

Tuesday 25th May 2021

2 Kings 18: 5, 6 *"Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no-one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after. He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses."*

Proverbs 25: 4, 5 *"Remove the dross from the silver,
and out comes material for the silversmith;
remove the wicked from the king's presence,
and his throne will be established through righteousness."*

Proverbs 16: 12 *"Kings detest wrongdoing,
for a throne is established through righteousness."*

Hezekiah, son of David reigned as king in Judah for 43 years solely but firstly in conjunction with his father and later his son. He inherited a kingdom which had wandered from the ways of the Lord and he set about sweeping away false idols, altars and pagan temples. He re-opened the doors of the temple in Jerusalem which had been nailed shut by a predecessor. In the northern part of the Holy Land Israel didn't keep the Lord's commandments and as a result were conquered and taken to Assyria. Hezekiah resisted the Assyrians partly by agreeing to pay tribute to them.

But Hezekiah was not a forward planner and in spite of Isaiah, the prophet exhorting him to safeguard his reforms of the religious practices in Judah Hezekiah did nothing so disadvantaging the actions of his successors.

What should we take out of this story? First and foremost Hezekiah trusted in the Lord and cemented his authority through righteousness. But he didn't plan ahead. We need to keep God's ways in mind not just in the moment or for a week, month etc. but always.