

DATE: 19 NOV 2023 | SPEAKER: JOSH YEOH | TOPIC: THE LIFE OF KING HEZEKIAH: REFORMATION, RESCUE & REGRET | SCRIPTURE: 2 KINGS 18-20

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Desire to build in godly rhythms into their lives to seek God regularly and grow in their prayer life.
2. Be challenged to live their lives intentionally, and sow into the next generation.

SERMON SUMMARY

The life of King Hezekiah offers lessons for us on prayer and spiritual warfare, as well as the importance of living not just for our generation, but for the next generation as well. Unlike his father King Ahaz who was an evil and idolatrous king (2 Kings 16:2-4), King Hezekiah was a good king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord (2 Kings 18:3). However, his failures and sin in the last 15 years of his life also led to serious consequences for his next generation and the people of Israel. Let us live intentionally and live in a way that sows into the next generation.

SERMON RECAP

Scene 1: Reformation

King Hezekiah destroyed idol worship and brought about spiritual reformation and revival to Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:1-8). He: (i) restored the priesthood (ministry unto the Lord), (ii) returned to the ways of the Lord, and (iii) rejected false gods.

Scene 2: Rescue

King Hezekiah faced threats of attack on his kingdom by the Assyrian king through the Rabshakeh (field commander representing the Assyrian king). The threats by Rabshakeh mirrors how the devil tries to attack us, including believers. The enemy (devil) attacks us by sowing: (i) Doubt (2 Kings 18:19-21), (ii) Discouragement (2 Kings 18:22), (iii) Despair (2 Kings 18:23-35), to (iv) Defeat us. The enemy just wants you to quit. If you don't quit, you win.

King Hezekiah's response to the news and threats:

- i. Tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord (2 Kings 19:1) – Hezekiah saw the situation accurately as it really was, and went before God with humility and repentance
- ii. He went to the house of the Lord and spread the letter before the Lord in prayer (2 Kings 19:14)
- iii. He sought out the word of the Lord

We see that Hezekiah's immediate response when faced with a crisis was to seek the Lord. Rhythm produces rigour – If it is not your habit to seek the Lord in prayer during 'peacetime', it will not be your habit in wartime. The Lord heard Hezekiah's prayer and sent divine rescue (2 Kings 19:35-37) to save Jerusalem from the Assyrians.

Scene 3: Regret

When Hezekiah was 39 years old, he became very sick and was at the point of death. God heard Hezekiah's prayer, healed him and added 15 more years to his life. However, in these last 15 years, King Hezekiah became prideful and failed in the following ways:

- i. Pride – Hezekiah was proud of what he had achieved and showed the Babylonians everything he had ([2 Kings 20:15](#)). We need to guard against pride and ask God to reveal to us any area of unperceived pride in our lives.
- ii. Ungrateful
- iii. Placed confidence in the flesh – Have we put confidence in our own abilities and strength?
- iv. Not living for the next generation ([2 Kings 20:16-19](#))

Although Hezekiah did not suffer the consequences of his actions during his lifetime, his son Manasseh who reigned after him was an evil King who did evil in the sight of the Lord, brought back idol worship in Jerusalem and led the people of Israel astray so that they “did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites” ([2 Kings 21:1-9](#)).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **The enemy (devil) often attacks us by sowing doubt, discouragement, despair in order to defeat us. Share your experience being attacked by the enemy and how you responded.**

Leader's Notes

This question is for members to share their experiences with facing spiritual attacks. Leaders can share the example from King Hezekiah's life when he was under threats of attack, and how members can learn to recognise the devil's tactics and respond by standing, and not answering ([1 Kings 18:36](#)), and by resisting the devil ([James 4:7](#)).

Transition

The enemy just wants us to quit. Let us not give up, but be alert to recognise his attacks, and stand and see the Lord's deliverance.

2. **King Hezekiah's response when faced with trials was to seek the Lord in prayer. How do the prayers of King Hezekiah inspire you and what can you apply to your own life?**

Leader's Notes

When faced with a difficult situation, Hezekiah immediately went into the house of the Lord ([2 Kings 19:1](#), [2 Kings 19:4](#)). Leaders can ask members where do they go or what do they do when faced with a difficult situation? Ask members to reflect on Hezekiah's prayer life, and what are lessons they can learn and apply to their own lives.

Transition

Rhythm produces rigour. Let us build rhythms into our own daily lives to regularly seek God and pray, so that this will also be our first response when faced with any problem or situation.

3. Examine your life in light of Hezekiah's regret. How can you live your life in a way that sows into the next generation?

Leader's Notes

This is a response question. While Hezekiah was a godly King, he was shortsighted about his mortality, kingdom and his future generations. Hezekiah was only concerned with his own security and kingdom – not the future kingdom or his descendants (2 Kings 20:19). Although the Lord added 15 years to his life, he lived his life in auto-pilot mode during the latter years, and his son Manasseh became a King who did evil in the eyes of the Lord and led the people of Israel astray (2 Kings 21:1-9).

Leaders can ask members what they can learn from King Hezekiah's failures so they will not repeat his mistakes.

Closing

Your influence does not end with your death. The life we live now has an impact on those who come after us. Let us live intentionally to sow into the next generation.

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for God to help us grow in our prayer life.
- Pray for God to help us to live our life in a way that sows into the next generation.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our mission teams that are heading to the nations in this season.
- Pray for our upcoming Marriage Retreat on the 24-26 November
- Pray for our members to take the initiative to be outreaching as we approach the Christmas season.

3. World

- Pray for the conflict in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas, that a peaceful resolution can be reached soon.
- Pray for the situation in Northern Myanmar where 50,000 civilians are displaced as a result of war.
- Pray for Iceland as a state of emergency is declared over the threat of a volcanic eruption.
- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Our Newly Commissioned Ministry Head.** Chen Mee Fang *Overseer of Restoring The Foundations Ministry in RiverLife*. Mee Fang and her husband, David Wong, have been believers for more than 40 years and worshipping in RiverLife since 2001. They are core team members of TBS 06/11 cell group. Besides serving in the Intercessors Network Ministry, Mee Fang has been serving in RiverLife's Restoring The Foundations (RTF) ministry since 2016. She became a *Healing House Network* member of RTF International in 2021, enabling her to minister RTF internationally. She hopes to see more people encounter the Father's love and walk in their identity as children of God.
2. **Christmas Is Coming! Let's Celebrate Together at RiverLife.** Share the love of Christ with someone this Christmas. Visit our Christmas microsite for details on seeker-friendly services in the month of December: rlc.sg/christmas2023. Write a heartfelt message this festive season and invite someone to our services using RiverLife Christmas cards! The cards will be distributed at our English Services on Sundays – 12, 19 & 26 Nov.
3. **Bible Equipping Sessions by Pastor David Lim - Book of Leviticus Set Apart for The Gospel: Encountering God's Holiness.** "Rules and regulations" are unfortunately what go through many believers' minds whenever they encounter the book of Leviticus. In fact, its current name can be traced to a misconception that the book contained merely instructions to the priesthood, and thus was not relevant to the rest of God's people.

But why did God give this book to Israel right after the completion of the Tabernacle? How were the various rules related to the fact that God's holy presence was now dwelling among His people? The first half of Leviticus focuses on the significance of Israel's sacrificial system, culminating in the central theology of the atonement, while the second half explores the specific instructions concerning different aspects of daily lives and how they are meant to reflect the holiness of God.

Remaining, 2 sessions:

3. Fri, 24 Nov, 8-10 pm

4. Sun, 26 Nov, 11.30am-3.30pm (with lunch break)

If you have not attended the Genesis book study series, please watch *Introduction to the Pentateuch*: rlc.sg/intro-penta (First 30 minutes)

4. **Seniors Survey for RiverLifers aged 55 & above.** We're inviting RiverLifers aged 55 & above to participate in our survey for seniors! This survey, initiated by our newly set up ministry for seniors – Caleb Ministry, seeks to understand seniors and the ways they would like to serve or be involved in church life during this season of their lives. Caleb Ministry is part of our ongoing churchwide discipleship efforts, and aims to encourage, equip, and empower our seniors to live an abundant life (John 10:10) in their autumn years.

Kindly submit your response by Thu, 30 Nov: rlc.sg/calebsurvey

5. **Serve in SuperLife.** Serve in SuperLife as a Teacher or Tech Support Crew!
 - Teacher's role:
 - Support the running of weekly SuperLife services for preschool children
 - Care for and manage the children during service
 - Tech support crew role:

- Serve at our children's services for Kindy (aged 5-6) and Nursery (aged 3-4) levels
- Operate the Pro-Presenter software on a laptop for videos and slides support
- Operate the sound panel and microphones for audio support No prior experience needed as training will be provided.
- Sign up to serve: rlc.sg/serve

6. Current Pulpit Series – In the Wake of Awakening.

- Part 2 – Revivals (15 Oct – 26 Nov). We survey seasons of awakening in Israel's history throughout the Old Covenant. From restorations of relationships to spiritual warfare, we will glean from Israel's obedience and failures following seasons of renewal.

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 4*
 - Equipping Series - Leviticus: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Marriage Retreat – 24 to 26 Nov
 - Leaders Huddle – 3 Dec

2. YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).

The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

3. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

RiverLife Prayer Room. Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

RiverLife Revive Nights. Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel (livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

- 9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
- Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
- RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>
- Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

- Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp

- 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
2. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
 3. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 4. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
 5. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

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