

IMPACT

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A Weekly Publication of the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church Containing
Life-Changing Sunday School Lessons and BMA's Preaching Materials

VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

*“He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him...”
—2 Kings 18:5—*

THE BIBLICAL GIVERS

Lesson 05: HEZEKIAH, THE REFORMER AND BIBLICAL GIVER

Introduction

Hezekiah was the 15th king of Judah of the Southern Kingdom, who instigated civil and religious reforms. He is known to have a personal, growing relationship with God and developed a powerful prayer life. In contrast with his father Ahaz, Hezekiah followed God more closely and sincerely than any other king of Judah or Israel (after the division of kingdom). His faith and prayer were rewarded when the Lord extended his life by 15 years (2 Kings 20:1-6). It is said that later on, it appears that Hezekiah's prosperity, success and deliverance from sickness had made him proud. Rather than giving credit to God for all his blessings, he tried to impress others. When God helps and blesses us, we must not use his blessings to impress others or flaunt these blessings to others. A testimony of victory can quickly degenerate into vanity and self-congratulations.

Message

How did Hezekiah restore worship and cheerful giving during his reign?

A. Hezekiah abolished the rampant idol worship during his term. The Israelites had access to the one true God but they constantly fell into worshipping lifeless idols made of wood or stone. They put aside worshipping the Creator in order

to worship the creation. Even the brazen serpent that Moses made to cure the Israelites of a deadly plague (Numbers 21:4-9) and was a reminder of God's mercy and forgiveness—it had later on become an object of worship instead of a reminder of whom to worship. Hezekiah was forced to destroy it and all the images and groves (2 Kings 18:4). We are just as guilty when God no longer holds first place in our lives. When we think more about wealth, pleasure, prestige, or material possessions than about God, we are actually worshipping them as idols.

B. Hezekiah repaired the Temple, supported the priests and Levites and reinstated worship (2 Chron. 31:2-21).

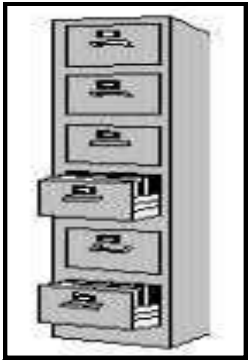
C. Hezekiah and his people demonstrated what and how cheerful giving should be. What is cheerful giving according to Hezekiah and his people (2 Chron. 31)?

1. Cheerful giving is a generous act (v.2):
 - It is an act of service;
 - It is an act of thanksgiving; and
 - It is an act of worship.



STRAIGHT FROM THE
PASTOR'S HEART
DR. BENNY M. ABANTE, JR.





The BMA ARCHIVES

Dr. Benny M. Abante's
PREACHING MATERIALS

Contd.

2. Cheerful giving is an encouragement to the men of God (v.4);

- It inspires courage, spirit and confidence; and
- It stimulates spiritually.

3. Cheerful giving is a sign of consecration (vv. 6, 12);

- set apart; and
- hold in high religious regard.

4. Cheerful giving motivates people to bless the Lord (v.8);

5. Cheerful giving moves the Lord to bless His people (v.10);

6. Cheerful giving works what is good, right and truth before the Lord (v.20); and

7. Cheerful giving done with all our hearts results to prosperity (v.21).

Conclusion

Hezekiah demonstrated a life that is fully lived in high confidence in God who blessed him not only with material blessings but most importantly with rich spiritual blessings that made him not just a cheerful giver but an honorable man of God. What an honor indeed to see God in the pages of the Scriptures speaking well of Hezekiah because of his great testimony of cheerful and blessed giving. May Hezekiah's life be replicated in our midst in this generation as we continue to take on our journey of biblical and cheerful giving!

—BMA's Messages/Life

Application Study Bible/Wilson P. Tan 02.12.12

NOTHING SHALL OUR MOUTH SPEAK
BUT THE BLESSING OF THE WORD
AND THE GLORY OF GOD.



THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:

FEBRUARY 12	PSALMS 8:3, 4
FEBRUARY 13	PSALMS 12:6
FEBRUARY 14	PSALMS 19:7-11
FEBRUARY 15	PSALMS 19:14
FEBRUARY 16	PSALMS 24:1
FEBRUARY 17	PSALMS 27:1
FEBRUARY 18	PSALMS 30:4

To memorize one (1) verse in every chapter, tokens shall be awarded to those who can recite all memory verses after every book.

Hezekiah's Sickness, His Recovery in Answer to Prayer

By: Matthew Henry

Hezekiah was sick unto death, in the same year in which the king of Assyria besieged Jerusalem. A warning to prepare for death was brought to Hezekiah by Isaiah. Prayer is one of the best preparations for death, because by it we fetch in strength and grace from God, to enable us to finish well. He wept sorely; some gather from hence that he was unwilling to die. It is in the nature of man to dread the separation of soul and body. There was also something **peculiar in Hezekiah's case**—he was now in the midst of his usefulness. Hezekiah does not pray, *Lord, spare me*: but, *Lord remember me: whether I live or die, let me be thine*. God always hears the prayers of broken in heart, and will give health, length of days, and temporal deliverances, as much as long as is truly good for them. Means were to be used for **Hezekiah's recovery; yet considering to what a height the disease was come, and how suddenly it was checked, the cure was miraculous**. It is our duty, when sick, to use such means as are proper to help nature, else we do not trust God, but tempt him. For the confirmation of his faith, the shadow of the sun was carried back and the light was continued longer than usual, in a miraculous manner. This work of wonder shows the power of God in heaven as well as on earth, the great notice he takes of prayer, and the great favor he bears to his chosen (2 Kings 20:12-21).