

The Secret To True Prosperity

2 Kings 18:1-8 (ESV)

1 In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.

3 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.

4 He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan).

5 He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him.

6 For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses.

7 And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.

8 He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

I. We must embrace God's holiness!

2 Kings 18:3 (ESV) - And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.

Historical background: Ahaz, his Daddy was evil!

Principal: Don't blame your parents, or anybody else for that matter, for your own lack of worship!

1. He exposed and removed idolatry of every kind!

He determined to worship the Lord in spirit and truth only!

2 Kings 18:4 (ESV) - He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan).

HISTORY BACKGROUND:

1. Reopened the temple (2 Chron. 29-31)
2. Re instituted Passover (extended 7 days)
3. Revival followed
4. Sought to bring Israel together in unity to worship

2 Kings 17:38-41 (ESV)

38 and you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not fear other gods,

39 but you shall fear the Lord your God, and he will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.”

40 However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner.

41 So these nations feared the Lord and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children's children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

2. What is holiness?

It the state of being set apart to God and it starts with true Worship!

1st commandment = Worship the right and only God

2nd commandment = Worship God in the right way

3rd commandment = Worship God sincerely

4th commandment = Worship God with others regularly

2 Kings 18:7a (ESV) - And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he PROSPERED.

We have to worship Him in holiness!

No matter WHAT the world thinks!

II. We must place our trust in the Lord!

2 Kings 18:5 (ESV) - He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him.

2 Kings 19:14-16 (ESV)

14 Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord.

15 And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord and said: "O Lord, the God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.

16 Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God.

John 16:33 (ESV) - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Who or what do we really turn to when the going gets rough?

Luke 8:22-25 (ESV)

22 One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out,

23 and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

24 And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

25 He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

1. Storms happen!

2. We have to handle storms through Jesus!

Prov. 3:5-6 (ESV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

III. We must hold fast to the Lord and His commandments!

2 Kings 18:6 (ESV) - For he held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses.

"Hold fast" in Hebrew means "to adhere to"

Joshua 23:8-10 (ESV)

8 but you shall cling to the Lord your God just as you have done to this day.

9 For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations. And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day.

10 One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the Lord your God who fights for you, just as he promised you.

What does it take to make you give up on the promises of God?

2 Kings 18:7-8 (ESV)

7 And the Lord was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.

8 He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.