

We are all getting older and with age comes the very real expectation of death now death is something which we all will experience at some time.

Remember what Paul said in Hebrews well I personally feel that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews you may have other views in **Hebrews 9:27** we read **and inasmuch as it is appointed unto men once to die, and after this, the judgment.**

We have some great examples in the bible about people who were about to die who while alive did not set in order his or her house and by setting in order their house I mean getting and setting your heart right with God getting and setting your affairs and wishes right with your family setting your mind right by preparing yourself for the inevitable event which is coming remember we must walk calmly through the valley of the shadow of death we do not want run through it because death will come to us all soon enough and we do not want to run to it do we because no one is exempt from death no one has a pass death card and go straight to heaven card.

As I read out before "**It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment.**

I know that each one of us here today knows only too well the importance of not only setting our house in order but ensuring our house remains in good and proper order.

We are bombarded on television with ads about funeral insurance some use the slogan "set your affairs in place" or "even when you die you can still protect your family"

Julie and I had funeral insurance because I knew that neither Julie nor I could afford a funeral if and when one of us passed away so we tried to set our house in order to cover such a loss however with even the best intensions and planning something can still go wrong and usually does and it did.

However I believe that Julie's spiritual house was set in order and I feel that that spiritual order in one's life is the most important house that we need to set in order.

We spoke about King Hezekiah in a bible study a while ago well It was I who actually mentioned Hezekiah when explaining my thoughts about a bible passage that is how Hezekiah's name came up.

You see not all of us have the same opportunity as king Hezekiah had-- Hezekiah was to be blessed to have another 15 years of peace and prosperity added to his life which was just about to expire Hezekiah was near death when the LORD was gracious to him and had mercy on him.

We read in [Isaiah 38:1](#) and in [2 Kings 20:1](#) in those days, Hezekiah was sick to death, and Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz, came to him and said to him, thus says the LORD **set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.**

Maybe today we do not have a prophet coming to us to tell us to get out house in order because we are about to die maybe we have a doctor who breaks that news to us but whoever it is who brings us that news our house needs to be set in order.

Why because the certainty of the visit of death to our household and to us is real remember we all have an appointment with death which we will all one day have to keep we can run from it as fast as our legs will carry us but we cannot hide from it and we cannot out run it so why run just calmly walk like Psalm 23 tells us also when we are walking we are not walking in fear because we are definitely not walking alone.

Hezekiah like all of us got sick only his sickness was to death we are not told specifically what Hezekiah suffered from but I feel possibly a cancer of some kind.

One thing is for certain you and I share the same fate maybe not cancer but we will pass away from something and I know we all pray that it is from old age.

You and I are not all given an announcement to prepare ourselves for the event like Hezekiah.

One thing which sets us apart from Hezekiah at this time is his age we are told in **2 Kings 18:2** that Hezekiah **was 25 years old when he began to reign and he reigned 29 years** which makes Hezekiah 54 years old when he passed away and as I have said before had the LORD not blessed Hezekiah with another 15 years when he was just 39 years old the throne of Judah would not have passed down to any of his children because at the time of his pending death from sickness at just 39 Hezekiah was childless.

**2 Kings 20:21** and **2 Kings 21:1** tells us **and Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasseh his son reigned in his place, Manasseh was 12 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned 55 years in Jerusalem, and his mother's name was Hephzibah.**

So you can see very plainly that Hezekiah's house was definitely not in order Hezekiah did not have an Heir to take over the throne Hezekiah received his pardon from death by the grace of GOD 3 years before the birth of his heir and son Manasseh had he not received his pardon through the loving grace and mercy of GOD there would have not been an heir to the throne of Judah from him.

We have all witnessed someone in our family who was suffering while lying on their death bed and some of us have prayed with compassion in our hearts that they would pass away peacefully we prayed that the will of GOD be done so that all the pain and suffering that they are going through would come to an end. Yes we have all asked for God's intervention for someone who we care about in our prayers because we know that GOD hears our prayers.

When King Hezekiah received the news from Isaiah that he was soon to die Hezekiah I believe was scared I mean at just 39 years old and to receive news that you are about to die would be awful scary.

But why was a death sentence announced by the LORD through the mouth of Isaiah upon Hezekiah remember Hezekiah was a good king wasn't he?.

You and I may call ourselves a Christian and we may try to walk in the path of the LORD which He has set for us to walk in **according to His word in the bible** however at some time we may goof off at some time we might slacken the rope a bit at some time we may make a silly decision or **2** or even 3 now I know that I have done dozens upon dozens of silly things and made just as many unwise decisions which afterwards I have tried to kick my own backside for doing so.

Maybe it was like this with King Hezekiah.

Maybe Hezekiah as a King made some very bad decisions.

If I grew up knowing that the LORD was constantly watching over me protecting me and caring about me and I during my life always tried to the best of my ability to do the right thing and I always asked the LORD to guide me in making the right decision then I throughout my life have laid my life's building upon a sound and solid foundation upon which and upon Whom I should always continue building upon.

We read in **1 Corinthians 3:11** **For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

Our foundation stone is already laid and we must all throughout our lives build upon **that single** foundation stone if we decide to reject that foundation stone and build upon another then we have rejected the LORD.

Hezekiah I feel kind of went astray in his life he decided somewhere along the way to pull over and take a rest break.

**2 Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless the foundation of God stands firm, having the seal, The Lord knows those who are His. And, Let everyone who calls upon the name of Christ depart from unrighteousness.

It is so easy these days especially in this age of technology what with face-book and also other social media sites for us to get caught up in and In today's society we are bombarded with the world's values and ideas about how **we** should live our lives and about how **we** should think and act.

Now please do not get me wrong I use face book and sometimes there are some strange viewpoints posted on face book which I just ignore.

But their strategy is to get us to think and hopefully get us to live and act as they do.

But as I read to you a minute ago God's Word tells us to build our lives on a sure and sound foundation.

Building a strong and sure foundation on God's Word is paramount to and for our success as Christians.

The word "sure" to me means setting in the right order but sure also means secure safe trustworthy true certain and confident.

Webster's Dictionary defines foundation as the basis or ground upon which something stands or is supported.

And this foundation should cover every area of our lives **Psalm 11:3** says **If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?**

To destroy ones foundations which was thought to be solid thought to be sure would take a lot of enticing one would think however as I said in today's society we are **bombarded** from all sides with

ideas and views sometimes this barrage of different ideas filters through and we only have to let our guards down just once and the foundation rock of our beliefs may suffer with some cracks small at the beginning but in time they somehow seem to grow wider and wider unfortunately Hezekiah suffered a severe blow to his foundation and cracks soon caused his foundation to crumble.

We read in **2 Chronicles 32:24-26** in those days Hezekiah was sick unto death and prayed to the LORD, and He spoke to him, and He gave him a sign, but Hezekiah responded not again according to the good done to him, for his **heart was lifted up**, therefore, there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah, and upon Jerusalem, notwithstanding, Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the people of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

You see too many people build their lives on foundations that are not sure not tried and not tested so what can they do when their foundation crumbles and falls around them where can they go maybe from bad to worse they drift like a piece of wood in an ocean which is full of people with crumbled foundations and the only place to go is down.

But when you build your foundation on that which is sure the Word of God and you hold fast to it when trouble comes then you know what to do when a crisis strikes and as I said before in another message when a Christian falls down on his knees before the LORD the battle is not over the battle has just began.

Why because God's foundation in your life stands sure. And believe me lately I have relied heavily upon **Matthew 11:28-30** to guide and strengthen me in a crisis and believe me the LORD has truly strengthened me.

To become a soldier of God we must understand that God the Father lays the foundation and that foundation is Jesus Christ and that

foundation is to be built upon by His people by not just using but practising the Word of God.

Problems only arise in our life when we take the foundation which God has given us and we use it to build upon it worldly ideas worldly thinking worldly things and worldly passions.

The Word of God is the only thing that is going to allow us to build a sure tried and tested foundation.

When a crisis strikes us and be assured it will we are to turn to the Rock our Rock LORD Jesus Christ for comfort and strength we should not turn to the world.

Webster's Dictionary defines rock as a firm support basis and refuge.

Well unless I am mistaken doesn't that sound something like a foundation because we need to know how to have that firm support and refuge in our life.

As Christians we must stop running to the world for comfort and trying to do things the world's way because this world's ways does not work as Christian's we need to cling to our solid Rock LORD Jesus Christ.

It is much simpler to turn to Jesus our Rock first **why** because the Word of God tells us that if we go to our Rock first then He will lead and guide us to safety.

**Jesus is our rock** and **He** is our **sure foundation**.

When we trust Him at all times then instead of tragedy we are sure to experience triumph we are setting our house in order because **we are building our house upon a sure Rock**.

And yes even though I relied upon Jesus for strength and comfort I still went through this awful pain of loss and this feeling inside of uncertainty for my future but I kept praying.

We must remember that we should not allow that uncertainty to overpower us even though we are shaking violently inside with fear keep praying keep believing and try to keep calm.

When you read [2 Kings 18-1-13](#) you begin to see a picture forming we read that Hezekiah once had a firm and sure foundation verse 3 says **he did what was right in the sight of the LORD.**

**5 He trusted in the LORD GOD of Israel.**

**6 for he clung to the LORD he did not depart from following Him.**

**7 and the LORD was with him.**

In Verse 13 we read and in the 14<sup>th</sup> year that is when Hezekiah was aged 39 15 years before he died.

This is when the 15 years were added to his life.

Oh and 13 is the number of rebellion.

So did Hezekiah rebel against the LORD.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> Year of his reign is when Sennacherub King of Assyria sent his army to the land of Judah and took the fortified cities but in verse 14 we discover

**And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the King of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended, turn back from me, what ever you put on me I will bear, and the King of Assyria appointed to Hezekiah King of Judah 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of Gold,**

So where did Hezekiah go wrong well he did not trust in the LORD to guide him and to watch over him his City or his people

Hezekiah did not go to the LORD.

What happened to chapter [18 verses 5-7](#) **5 He trusted in the LORD GOD of Israel.**

**6 for he clung to the LORD he did not depart from following Him.**

**7 and the LORD was with him.**

You see there is one of the problems Hezekiah went it alone he did not cling to the LORD Hezekiah let go and started hopelessly drifting.

So what did Hezekiah do then well he stole from the Lord God of Israel [2 Kings 18:15-16](#) tells us that **Hezekiah stripped the house of the LORD of its gold and silver.**

Why to pay tribute.

Then Hezekiah was faced once again with trouble from the King of Assyria from verses 17-21 but in verse 21 Tartan the King of Assyria's field commander said to Hezekiah that he trusted in Egypt for protection.

Tartan was taunting Hezekiah and the LORD I must add because Tartan did say in verse 22 **but if you say to me, we trust in the LORD our God** but if Hezekiah did why did he strip the house of GOD of its Gold and silver was Hezekiah's heart right with the LORD at that time.

It would seem from verses 24-25 that Tartan and his army had the consent of the LORD to destroy Jerusalem Tartan also prophesied about the future exile of Judah in verses 31-32 which did come to pass at a later time by the hand of the King of Babylon not Assyria. In 2 Kings 19:1 we find King Hezekiah dressing in sackcloth and coming to the LORD with this news Hezekiah was scared he was afraid **he was petrified** from what we read.

Yes the LORD through the Prophet Isaiah heard Hezekiah's petition and in verses 15-19 we read Hezekiah's prayer from his heart to the LORD this is what he should have done the first time the King of Assyria threatened him.

Remember I spoke a while ago about the virgin the daughter of Zion and the daughter of Jerusalem well Tartan slandered her he bought an evil report against her who is she she the daughters of Zion and Jerusalem are to be at a later stage hopefully a part of the bride of Christ.

And yes the Lord heard and yes the Lord did respond to Hezekiah's prayer through Isaiah from verse 32-36

185,000 Assyrians died at the angel of the LORD'S hand we are told in verse 35.

We must walk with the LORD walk in sync with the LORD and we will never walk alone and please I am no saint in this area however I am now trying to whenever a problem or care which troubles me arises in my life place my care and burdens upon the LORD as **Psalm 55:22 1Peter 5:7 and Matthew 11:28** tell us.

King Hezekiah in **Isaiah 38:2-3** tells us that **Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before you in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore .**

We are not sure what Hezekias sickness was however we are told in **2Kings 20:7** that it was a boil of some kind and this boil was unto death.

Most people do last what this king did first Hezekiah turned himself to the wall and prayed to God Hezekiah in his prayer reminded the Lord of his faithfulness and that he walked in the way of the Lord however we tend to forget that the LORD already knows our heart and our thoughts we cannot pretend to pray with a double mind we may shed tears when praying but the LORD knows real tears from crocodile tears our prayers should be from the heart in honesty and truth which I feel at the time Hezekiah's was.

And yes as we have also all done this at one time or another we are told that the king wept sore.

Hezekiah was fearful he was scared and he knew that **the LORD was merciful.**

The Apostle Paul reminds us in **2 Corinthians 7:10** **for sorrow unto repentance before God works out salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world works out death.**

In [Isaiah 38:4-7](#) we read that Isaiah returns unto the king's house with another word from the LORD Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, I have seen your tears, I have heard your prayer, behold, I will add to your days fifteen years, And I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.

The prayer of Hezekiah touched the heart of the LORD Just as our prayers do **if** they are true and honest.

We must remember also when we pray to our Heavenly Father that He is not a 24 hour convenience store Whose doors are open just for **our convenience** to pray to when we want to especially when things get tough.

The Father and LORD Jesus should be in our minds and hearts 24 hours a day not just when we want Him remember His door is never shut so **why are our doors closed to Him** but only opened to Him when it's convenient to us.

In [James 5:16](#) we read **The supplication of a righteous man prevails much, being effective.**

God is moved by our prayers when we are suffering when our hearts are broken and when we are in despair and yes our prayers are answered sometimes not how we would want them to be answered but remember LORD Jesus' words Father let Your will be done not mine there are reasons why things happen as they do and the outcome well not as we would want **but there is a reason why** and at this time we have no idea what that reason is.

Hezekiah even though his prayer was heard and answered still did not place his full trust in the LORD because he did not ask the LORD in prayer to help him and his people unfortunately when faced with

trouble Hezekiah stripped the LORDS house of its Gold and Silver and paid tribute at that time he did not seek the LORD.

We cannot pay tribute to Satan and then ask the LORD to help us we should have taken our problem to the LORD right from the start as Hezekiah did the **2<sup>nd</sup> time** that is when the LORD sent His angel and slew 185000 Assyrians that time the LORD answered Hezekiah and fought for Hezekiah and Jerusalem.

Remember what Paul teaches us in **Philippians 4:6** **do not be anxious for anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything.**

Hezekiah was struck with a disease which without a divine miracle would most certainly have been fatal.

We then read that Hezekiah would be instructed by the prophet Isaiah in **Isaiah 38:21** **Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a pilaster upon the boil, and he shall recover.**

Even though a poultice or pilaster was placed upon the boil as God directed what really healed Hezekiah was **the divine healing power of God.**

Think about it where can we apply this remedy in the LORDS Church today what can we place upon someone who is sick well **James 5:14-15** teaches us **call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him after anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick one, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.**

Same principal only we are to use our hands prayer and oil. But in all cases the LORDS will-will be done.

King Hezekiah was not demanding a reward from God for his service but he did however with humility **beg God to remember** how he

had taken away all of the high places how he had **cleansed the temple** how he also **revived the neglected ordinances and offered burnt offering and sacrifices** so Hezekiah in a way was kind of saying Hey LORD look at all that I have done for you.

Hezekiah also reminded the LORD that he had walked before Him in truth sincerity and with a perfect heart.

These are even today the true tests of a man's faithfulness and devotion to God and what is in our hearts far outweighs any righteous act performed in keeping God's ordinances because God looks into our hearts to see just who we are.

For us to set our house in order God requires from us our faithfulness our devotion and our dedication to His commandments to His Word and to do His work and to serve Him in His service. Hezekiah did right in the sight of God all the days of his life and His heart was perfect before the Lord as we are told **2 Kings 20:3.**

Hezekiah required a sign men seem to always want a sign remember Gideon well he required a sign as we find in **Judges 6:37-39** Paul said **1 Corinthians 1:22** **For the Jews require a sign and the Greeks seek after wisdom.**

What did Jesus say about signs **Matthew 12:38-40** **A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; but no sign shall be given to it, except the sign of Jonah prophet: For just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, in the same manner, the Son of man shall be in the heart of the Earth three days and three nights.**

I am guilty of wanting a sign because at times when we are so desperate to know if our prayers have been heard we ask LORD how will I know that You have heard my prayer.

Yes I have asked that question and yes sometimes something strange has happened straight after my prayer which made me feel as though it was an answer from the LORD.

Many people seek a sign today but God's greatest sign is found in the resurrection of LORD Jesus Christ as told to us by the LORDS Apostle John in [John 20:24-29](#) for us through Thomas proof of the risen Christ is given it is up to us to believe or disbelieve I **choose to believe.**

Even after several signs and a divine miracle what happened to Hezekiah.

Well Hezekiah was so blessed to have 15 years added to his life and in that 15 years Hezekiah set his house in order within the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years Hezekiah was blessed to have fathered a son but unfortunately his son did not have the same zeal for the LORD like Hezekiah did in the beginning.

We are also told that Hezekiah sadly did not set his spiritual house in order.

We are told that Hezekiah was sick to death and prayed to the LORD and the LORD healed him in [2 Chronicles 32:24](#) we then read in [2 Chronicles 32:25-27](#) but Hezekiah **responded not again according to the good done to him, for his heart was lifted up,** therefore, there was wrath upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem, notwithstanding, Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the people of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah had exceedingly much riches, and honour.

Maybe this part Hezekiah **responded not again according to the good done to him for his heart was lifted up,** therefore, there was wrath upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem was the cause of Hezekiah's sickness.

So what happened after the LORD spared Hezekiah and gave him time to set his house in order looks like Hezekiah kind of went his own way he wandered off on a walk about.

We are told that Hezekiah was exceedingly rich in [2 Chronicles 32:27](#) maybe this changed Hezekiah's heart wealth seems to change people wealth clouds many a good persons thinking wealth hardens hearts.

Yes you and I can be certain that God is moved with compassion for our sufferings trials and temptations this life is full of temptations and diversions especially with all the flashy electronics the anything goes we want it all now society which is emerging temptations are everywhere but we must remain steadfast and keep a perfect heart before the LORD remember riches I heed not nor man's empty praise because You Lord I pray are my inheritance now and always.

We are given assurance by the Apostle Peter in [1 Peter 5:6-7](#) who wrote **Be Humbled, therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him, because He cares for you.**

Also [Hebrews 4:15-16](#) **For we do not have a high priest Who cannot empathize with our weaknesses; but One Who was tempted in all things according to the likeness of our own temptations, yet He was without sin. therefore we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

In the second half of [Isaiah 38:5](#) we read **I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears.**

Please do not be afraid to shed tears to the Lord in your prayer because He loves you and He can be touched by your tears and [Psalm 58:6](#) confirms this **You number my wanderings, O put my tears into Your bottle, are they not in Your book.**

Setting our house in order requires moving all of our unwanted trash out of our minds and hearts and then calling upon the LORD to help us refurnish our mind and heart with the right attitude to life with compassion in our heart for other people even though they do not show the same compassion back to us honesty and above all **love** because Jesus said in **John 13:34** a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another in the same way that I have loved you, that is how you are to love one another.

**1Peter 4:8** but above all, have fervent love among your selves because love will cover a multitude of sins.

If your house is not yet set in order towards the LORD I suggest that maybe you should start setting it in order today begin laying your house in order upon the solid tested and true foundation Jesus Christ our solid Rock

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