

Keys To Kingdom 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. Worship the Lord Wholeheartedly!

2 Kings 18:3 (ESV) - And he DID what was RIGHT in the eyes of the LORD

Don't blame your parents for your lack of worship!

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. Reinstated Passover (extended 7 days)
3. Revival followed
4. Sought to bring Israel together in unity to worship

2 Kings 17:38-41 (NIV)

38. Do not forget the covenant I have made with you, and do not worship other gods.
39. Rather, worship the LORD your God; it is he who will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."
40. They would not listen, however, but persisted in their former practices.
41. EVEN WHILE THESE PEOPLE WERE WORSHIPING THE LORD, they were SERVING THEIR IDOLS. To this day THEIR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN CONTINUE to do as their fathers did.

EPH. 5:8-10 (NIV)

- 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light
- 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)
- 10 AND FIND OUT WHAT PLEASES THE LORD.
- 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

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

5TH commandment = Honor your parents/authority

6th commandment = Love and honor life

7th commandment = Be faithful

8th commandment = Be a giver, not a taker

9th commandment = Love truth and speak truth

10th commandment = Be grateful for what God has blessed you and others with

Our job is not to make the CHURCH acceptable to the PEOPLE OF THE WORLD...

Our job is to help the PEOPLE OF THE WORLD become acceptable to GOD!

2 Kings 18:4b - 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).

II. Trust the Lord Relentlessly!

2 Kings 18:5 - 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.

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 the heavens and the 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."

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?"

Mark 4:35-41 (ESV)

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "LET US GO ACROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE."

36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "TEACHER, DO YOU NOT CARE THAT WE ARE PERISHING?"

39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 He said to them, "WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID? HAVE YOU STILL NO FAITH?"

41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The first is simply....storms happen!

The second fact about storms is we have to handle them 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. Hold on to the Lord Stubbornly!

2 Kings 18:6 - For he HELD FAST to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but KEPT (guarded, protected, took heed, attended to), the commandments that the Lord commanded Moses.

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.

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my WITNESSES in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Witness = (Gk. Martyr)-One who speaks of God's truth even to death

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.

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We must Trust the Lord Relentlessly!

We must Hold on to the Lord Stubbornly!