

1st Week of August
A King Who Relies Wholeheartedly on God

- **Text:** 2 Kings 18:3~8 (August 1)
- **Bottom line:** God be with you and bless you for those who rely on Him and obey His every word.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 542) 구주 예수 의지함이

≡ **2. Prayer**

God, the Lord of the whole world, we worship you with love. Please guide us to learn and follow the life You want us to live through worship.

≡ **3. The Word**

Read 2 Kings 18:3~8 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

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.

<NASB>

3 He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, in accordance with everything that his father David had done. 4 He removed the high places and smashed the memorial stones to pieces, and cut down the Asherah. He also crushed to pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel had been burning incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan. 5 He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel; and after him there was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who came before him. 6 For he clung to the Lord; he did not desist from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. 7 And the Lord was with him; wherever he went he was successful. And he revolted against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. 8 He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

Understanding Text

Hezekiah was honest in God's eyes. He destroyed the high places and idols that God was not pleased with, and he also destroyed the brass serpent idol that had been handed down since the time of Moses. Hezekiah relied on God wholeheartedly and tried to keep all the commandments, and God was with him and made it work out for him wherever he went.

Understanding the text for leaders

Hezekiah was a king who was judged to be honest in God's eyes. Unlike other kings who worshipped idols and allowed high place sacrifices, Hezekiah followed the path of loving and serving God like David. He removed the high places that had become hotbeds of idolatry, and he removed the pillars, the Asherah statues, and the brass serpent idols. The brass serpent was made by Moses under God's instruction when the Israelites were bitten to death by a fiery serpent (Num 21:4~9). Later, Israel worshipped the brass serpent as an idol, which was used as an instrument of healing. Hezekiah called the brass serpent Nehusdan and shattered it. Nehusdan said, 'Nod It means 'carving', which means that it is just a small piece of water made of brass. Hezekiah did his best to keep the people from worshipping idols and serving God. God was with Hezekiah, who relied on God alone, and prospered him wherever he went. With God with him, Zekiah acted with faith against Assyria, which was a powerful nation at the time. They also regained the Gaza region that had been lost to the Philistines and regained their national power. God is with those who walk with Him and rely on Him alone, and let them go well wherever they go. During Hezekiah's reign as king of Judah, northern Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians (722 B.C.). Northern Israel, which resisted God and relied on the wisdom of powerful nations and men, was destroyed, but God protected Judah, ruled by a king who relied on God.

4. Discussion

1) What kind of king does the Bible say Hezekiah was? (Verses 3~6) What kind of grace did God give him? (verses 7~8)

Upper Grades

What kind of blessing did God give to King Hezekiah, who believed in God and followed Him? (verses 7~8)

Lower Grades

What good things happened when God was with King Hezekiah, who relied only on God? (verses 7~8)

Question Guide

Let's take a closer look at Hezekiah's honest behavior before God (verses 3~6). Also, look at how Almighty God was with him and what kind of blessings he enjoyed (verses 7~8).

Comments for Leaders

Hezekiah is an exemplary king of faith. He did not follow the path of his father Ahaz, but followed the path of David, and led the people to worship and serve God properly. The author of the book of Kings says that there has never been a king who relied on God like Hezekiah. He always relied on God with all his strength and tried to be with God. God gives special grace to those who rely on Him and obey His Word. God was with Hezekiah and prospered him in everything he did, so Hezekiah was no longer afraid of Assyria, which had destroyed northern Israel and harassed Judah, and he had the courage not to pay tribute. They were also able to regain the land on the southern coast that had been taken by the Philistines.

2) What is the decision of faith that I need to make today in order to enjoy the blessings and grace of God's presence?

Upper Grades

What is it that God is pleased with when I walk in faith?

Lower Grades

What does God look at in me and praise me for doing a good job?

□ Question Guide

God delights in those who act honestly before Him and rely on Him alone. Think about what you are pleased with in your own situation and share what you are pleased with. I want those who strive to walk with God remember that God is revealing His power and glory and helping them.

□ Comments for Leaders

If you rely on God and obey His word, you will enjoy blessings, but if you turn away from God and worship idols, you will eventually perish. When Hezekiah became king, he relied on God alone and wanted to keep all His commandments. He did his best to get the people to abandon their idols and serve God. God was pleased with Hezekiah and was with him and helped him. Many people work hard to achieve their goals and successes. But if you don't rely on God and rely on your own strength and wisdom, it's useless. We must remember that living with God is the secret of prosperity.

≡ 5. Be Grateful

Thank God for relying on Him and knowing that obedience to His Word is the key to a blessed life.

≡ 6. Prayer

God, don't let us forget that all blessings and peace begin with You. Please let us be people of faith who enjoy the blessings and grace of the Almighty God by relying only on You and obeying all of Your words.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"
