

Apply The Word

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KINGS & KINGDOMS

Message Info

Title:

Greater Than Survival

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

2 Kings 18-21

Theme: Put God's glory above your survival and you will live.

Introduction: Many persons have faced bullying, and part of overcoming a bully is realizing that being willing to stand up to the bully (with the accompanying risk) is more valuable than merely surviving. Similarly, the mask-at-all-costs approach to Covid ignored other important values. There are principles more important than survival; namely, the glory of God. If you put survival above God's glory, you will be a slave until you die.

We see these truths in the lives of a few kings:

1. The best king (18:1-12)

Hezekiah is the next king of Judah, and he receives high praise. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and evidenced faith in two ways: a) "he held fast to the Lord," and, b) he followed him.

Hezekiah clung to the Lord and that translated into an obedient life. Moreover, it led to prosperity for Judah. He successfully resisted Assyria and reclaimed lost lands.

2. The Great King (18:13-19:37)

Sennacherib, king of Assyria, comes up against Judah and captures the fortified cities. In response, Hezekiah compromises his principles, and gives him the riches in the temple and the palace.

Sennacherib is undeterred and sends his troops against Jerusalem. The Rabshakeh taunts the Jews for defying "the great king" and for trusting the Lord.

Hezekiah asks Isaiah for help, who prophesies the defeat of Assyria and the death of Sennacherib—and that is precisely what happens. The Lord delivers his people, and punishes the arrogance of man.

3. The broken king (20:1-21:26)

Hezekiah then becomes sick unto death. Isaiah comes and prophesies his death, telling him to set his house in order.

He responds with bitter tears, reminding the Lord of the good he has done and begging for longer life. The Lord grants him 15 more years.

Hezekiah responded opposite of Jesus, who did not want death, yet was most determined to obey the Father and to glorify him.

Hezekiah also asked for a sign, not content with the word of the Lord. And he later shows the Babylonian envoys all the riches of the kingdom. When Isaiah rebukes him, he is satisfied that the penalty will not affect him, but his descendants. He is only concerned for himself, and much evil comes in his final 15 years.

Questions:

1. Do you have any principles greater than survival? What are you willing to die for?
2. How are you paying a price for following Christ?
3. What rewards await you?