



Lesson 146

Hezekiah's Pride

Story Elements

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 20:12-21; Isaiah 39:1-8; 2 Chronicles 32:24-26, 31 • Setting: circa 703 BC, in Jerusalem • Main Characters: God, Hezekiah, and Isaiah • Plot: Hezekiah's pride leads him to reveal all his wealth to his kingdom's future enemies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): "his _____ was lifted up" (2 Ch. 32:25) • Climax: <i>2 Kings 20:14 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon.</i> |
|---|--|

Pride and Rebuke

1. (2 Ki. 20:12) Word of Hezekiah's sickness and miraculous recovery had spread all the way to Babylon. Of special interest was the "wonder that was done in the land" (2 Chro. 32:31) - a reference to the retrocession of the sun, an astronomical miracle which would've attracted the attention of Babylon's famous astronomers.
 - (a) (2 Ki. 20:13) Consequently, the king of Babylon (Berodach-baladan) sent envoys to visit the king of Judah. It is said Hezekiah "hearkened" unto the envoys sent by, possibly implying that the Babylonians also sought some league between the two kingdoms against the _____.
 - (b) Hezekiah showed these emissaries everything: "*There was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.*" Part of Hezekiah's motivation may have been to show his _____ of being in league with the Babylonians.

2. (2 Ki. 20:14) Soon after Hezekiah had conducted this revealing tour of his kingdom's strength, Isaiah the prophet rebuked him. As is often the case in many episodes in the Bible, the rebuke began with a question: "*What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee?*" Isaiah knew, but his questioning would help to provoke repentance in Hezekiah's heart. Can you think of other instances in the Bible where questions preempted rebukes? _____

Prophecy and Repentance

3. (2 Ki. 20:15-18) Hezekiah confessed that he had disclosed everything to the Babylonians, nothing was hidden from them, to which Isaiah responded: "*Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house...shall be carried into _____: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee...shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.*"

4. (2 Ki. 20:19) Hezekiah replied with, “*Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken,*” and, “*Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?*” Hezekiah's response sounds odd and even selfish, but his words reflect a heart that was both _____ and relieved at the same time. Matthew Henry notes, “True penitents, when they are under divine rebukes, call them not only just, but good; not only submit to the punishment of their iniquity, but accept of it. So Hezekiah did, and by this it appeared that he was indeed humbled for the pride of his heart.”¹

Application

5. In the account of Hezekiah's showing the Babylonians his wealth and strength, it is not immediately noticeable in the 2 Kings 20 narrative that what he did was sinful, but we see in 2 Chro. 32:25, 26 that _____ was a latent sin that resided in Hezekiah's heart. Matthew Henry explains, “if we do this in the pride of our hearts, as Hezekiah did, to gain applause from men, and not giving praise to God, it turns into sin to us, as it did to him.”²

(a) Pride is a deadly sin that can easily go undetected and can quickly escalate into more numerous and injurious sins. Charles Spurgeon said, “That demon of pride was born with us, and it will not _____ one hour before us.”

(b) Although pride can strike at any time, we should especially should we be on alert in times of relative _____ and ease. (cf. Deu. 8:11-14)

6. The doom that Isaiah prophesied was fulfilled to the minutest detail over a century later when Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem. Isaiah said, “*And of thy sons that shall issue from thee...shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.*” And we read in Daniel 1:3: “*And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the _____ seed, and of the princes;*”

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “heart” • 1. a) Assyrians; b) worthiness • 2. God questioned Adam, “Where art thou?” (Gen. 3:9) And Cain, “Where is Abel thy brother?” (Gen. 4:9) and Samuel asked Saul, “What meaneth this bleating of the sheep?” (1 Sam. 15:14) • 3. Babylon • 4. repentant • 5. pride; a) die; b) prosperity • 6. king’s

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print
² Ibid.