

What Made Hezekiah Great?

II Kings 18:1-6

I. Hezekiah – Biographical Sketch

- Son of Ahaz and Abijah; Born about 740 B.C.; Reign from 716-697 B.C.; Reigned 29 years.
- Isaiah and Micah prophesied during his reign; Was one of the good kings of Judah. Enacted great reforms.
- We learn about Hezekiah: II Kings 18-20; II Chron. 29-32; Isa. 36-38
- Lessons we can learn about the greatness of this man...

II. Hezekiah Was A Great Man...

- A great religious reformer: (II Chron. 29:3-5; 30:1ff; 31:ff); Wanted others to worship God: (II Chron. 29:27-29; 30:1-6; Prov. 25:1); A great national leader: (II Chron. 32:1ff.); He was great even in death. (II Chron. 32:33)

III. Things That Did Not Make Hezekiah Great...

- His father, Ahaz, who was an evil man.
 - Parents should provide spiritual guidance and training for their children: (Deut. 6:5-9; Eph. 6:4)
 - Consider values that need to be learned at an early age:
 - Love for God. (Matt. 22:36ff; Jn. 14:15); Proper treatment of others. (Matt. 7:12)
 - Respect for authority. (Eph. 6:1, etc); Respect for life. (Gen. 1:26-28; 9:6)
 - Self-control. (I Sam. 3:13); Honesty. (Eph. 4:25)
 - Work, responsibility. (Eph. 4:28); The importance of seeking first the kingdom of God. (Matt. 6:33)
 - Hezekiah did not get that from his father, Ahaz. (II Kings 16:2-4)
- His children.
 - His son Manasseh was an evil man. (II Kings 21:1-6)
- His age.
 - Hezekiah was only 25 when he began to reign as king.
 - Eccl. 12:1 → Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.
 - I Tim. 4:12 → **12** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
- A Perfect Life.
 - Hezekiah is rebuked by God in II Kings 20:12-17 for showing the envoys from Babylon the treasures of his house. The danger of pride. (II Chron. 32:24-26; Prov. 16:18)

IV. What Made Hezekiah Great...

- He did right in the sight of the Lord: II Kings 18:3; II Chron. 31:20
 - Not: His family. (Matt. 10:34-35); his friends. (I Pet. 4:4); his own eyes. (Prov. 14:12); the popular majority. (Jn. 12:42-43)
- He acted without compromise or hesitancy. II Ki. 18:4
 - II Chron. 29:3 → in the first year of his reign in the first month.
 - II Chron. 29:10-11,31; 30:19; 31:1ff
- He placed his trust in the Lord. (II Ki. 18:5)
 - II Chron. 32:7-8
 - (Prov. 3:5; Phil. 4:13)
- He was a man of prayer.
 - (II Chron. 32:20; 24; I Pet. 3:12)
- He clave unto the Lord. (II Ki. 18:6)
 - Kept close, adhered, loyal and devoted. (Gen. 2:24; Ruth 1:14)

