

HEZEKIAH:

YAHWEH'S INSTRUMENT FOR CHANGE

Class 2: The Waters of the River, Strong and Many

THE COMPLACENT ECCLESIA

- The people were not being educated in the scriptures.
- The people spent their time on their own interests.
- Their leaders did not know God's laws.
- They were adorning themselves for show not Godliness.
- Energy was focused on materialism.
- They were spiritually starving.
- They loved the things of the world.

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Isaiah 8:6

“Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly, And rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah’s son;”

Isaiah 8:7

“The waters of the river, strong and many,
Even the king of Assyria, and all his
glory:
And he shall come up over all his
channels,
And go over all his banks:”

The Assyrian invasions of the eighth century B.C. were the most traumatic political events in the entire history of Israel.

The brutal Assyrian style of warfare relied on massive armies, superbly equipped with the world's first great siege machines manipulated by an efficient corps of engineers...



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...Psychological terror, however, was Assyria's most effective weapon. It was ruthlessly applied, with corpses impaled on stakes, severed heads stacked in heaps, and captives skinned alive. The prophets did not fail to scream out against their horror, while at the same time pleading with the people to see God's hand in history, to recognize spiritual causes in the present punishment.

NIV Study Bible

HEZEKIAH'S PREPARATION

I. God brought a devastating crisis.

2 Chronicles 29:1

“Hezekiah began to reign *when he was* five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name *was* Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.”

2 Chronicles 28:1

“Ahaz *was* twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem: but he did not *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, like David his father:”

2 Chronicles 29:1

“Hezekiah began to reign *when he was* five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name *was* Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.”

2 Kings 18:3

“And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did...”

2 Kings 18:5-6

“⁵ 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.

⁶ For he clave to the LORD, *and* departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.”

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HEZEKIAH'S PREPARATION

1. God brought a devastating crisis.
2. He learned to trust in Yahweh.

Deuteronomy 17:18

“And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of *that which is* before the priests the Levites:”

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James 1:2-5

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”

Jeremiah 26:18

“Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed *like* a field, And Jerusalem shall become heaps, And the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.”

Jeremiah 26 :19

“Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.”

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“Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.”

Proverbs 10:17 *(NIV)*

“He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.”

2 Chronicles 29:3

“He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them.”

2 Chronicles 29:17

“Now they began on the first *day* of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD...”

The statement, “in the first year of his reign, in the first month” (not in the first year, in the first month of his reign), is sufficiently explained if Hezekiah ascended the throne in one of the last months of the calendar year, which began with Nisan.

Keil and Delitzsch

HEZEKIAH'S PREPARATION

1. God brought a devastating crisis.
2. He learned to trust in Yahweh.
3. The correction of a brother.

Jeremiah 26:18

“Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed *like* a field, And Jerusalem shall become heaps, And the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.”

Micah 3:12

“Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed *as* a field, And Jerusalem shall become heaps, And the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.”

Micah 3:1

“And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, And ye princes of the house of Israel; *Is it* not for you to know judgment?”

Micah 3:5

“Thus saith the LORD concerning the
prophets that make my people err,
That bite with their teeth, and cry,
Peace;
And he that putteth not into their
mouths,
They even prepare war against him.”

Micah 3:11

“The heads thereof judge for reward,
And the priests thereof teach for hire,
And the prophets thereof divine for
money:
Yet will they lean upon the LORD,
and say,
Is not the LORD among us?
None evil can come upon us.”

Micah 3:12

“Therefore shall Zion for your sake be
plowed *as* a field, And Jerusalem shall
become heaps,

And the mountain of the house as the
high places of the forest.”

MICAH'S REBUKE

1. The leaders do not know God's laws so how can they judge? *Micah 3:1*
2. The prophets make the people err because they keep saying everything is good. *Micah 3:5*
3. The judges, priests and prophets can all be bought. *Micah 3:11*
4. The judges, priests and prophets all say that no evil could come because Yahweh is among them. *Micah 3:11*

Micah 6:1-2

- ¹ Hear ye now what the LORD saith;
Arise, **contend** thou before the
mountains, And let the hills hear thy voice.
- ² Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD's
controversy, And ye strong foundations of
the earth: For the LORD hath a
controversy with his people, And he will
plead with Israel.

Micah 6:3

³ O my people, what have I done unto thee? And wherein have I wearied thee?
Testify against me.

Micah 6:4-5

⁴ For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, And redeemed thee out of the house of servants; And I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him From Shittim unto Gilgal; That ye may know the righteousness of the LORD.

Jeremiah 26 :19

“Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls.”

YAHWEH'S CONTROVERSY

1. I redeemed you from Egypt, where you were servants to sin.
2. When Balak asked for cursing Balaam could only bless.
3. I brought you into this land.

Micah 6:6-7

⁶ Wherewith shall I come before the LORD,

And bow myself before the high God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,

With calves of a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,

Or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression,

The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?

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Micah 6:8

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good;
And what doth the LORD require of thee,
But **to do justly**, and to love mercy,
And to walk humbly with thy God?”

Micah 6:8

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good;
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And what doth the LORD require of thee,
But to do justly, and to love mercy,
And **to walk humbly with thy God?**”

HEZEKIAH'S PREPARATION

1. God brought a devastating crisis.
2. He learned to trust in Yahweh.
3. The correction of a brother.

He accepted Yahweh's rebuke.

1. Our obedience because we want to give it.
2. Our kindness to each other.
3. Working for God's honor not our own.

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