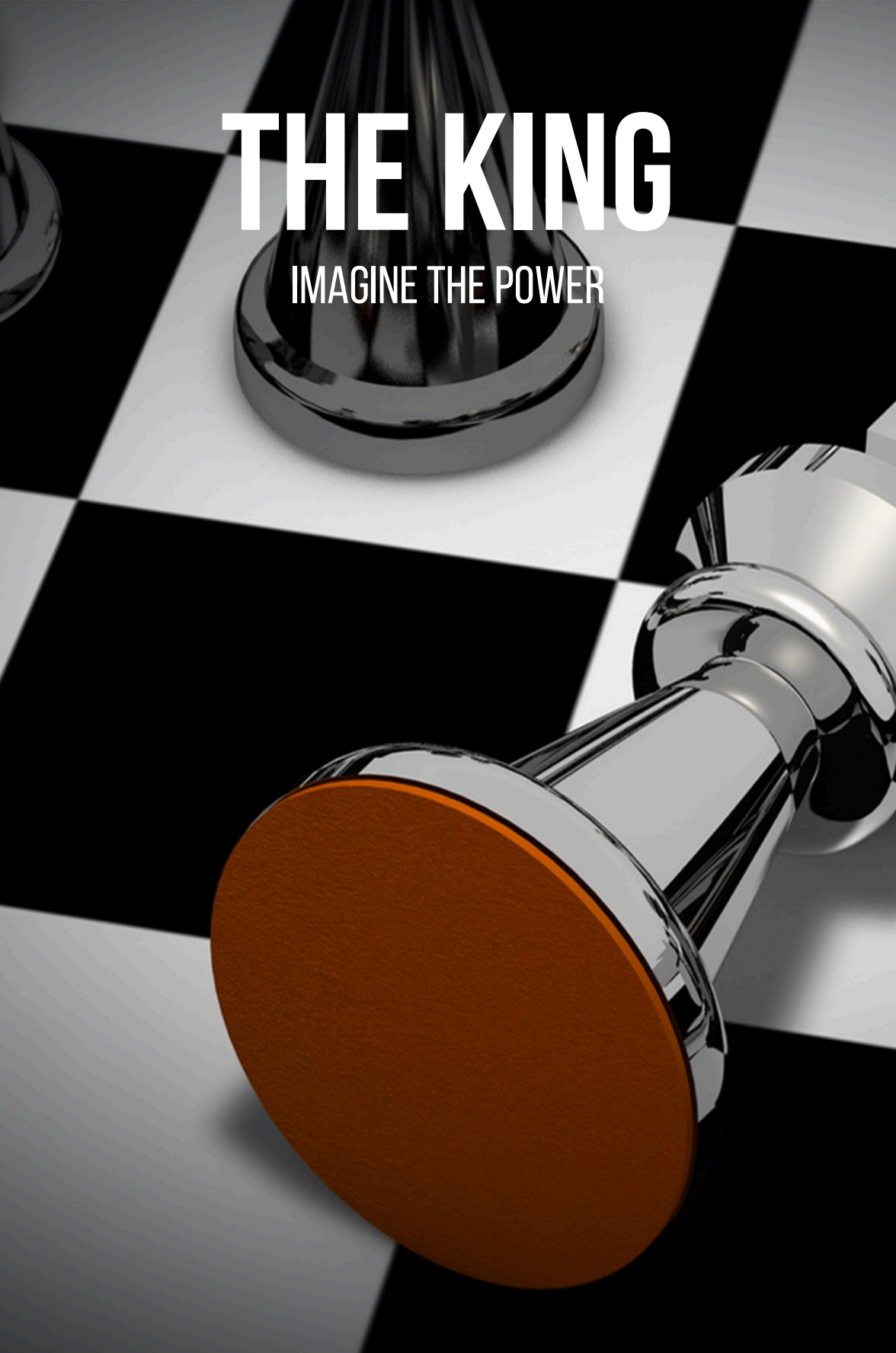


# THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER



*GROUP/FAMILY*

# Session 10

- Watch the sermon “Autopsy of a Nation” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit 2 Kings 15 and 17, placing this session in the middle  
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## Context

Second Kings 20 occurred during the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah in the late eighth century BC, shortly after the Assyrian crisis recorded in chapters 18–19. Assyria remained the dominant world power, but God had miraculously delivered Jerusalem from destruction. Against that backdrop, Hezekiah faced a personal crisis when he became terminally ill. The chapter also records a visit from Babylonian envoys. At that time Babylon was not yet the empire that would later conquer Judah, but it was growing in influence and seeking allies against Assyria. The events reveal the tension between trusting God's sovereign power and relying upon human wisdom, political alliances, and personal accomplishments.

## The Big Idea of the Text

Hezekiah recovered from illness, displayed his treasures to Babylon, and received prophecy concerning Judah's future exile.

This chapter continues the major themes established in chapters 18–19. Throughout these chapters, Hezekiah is presented as a king who initially trusted the Lord in the face of overwhelming circumstances. In chapter 18, he rejected idolatry and sought covenant faithfulness. In chapter 19, he responded to Assyria's threats by bringing his concerns before God in prayer. Likewise, in chapter 20, when confronted with a fatal illness, he again turned to the Lord and prayed earnestly. God's miraculous extension of Hezekiah's life parallels God's miraculous deliverance of Jerusalem from Assyria. Isaiah remains God's prophetic spokesman in both narratives, demonstrating that the Lord directs both national and personal history. However, chapter 20 also introduces a warning absent from the earlier victories. Hezekiah's pride before the Babylonian delegation foreshadows Judah's future downfall, showing that even faithful leaders cannot ultimately secure God's kingdom. Together, these chapters emphasize God's sovereignty, the necessity of faith, the power of prayer, and humanity's need for a greater King than Hezekiah.

## Biblical Text (CSB) - 2 Kings 20

In those days Hezekiah became terminally ill. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came and said to him, "This is what the Lord says: 'Set your house in order, for you are about to die; you will not recover.'"

<sup>2</sup> Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, <sup>3</sup> "Please, Lord, remember how I have walked before you faithfully and wholeheartedly and have done what pleases you." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah had not yet gone out of the inner courtyard when the word of the Lord came to him: <sup>5</sup> "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, This is what the Lord God of your ancestor David says: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Look, I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the Lord's temple. <sup>6</sup> I will add fifteen years to your life. I will rescue you and this city from the grasp of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David."

<sup>7</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Bring a lump of pressed figs." So they brought it and applied it to his infected skin, and he recovered.

<sup>8</sup> Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What is the sign that the Lord will heal me and that I will go up to the Lord's temple on the third day?"

<sup>9</sup> Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the Lord that he will do what he has promised: Should the shadow go ahead ten steps or go back ten steps?"

<sup>10</sup> Then Hezekiah answered, "It's easy for the shadow to lengthen ten steps. No, let the shadow go back ten steps." <sup>11</sup> So the prophet Isaiah called out to the Lord, and he brought the shadow back the ten steps it had descended on the stairway of Ahaz.

<sup>12</sup> At that time Merodach-baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah since he heard that he had been sick. <sup>13</sup> Hezekiah listened to the letters and showed the envoys his whole treasure house—the silver, the gold, the spices, and the precious oil—and his armory, and everything that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his palace and in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.

<sup>14</sup> Then the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah and asked him, "Where did these men come from and what did they say to you?" Hezekiah replied, "They came from a distant country, from Babylon."

<sup>15</sup> Isaiah asked, "What have they seen in your palace?"

Hezekiah answered, "They have seen everything in my palace. There isn't anything in my treasuries that I didn't show them."

<sup>16</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord: <sup>17</sup> 'Look, the days are coming when everything in your palace and all that your predecessors have stored up until today will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the Lord. <sup>18</sup> 'Some of your descendants—who come from you, whom you father—will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"

<sup>19</sup> Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good," for he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security during my lifetime?"

<sup>20</sup> The rest of the events of Hezekiah's reign, along with all his might and how he made the pool and the tunnel and brought water into the city, are written in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings. <sup>21</sup> Hezekiah rested with his ancestors, and his son Manasseh became king in his place.

# Applying Our Lives to the Text

- According to verses 1–3, how did Hezekiah respond to Isaiah's announcement of death, and what specific details reveal his understanding of covenant faithfulness?
- In verses 4–7, what do God's response, Isaiah's return, and the prescribed remedy teach about divine sovereignty and human responsibility?
- As you examine verses 8–11, why did Hezekiah request a confirming sign, and what significance accompanied the shadow's miraculous reversal?
- Reviewing verses 12–13, what motivations may have influenced Hezekiah's actions toward Babylon's envoys, and what dangers accompanied such self-promotion?
- According to verses 14–18, how did Isaiah interpret Hezekiah's display of wealth, and what future judgment did God announce upon Judah?
- Looking carefully at verses 19–21, how does Hezekiah's response to Isaiah's prophecy challenge modern believers to evaluate long-term spiritual responsibility?



# The Takeaway: So What Church?

**We will trust God's sovereign mercy, reject pride, and look to Jesus, the greater King who secures an eternal kingdom.**

## For Parents:

### *SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE*

Hezekiah was a good king in many ways, but he was not the perfect king God's people needed. When he was sick, God graciously gave him more years to live, yet he still sinned by proudly showing his treasures to Babylon. Because of humanity's sin, Judah would eventually go into exile just as Isaiah predicted. This helps us see why God promised a greater King. Jesus came as the Son of David who never acted in pride and never failed God's will. Unlike Hezekiah, Jesus did not merely receive extra years of life—He conquered death itself through His resurrection and gives eternal life to all who trust Him.

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- And Then You Will Know: The Book of Ezekiel for Groups
- Daniel: The Book of Daniel for Groups
- Dear Skeptical Friend: The Gospel of Luke for Groups
- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Apologetic Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
- The Revival Project: A Transformative Study of Nehemiah
- And many more!



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## ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.