

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

**Ice Breaker:** Can you name a time when you called on God and He answered in a big way?

**1.** Read 2 Kings 18:1-8; 19:1-37. Nathan uses the scripture to highlight Hezekiah's character and response to several crisis situations in his life. This serves as an example to us of a life centered on trust in God regardless of circumstance. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord (18:3); he trusted in the Lord (18:5); He held fast to the Lord (18:6). **Q.** Do you have a faith that guides you in what you do, what you trust, and to what you hold fast?

**A. Situation:** Assyria had defeated the Northern Kingdom and was threatening Judah. On paper, defeat was almost certain. **Q.** Have you ever faced a situation that seemed hopeless? What did you do?

**B. What Hezekiah does:** He went into the house of the Lord (19:1) and gave it to God (19:14); he sought godly advice (19:2, 3); he sought the prayers of others (19:4); he prayed earnestly (19:19). **Q.** Is your first response to take it to the Lord? (Matt 6:33).

**C. What God does:** God says, "Do not be afraid" (19:6); "I will take care of this" (19:7); "Because you have prayed to me...I have heard" (19:20); God says, "I will"...and it came to pass (19:34, 35). **Q.** How much do you trust God to help you through (not around) a problem? Why do you think we must suffer through problems at all?

**2.** Read 2 Kings 20:1-6. This is a section of Scripture showing the delivery and response to terrible news. Nathan reminds us to take hope in a God who preserves His own.

**A. Situation:** Hezekiah is told he will soon and surely die (20:1). **Q.** What are some possible alternative responses to this type of news?

**B. What Hezekiah does:** Quickly he seeks to avoid all distractions (turning to the wall); he reminds God, and himself, of his lifelong walk with Him (praying); and he let himself feel the weight of the news (weeping bitterly). **Q.** Does this response seem reasonable? Does it feel familiar?

**C. What God does:** He answers quickly (in this instance); He hears our prayers and sees our tears; God heals him giving him clear instructions and even does a great deal more than the healing even promising the protection of the city. **Q.** Does God hear and respond to every prayer of ours?

**3.** Read 2 Kings 21:1-18. To compare and contrast we see the life and belief system of Hezekiah's son Manasseh and God's response to this approach.

**A. Situation:** Hezekiah has died. His son Manasseh has been co-reagent since the age of 12 and is now sole ruler of the kingdom at the age of 22 or 24. **Q.** How did Manasseh go so far off track given the example of his father?

**B. What Manasseh does:** He did evil (21:2); rebuilt the high places and alters to Baal (21:3); he defiled the house of God (21:4); sacrificed his own son (21:6); consulted spiritualists and mediums, all provoking God to anger (21:6). **Q.** Why do people with a chance to do good choose evil instead?

**C. What God does:** He brings calamity down upon Judah and Jerusalem. The punishment extends far beyond the king to the nation. **Q.** Our sin will always affect others to some extent, do you agree or disagree?

**4.** Faithfulness brings testing. Do not fear testing as it is for our benefit and to the glory of God!

**5. Reflection:** Regarding this study, what do you see? What do you think? What do you feel? What will you do?

**Outline:**

Hezekiah's Character (2 Kings 18:1-8)  
Summary of the Fall of Northern Kingdom of Israel (18:9-12)  
Assyria Attacks Judah (18:13, 19-25)  
Hezekiah Appeals to God through Isaiah the Prophet (19:1-7)  
Assyria Mocks the God of Israel (19:8-14)  
Hezekiah Responds with Desperate Prayer to God (19:14-19)  
God Answers Hezekiah's Prayer through Isaiah (19:32-34)  
An Angel of God Decimates the Armies of Assyria (19:35-37)  
Hezekiah Becomes Deathly Ill and Responds with Prayer (20:1-3)  
The Lord Relents and Heals Hezekiah (20:4-6)  
Manasseh's Character (21:1-9)  
God's Response to Manasseh's Wickedness (21:10-18)

**Application:**

Seek the Glory of God, both in prayer and through actions. Seek first the kingdom of God (Mt. 6:33).  
Take hope in the fact that God is sovereign. Sometimes trials/tribulation are a result of discipline, and other times it is due to the effects of living in a sinful world.

Know that when you desire to earnestly seek God, trials will come, and they will increase. This will prove as a test of our faith and also the glory of God (Jn. 15:18-21).

Take hope in a God who preserves his own. God will always preserve himself a remnant (Romans 8:35-39).  
Realize that persecution is coming and is already here. Learn from the lesson of Hezekiah that faithfulness brings testing. Do not fear testing, for it is for our benefit and the glory of God!