do.

2. And even more importantly, we need to make sure that our relationship with the Lord is in order. Some people do a great job getting their finances in order but when it comes to their eternal security, they are totally unprepared. Amos 4:12 tells us to be ready to meet your God, don't be unprepared. You need to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, He needs to be Lord and Savior of your life and if you don't you will stand before Him in your own righteousness which will be like filthy rags before a holy God. J. Vernon McGee tells us regarding this whole idea of preparing for death as he wrote,

If each one of us knew the exact time we would die, would it not change our way of living? Even many Christians say, "Death is way off yonder in the future. I won't worry about it now." Well, we may not worry about it, but we ought to live knowing that death will be the ultimate goal.

Many years ago when a fine young minister was told by his doctor that he had a recurrence of cancer and his days were limited, he sent out a letter to some of his friends. I was privileged to be included in that list and I was shaken when I read his letter. Let me give you an excerpt from it: "One thing I have discovered in the last few days. When a Christian is suddenly confronted with the sentence of death, he surely begins to give a proper evaluation of material things: my fishing gear, and books, and orchard are not nearly so valuable as they were a week ago."

- J. Vernon McGee, Thru The Bible, pp. 346-347

May we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and not be caught up with all these other things that in the end, when death is on the doorstep, they won't matter! May we get our house in order now and live for Him!

### VERSES 2-3

1. Isaiah tells Hezekiah to get his house in order and in response to that Hezekiah cries out before the Lord to spare his life. And he asks God to extend his life on the basis of his faithfulness to the Lord. Back in II Samuel 22:21 we of read David saying, **“The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.”** You see, God did extend peoples life for their faithfulness to Him and that is what Hezekiah is appealing to God for. One writer expounds on this by writing, “We come across similar pleas again and again in the prayers of God’s children of old. The Psalms abound with them. But we do not find them in the New Testament. The Church bases its pleas on Christ’s righteousness.” (Bultema).

For us as Christians, we understand that in death we go to be with the Lord. The sting has been removed by Christ and thus, to live is Christ and die is gain! It is as Trapp wrote, “But why should a saint be fond of life, or afraid of death, since to him it is as his father’s horse, to carry him to his father’s house?” That truly is the correct perspective to have and in having that, nothing will stop you from serving the Lord! Examine the life of Paul and you will see this in his life and that is why nothing stopped him!

VERSES 4-7

1. God tells Hezekiah, by the prophet Isaiah, that he will live another 15 years. The healing will take place as they put this poultice of figs, which was a medicinal paste used back then, and place it upon this deadly sore.

Now here is the question, “Does God use medicine to heal people or is that just a lack of faith on their part in using medicine?” Well, you look at what is spoken here and it clearly tells me that God uses medicine to heal people. Some today would have you think otherwise and tell you that you are not trusting in the Lord to be healed. I once had a brother tell me that if he had diabetes like me, that he would not take insulin. He would just trust in the Lord to heal him. I have no problem with God healing people, but that is not how He works all the time. Yes we should go to Him first and then seek the doctors and medicine, for He does use them to help us get over illnesses or to keep us living. This same brother who told me that he would not take insulin if he had diabetes ended up having a hernia a short time latter, and was recovering from the surgery he had to repair that problem. We also see the problems that have come up with people that refuse to take the medicine that will heal them. Parents have said that they were trusting in God to heal their son of diabetes and refused to give their child insulin, and their child died. God is telling us here that He does use medicine to heal people with. Many of these false doctrines end up hurting or killing people, and that is the tragedy of them.



VERSE 8

1. As Isaiah tells Hezekiah that he will recover he wants a sign that his strength will return to him by the third day. Yes, he applied this paste to his body but he was still weak and he is inquiring to see when he will be completely made well. Let's read and see what Isaiah has to say to Hezekiah regarding this sign.

VERSES 9-11

1. Isaiah asks the king if the shadow on the sundial should go backwards or forwards. And Hezekiah tells Isaiah backwards, for it is no big thing for it to go forwards. How could God do this I don't know, but He did. He caused the shadow of the sun to go back 10 degrees or about 40 minutes worth of time. Remember when Joshua was fighting against the Amorites back in Joshua chapter 10 and we saw God cause the sun to remain up for almost 24 hours so Joshua could defeat them. How can that be? It is easy if you believe in Genesis 1:1, "**In the beginning God created . . .**" because if you believe that, then everything else seems easy to believe!

Of this Knapp wrote, "It was a miracle, whatever way we take it. God could have reversed the revolution of the earth, had He seen fit to do so – for he is a poor clockmaker even, who cannot turn the hands of his own workmanship backward; or He could have caused the phenomenon by the ordinary law of refraction." But we don't need to try to figure out what He did, we just need to believe that He did it!

VERSES 12-13

1. After this miraculous recovery of Hezekiah, the Lord adding 15 more years to his life, it was up to Hezekiah on how he was to live out those 15 more years. Would he live them wisely or would he do foolishly? We will see in a few minutes what he does with his life and here is the thing, when God says your life is over, do we really need to plead with Him to give us more? We can pray for a healing, but doesn't God know best? Absolutely and we will see that in a few minutes, but just keep this thought in mind.

2. This was a common practice, to send an envoy to a king who has recovered, but this is more than that. How do I know that? There are a few things that tell me that there was something more up their selves, the Babylonians that is. First of all we see that Berodach-Baladan, the son of the king of Babylon was involved in this meeting and this gift that was sent. But why were they so interested in Judah? The reason is simple; they wanted the Southern Kingdom of Judah to assist them in their battles against the Assyrians, which were in power at this time. And if the Southern Kingdom of Judah defeated the Assyrians, 185,000 soldiers wiped out, the Babylonians wanted them on their side!

Wiseman wrote this, "According to Josephus (*Ant.* X.2.2.) the purpose of the visit was to secure Hezekiah as an ally against an anti-Assyrian coalition." And Morgan wrote, "The real reason of the visit was political; Babylon desired to throw off the yoke of Assyria. What nation was more likely to help them than the one at the hands of which Assyria had been so completely defeated? Babylon sought alliance with Judah against Assyria." So I believe that is the reason that the Babylonians sent this envoy to Judah.

3. When they arrived Hezekiah was more than pleased to show them all the wealth of the kingdom. Now that is interesting because he does not show them the temple, but the wealth. That tells me Hezekiah was prideful about his possessions and instead of showing them the things of God, he showed them the things of this world. In fact, Knapp picks up on this and he wrote, “Why did he not show these learned heathen God’s house? ‘Every whit’ of which showeth ‘His glory’ (Psalm 29:9, margin). There he could have explained to them the meaning of the brazen altar, and the sacrifices offered thereon; and who can tell what the results might not have been in the souls of these idolaters?” A very interesting point indeed, but what about us? Are we more concerned about showing off our new car or our new heart that the Lord has given us? You see, we have not learned the lesson, have we?

#### VERSES 14-18

1. This was not an uncommon practice, to show your wealth to others, as Hezekiah did, but it was foolish. The reason he did this was to show off his things, it was a pride trip according to what we read in II Chronicles 32:24-25, **“In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the Lord; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign. But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem.”** Pride brought him down and just look at how he acts. He is like a little kid seeing some big shot ballplayer and is just overwhelmed by him. He shows them everything, all the wealth, all the riches of the kingdom, and again, he does not show them the house of God, he does not point them to the true and living God!

2. Now as Isaiah hears what he did he tells the king he has done foolishly for one day they will rise up and take not only the treasures of this kingdom, but also your people. We now see the first glimpse that the Babylonians would grow to be a world empire sometime in the not to distant future, their deportation to Babylon is less than 100 years away! And of this Trapp wrote, “This was proudly and foolishly done; for now gold-thirsty Babylon knew where to have her draught, where to fetch a fat and fit booty.” It was only a matter of time before them came for this wealth and the people!

#### VERSE 19

1. As you read what the response of Hezekiah is, it should trouble you. You see, Hezekiah is not “others-centered” in his response to this news that judgment was coming, he was “self-centered.” You see, Hezekiah is told that this will not take place in his days and his response is, “Praise the Lord for that!” Doesn’t that seem self-centered, it does to me, it seems very selfish. Earlier, when he thought he was going to die, he was up all night praying to the Lord to be delivered, and that God would be merciful to him. Now that this won’t affect him personally, he shows no concern.

2. Remember what Paul told us in Philippians 2:1-4, **“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”** Paul is saying that we need to be others-centered and the only way that is going to happen is when you put on the mind of Christ, you focus on Him and allow His Spirit to guide you in all that you do!

Also, Paul tells us in I Corinthians 10:24, **“Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being.”** Yes we are to be concerned for others and be in prayer for them. Too many times we are seeking to be on the top of the pile when in reality we should be helping others to the top. Again, Paul tells us in Hebrews 10:24-25, **“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”** We are to encourage others and not discourage them in the work of the Lord. Stir up in others love and good works and you will be blessed by it. Be others-centered and not self-centered!

VERSES 20-21

1. During his reign, Hezekiah built an aqueduct to bring a fresh water supply into this walled city. From the spring of Gihon, which was outside the wall of Jerusalem, in the Kidron valley, he dug a tunnel some 1,777 feet to the pool of Siloam. This was an amazing piece of work for they started on opposite ends, digging through solid rock, and they met in the middle, which was an engineering feat even for today! So this fresh water ran from the spring of Gihon to the pool of Siloam which protected them from the enemy cutting off their fresh water supply. (II Chronicles 32:30).

Of this Wiseman wrote, “An inscription in cursive Hebrew of the early eighth century B.C. details the work:” ‘When (the tunnel) was driven through while (the quarrymen were swinging their) axes, each man towards the other and, while there was still 3 cubits to be cut through (there was heard) the voice of a man calling to his fellow, for there was a crevice (?) on the right . . . and when the tunnel was (finally) driven through, the quarrymen hewed each towards the others, axe against axe. Then the waters flowed from the Spring to the Pool for 1,200 cubits and the height of the rock above the head(s) of the quarrymen was 100 cubits.’”

Yes, Hezekiah started out as a godly man and overall his reign was good, but he did not finish well. Those 15 added years that God had given him did not make him more of a godly man. And folk’s, you may have heard or you have said something like this, “Time will tell.” Time is not going to do anything; it is how you use that time that truly matters. Whatever time God has given to us, may we use for His glory! May we not only start out well, may we finish well!

2. Now during those 15 extra years there was born to Hezekiah a son by the name of Manasseh and he was a wicked man. And now, after Hezekiah's death, his son Manasseh is now on the throne and he did evil before the Lord. We will look more at his life next time, but it is not good! Thus, let me close with this. May we listen to God and not fight against His will in our lives. May we finish well the faith that He has begun in us and understand that what He has started He will complete. The only one who can get in the way of what God is doing is *US!* May we surrender to His Spirit and walk by faith!

## Hezekiah's Tunnel

