

A NEW DAY DAWNS IN JUDAH
(2 Kings 18:1-12)

- I. Hezekiah's Reign SUMMARIZED (2 Kings 18:1-4)
 - A. His place in TIME: 715 - 687 BC (18:1-2)
 - 1. Took the throne at age 25
 - 2. Reigned 29 years
 - B. His CHARACTER described: did RIGHT like his father DAVID (18:3)
 - C. His DEVOTION demonstrated (18:4; 2 Chron. 29 - 31)
 - 1. REMOVED the high places
 - 2. DESTROYED the shrines to the male and female FERTILITY gods
 - 3. CRUSHED the BRONZE SERPENT made by Moses (cf. Num. 21:4-9)
 - 4. CLEANSED the Temple (2 Chron. 29:3-36)
 - 5. Reinstated celebration of PASSOVER (2 Chron. 30)
 - 6. Inspired many ISRAELITES to destroy their IDOLS

- II. Hezekiah's Reign PRAISED (2 Kings 18:5-12)
 - A. His success EXPLAINED (18:5-7a)
 - 1. TRUSTED Yahweh

2. CLUNG to Yahweh
 3. “The LORD was WITH HIM” so “wherever he went he PROSPERED” (cf. 1 Sam. 18:14; 2 Sam. 5:10)
- B. His success DESCRIBED (18:7-8)
1. DEFEATED the PHILISTINES (cf. 1 Sam. 18:27; 19:8)
 2. Refused to serve the KING OF ASSYRIA
- C. His success CONTRASTED (18:9-12)
1. Knew what rebelling against Assyria COST ISRAEL
 2. Knew the RELENTLESS POWER of Assyria
 3. Knew Israel fell because they DISOBEYED the LORD

III. Lessons

- A. REVIVAL may SURPRISE us
1. Reject a FAITHLESS PESSIMISM that imagines God ABANDONS His work
 2. Avoid equating RELIEF with the KINGDOM
- B. We should OBEY GOD even when it looks like FOLLY