The Reigns Of Hezekiah Of Judah and Hoshea Of Israel And Their Relationship To God’s Eternal Purpose

Intro: In order to understand the Bible one must have an overall view of that grand Book. To obtain that overall view one must see God’s eternal purpose. God’s eternal purpose culminated in the sending of His Son to die for sinful mankind and the establishment of the church of Christ. However, God was throughout history working out that purpose. In working out God’s eternal purpose, there are lessons and principles we must learn. Thus, all of Old Testament history, not only was “written for our learning” (Rom. 15:4), but giving us a history of God working out His plan or purpose. In this lesson we will deal specifically with Kings Hezekiah of Judah and Hoshea of Israel. It will be my intention to look at some of the events of these kings and their relation to that eternal purpose of God.

I. THE TWO MAJOR PRINCIPALS.
A. Hoshea.
1. He reigned 9 years.
2. He conspired against and slew Pekah to become king; 2 Kin. 15:30 “And Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and smote him, and slew him, and reigned in his stead, in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.”
3. He was the best of the 19 kings of Israel, yet, he was still considered evil by God; 2 Kin. 17:2 “And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.”
   a. The clarification that he was not as the kings before him because he allowed the people to go worship at Jerusalem.
   b. He withdrew the guards preventing people to go to worship.
   c. He allowed the destruction of the idols and altars in Ephraim and Manasseh.
B. Hezekiah.
1. He reigned 29 years.
2. One of the greatest Kings of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
3. 2 Kin. 18:3, 5 “And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did....5He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.”

II. PRINCIPLE OF RESTORATION.
A. Hezekiah brought about a restoration of the true religion.
1. When he came into power he immediately began repairing the temple.
2. To bring about restoration, there must be the rejection of all false religions; 2 Kin. 18:4 “He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.”
3. He even destroyed the bronze serpent because it had become an object of worship.
4. He went back to the Law of Moses and did things according to what God had said; 2 Kin. 18:6 “For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.”
B. Today we can have restoration.
1. Anytime people forsake God or apostatize there is the need for restoration.
2. Restoration is possible.
3. Restoration is not progressive; there is not the need for constant change.
4. There must the rejection of any and all false religions.
5. There must be the going back to God’s Word.

III. **PRINCIPLE OF TRUSTING IN GOD.**

A. **Both kings rebel against Assyria.**

1. Upon the death of Tiglathpilesar III; Hoshea withheld the tribute money Israel had paid.
2. Hezekiah also withholds tribute money from Assyria.
   a. He withholds the money the first time.
      (1) He then pays the tribute placed upon him.
      (2) 300 talents silver and 30 talents of gold; for which he cut off the gold from the door and pillars of the temple.
   b. Sennacherib was not satisfied with the tribute and wanted the complete surrender of Hezekiah and Jerusalem.

B. **Hoshea:**

1. At this time Samaria had a pro-Egypt group.
2. Hoshea sent messengers to So (King of Egypt).
   a. He also sent large quantities of oil.
   b. Isa. 31:1, 3 “Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!...3Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.”
3. Instead of placing his trust in God who could deliver them; he put his trust in man and physical might.

C. **Hezekiah:**

1. 2 Kin. 18:5 “He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.”
2. King of Assyria sends messengers to Jerusalem to give up.
   a. Tartan, Rabsaris and Rabshakeh sent to Hezekiah and the Israelites.
   b. Hezekiah sends Eliakim, Shebna and the elders of the priests to Isaiah.
3. Hezekiah went into the house of God and takes the message to God, the only one who could deliver them.
4. Later Sennacherib sends a letter to Hezekiah to surrender; Hezekiah goes into the house of God and prays.

D. **We must trust in God.**

1. Psa. 37:3, 5 “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed....’Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”
2. Pro. 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”
3. We must learn this regarding:
   a. Our nation.
      (1) Relying on military strength (number of missiles, the number in the army, etc.)
      (2) Pro. 14:34 “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”
   b. The church.
      (1) When we hire and fire preachers.
         (a) We must have the most eloquent, the most popular, etc.
(b) The preacher is the one who gets them into the building.

(2) Provide recreation, sports, etc., instead of relying on God’s Word to convict and convert people.

(3) How often we begin trusting in our own wisdom and our ways instead of God’s.

IV. **SALVATION ONLY COMES THROUGH GOD.**

A. **When the Assyrians came against them, they could not save themselves.**
   1. The Assyrian army was too powerful (militarily) for them.
   2. Thus to be saved they must rely on God.
   3. God brought a great deliverance for Judah
      a. 185,000 Assyrians dead.
      b. 2 Kin. 19:35 “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.”

B. **Man cannot save himself today.**
   1. Man’s ways are not God’s way.
      a. Isa. 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
      b. Jer. 10:23 “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
      c. Pro. 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”
   2. We are saved by God’s grace through our faith.
      a. Eph. 2:8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
      b. Tit. 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

C. **Man must do his part.**
   1. It takes the obedience of faith.
      a. Rom. 1:5 “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:”
      b. Rom. 16:26 “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”
      c. Hezekiah placed his trust (belief) in God; yet he had to do his part.
   2. Samuel J. Schultz wrote, “Hezekiah had anticipated the Assyrian attack. Following his great religious reformation he concentrated on a defense program in counsel with leading officials of his government. Fortifications around Jerusalem were reinforced. Craftsmen produced shields and weapons, while combat commanders organized the fighting forces. To assure Jerusalem of an adequate water supply during a prolonged siege, Hezekiah constructed a tunnel connecting the Siloam pool with the spring of Gihon. Through 1,777 feet of solid rock the Judean engineers channeled fresh water into the pool of Siloam, also constructed during this time....The Siloam pool being south of Jerusalem, the city wall was extended to enclose this vital source of water. When it became apparent that the Assyrian armies were advancing toward Jerusalem other springs of water were cut off so that the enemy could not use them” *The Old Testament Speaks*, pp. 212-213.)
3. Man must be obedient to God’s commands (works).
   a. Jam. 2:14-26
   b. Phi. 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

4. That obedience demands our:
   a. Faith; John 6:29 “Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”
   b. Repentance; Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”
   c. Baptism; Acts 10:48 “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”
   d. A life of faithfulness (obedience).

V. POWER OF PRAYER.
A. Hezekiah:
1. His sickness.
   a. Hezekiah has a sickness; 2 Kin. 20:1 “In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.”
   b. God reveals that he is going to die.
   c. Hezekiah prayed.
      (1) 2 Kin. 20:2 “Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying.”
      (2) Hezekiah knew the value of life (cf. abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, murder, etc.).
   d. God added fifteen years to his life; 2 Kin. 20:6 “And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David’s sake.”
      (1) Possibly Hezekiah was childless at the time of his sickness.
      (2) Manasseh was twelve when he began his reign (2 Kin. 21:1 “Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Hephzibah.”) There might have been a co-regency of Hezekiah and Manasseh and this co-regency began when Manasseh was 12.
      (3) This also preserved the Davidic line, through whom Christ would come.
2. Upon receiving the message from Sennacherib, Hezekiah sent Eliakim, Shebna and the elders of the priest to Isaiah and asked him to pray for them; 2 Kin. 19:4 “It may be the LORD thy God will hear all the words of Rabshakeh, whom the king of Assyria his master hath sent to reproach the living God; and will reprove the words which the LORD thy God hath heard: wherefore lift up thy prayer for the remnant that are left.”
3. Upon receiving the letter Sennacherib sent Hezekiah went into the temple and prayed; 2 Kin. 19:14-15 “And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. "And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.”
4. Hezekiah was one who believed in the power of prayer.
B. There is great power in prayer for the righteous man.
   1. In that God hears and answers his prayers.
      a. Pro. 15:29 “The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.”
      b. Jam. 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be
         healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
      c. 1 John 3:22 “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his
         commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”
      d. 1 John 5:14-15 “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing
         according to his will, he heareth us: 15And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask,
         we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”
   2. Thus, the Christian is encouraged to pray.
      a. Rom. 12:12 “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;”
      b. Phi. 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with
         thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”
      c. Col. 4:2 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”
      d. 1 The. 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

VI. GOD’S MERCY AND JUSTICE.

A. Hoshea came to power at a low time in Israel’s history.
   1. They had lost most of their political and military power and influence.
   2. It was a period of internal division; king after king (4 of the last 5 kings) died by
      the hand of the assassin.
   3. They were morally bankrupt.
      a. Religiously they had forsaken God and His ways and followed idolatry.
      b. Murder, immorality, drunkenness, lust, wickedness were common.

B. God had been longsuffering with Israel, desiring their repentance.
   1. God had given them over 200 years to repent.
   2. God had given them prophet after prophet to teach them His way.
   3. 2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is
      longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

C. God finally punished the wickedness of Israel.
   1. God is also a just (righteous) God.
      a. Psa. 145:17 “The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
      b. Gen. 18:25 “That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the
         wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: shall not the
         Judge of all the earth do right?”
      c. Heb. 2:2 “For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and
         disobedience received a just recompense of reward;”
   2. The Northern kingdom was carried away into Assyrian captivity.
   3. Mic. 1:9 “For her wound is incurable; for it is come unto Judah; he is come unto the gate of my
      people, even to Jerusalem.”
   4. They were destroyed as a nation.
      a. There is not even a mention of a remnant with Israel.
      b. There were individuals who lived on and we have the record of those
         individuals, however the 10 tribes as a whole were destroyed.

D. The time will come when God’s longsuffering will end and He will bring man into
   judgment.
   1. Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every
      where to repent:”
2. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Conclusion: We must prepare ourselves now for the time we will enter into judgment. Amos pleaded with Israel to prepare to meet God (Amos 4:12 “Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”) but they continued on in their course of sin. What will we do?