

## Preparing To Die

### ***“Set thy house in order ...”***

2 Kings 20:1-6

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## **“Set thy house in order”**

### **Observations:**

#### **Life Is Uncertain! Proverbs 27:1**

- **Death is certain. Ecclesiastes 9:5, “*the living know they shall die.*”**
- **We don’t know when. James 4:14**
- **Judgment is sure. Hebrews 9:27**
- **Purpose for life. Ecclesiastes 12:13**
- **We need to set our houses in order!**

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## **Facts About Hezekiah:**

### **King of Judah. 726-697 BC**

- The 13<sup>th</sup> of 20 kings. 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 25
- He was 25 years old when he began to reign.
- He reigned 29 years. 2 Kings 18:1.
  - 25 + 29 = 54 when he died.
- He was 39 when he received the death sentence.
- Contemporary with Isaiah. Isaiah 1:1; 2 Kings 20:1

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## **Facts About Hezekiah:**

### **Son of Ahaz. 2 Kings 16:20.**

- Ahaz reigned 16 years; was evil. 2 Kings 16:2-4.
- 2 Chronicles 28:19: He “*encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the Lord*” NKJV.
- He brought ruin upon the nation!

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## **Facts About Hezekiah:**

- **2 Kings 18:3, “*He did that which was right ...*”**
- **His ambition (aim) was to please God, not man. 2 Corinthians 5:9; Galatians 1:10; Acts 5:27-29.**
  - He removed the high places, broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherah. 2 Kings 18:4
  - He broke in pieces the Nehushtan that Moses had made. 2 Kings 18:4b
  - He kept the commandments of the Lord. 2 Kings 18:6
  - He turned to God, not man, when Sennacherib was threatening him and blaspheming God. 2 Kings 19:14-19

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## **Facts About Hezekiah:**

- **2 Kings 18:5-6, “*He trusted in the Lord God of Israel.*”**

**2 Chronicles 32:7-8, “*Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him; for there is a greater with us than with him: with him is an arm of flesh; but with us is Jehovah our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*”**

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### Facts About Hezekiah:

- Cleansed the temple and restored worship in Jerusalem. 2 Chronicles 29:3-36
- During a time of siege he built a tunnel from the Gihon Spring to bring water to Jerusalem. 2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chronicles 32:30; cf. Isaiah 22:9-11. (Cut out of solid rock; about 1700 feet long. Height varies from 3 2/3 to 11 1/2 feet. Portions still remain!)
- In times of crisis He prayed; God answered!
  - 2 Kings 19:14-19
  - 2 Kings 20:1-2

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### But Hezekiah Was Not Perfect!

- He showed the messengers from Babylon *“all the house of his precious things.”* 2 Kings 20:12-15; Isaiah 39:1-8.
- Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah, and informed him that his descendants would be carried to Babylon, and they would serve the king of Babylon. 2 Kings 20:16-19

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### Examine The Text, 2 Kings 20:1-6

- Verse 1, *“Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.”*
- Verse 2, *“He turned his face to the wall, and prayed...”* cf. Isaiah 38:2
- Verse 3, He petitioned God to *“remember”*:
  - *“How I walked before thee in truth,”*
  - *“And with a perfect (loyal, NKJV) heart,”*
  - *“and have done that which is good in thy sight.”*

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### Examine The Text, 2 Kings 20:1-6

- Verse 3, He *“wept sore,”* or *“bitterly,”* NKJV. Isaiah 38:3.
- He did not manifest the same spirit as did Paul. cf. Philippians 1:21, 23
- A factor to remember:
  - He was only 39 years old (2 Kings 18:2; 20:6).
  - He had no heirs to the throne. Manasseh, his son and successor, was born three years after his recovery. 2 Kings 21:1

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### God Immediately Answered His Prayer 2 Kings 20:4-6; Isaiah 38:4-6

- *“I have heard thy prayer,”* 20:5
- *“I have seen thy tears,”* 20:5
- *“I will heal thee,”* 20:5
- *“I will add unto thy days 15 years,”* 20:5
- *“I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria,”* 20:6.
- *“I will defend this city for ... my sake.”* 20:6
- Note: God then gave him a *“Sign.”* 20:8-11

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### Application For People Today cf. Romans 15:4

#### We, too, shall die and not live! Causes:

- The body wears out. 2 Corinthians 5:1; Ecclesiastes 12:1-7; Psalms 90
- Disease. 2 Kings 1:2; Matthew 4:24
- Murder. Genesis 4:8
- Suicide. 1 Samuel 31:4
- Accident. Luke 13:4

#### What Occurs at Death?

- The spirit leaves the body. James 2:26
- Earthly ties are broken. Genesis 23:1-4
- The soul goes to the hades realm to await the judgment. Luke 16:19-31

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## **Set Your House in Order By:**

### **Making provisions for your family. 1 Timothy 5:8**

- Making a will. Hebrews 9:15-17.

### **Repairing broken human relations.**

- Domestic. Ephesians 5:25; 6:1-2, 4; Titus 2:4-5
- Social. Romans 13:8, 10
- Spiritual. Matthew 5:23; 18:15-17

### **Doing what it takes to be right with God!**

- Sinners must obey the Gospel.
- Members of the church who have fallen away must repent, pray, confess. Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9

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## **What does setting your house in order mean to you?**

- *Getting rid of the clutter.*
- *Setting your finances in order.*
- *Showing more affection in the home.*
- *Getting your life back on track.*
- *Studying the Word of God.*
- *Praying with a purpose.*
- *Seeking forgiveness from those you have offended.*
- *Removing resentment.*
- *Writing your own obituary.*

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## **Conclusion:**

- **Most People, when they die, have not set their houses in order; especially as it pertains to their relationship with God.**
- **Don't make that Mistake!!**

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