



*"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever."
-Deuteronomy 29:29*

Translated: God reveals plenty about himself. Information that all of us, and our children even can easily understand. But there are secret things that are mysteries about God, and they will remain mysteries. He will not reveal them to us; he feels no need. He's very content to just be God.

"Great is the Lord. Greatly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable." -Psalm 145:3

King Hezekiah

"He (Hezekiah) did what the Lord considered right, as his ancestor David had done. In the first month of his first year as King, he opened the doors of the Lord's temple and repaired them." -2 Chronicles 29:2-3

"The entire assembly bowed before God and they worshipped. The singers sang and the trumpeters played. This continued for hours until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed. And when the offerings were finished the king himself knelt down and worshipped God." -2 Chronicles 29:28-29

1. How does your modeling impact people in your life? (family, friends, coworkers, neighbors)

"Hezekiah did what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God. In everything that he undertook he sought God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered." -2 Chronicles 31:20-21

"And the Lord was with Hezekiah. He was successful in whatever he undertook." -2 Kings 18:7

2. Does God always prosper people who seek to honor him fully? Is He predictable about this?

*"If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment."
-Job 36:11*

"The blessing of the Lord brings wealth and he adds no trouble to it." -Proverbs 10:22

It seems like if you live right and you honor God, then there's going to be health, wealth, and happiness; sent to you by God. Yet throughout history certain biblical characters, who seemed to have honored God fully wound up being beaten and imprisoned and sawn in half and some fed to lions for their faith.

3. Is there any predictability with regard to whom God prospers and whom He doesn't?

4. Do you find yourself frustrated in your prayers when it seems God does not respond? How does it affect your prayer life?

Hezekiah believed to the core of his being that honoring God was the right thing to do, and he was convinced to his core it was the best way to order his life. Young Hezekiah didn't orient his life that way in order to obligate God to bless him. He left the prospering decisions totally in God's hands.

Trouble Comes Knocking!

"So he (Sennacherib) again sent messengers to Hezekiah with this word: 'Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be given into the hands of the king of Assyria.' Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered? Did the gods of the nations that were destroyed by my predecessors deliver them—the gods of Gozan, Harran, Rezeph and the people of Eden who were in Tel Assar? Where is the king of Hamath or the king of Arpad? Where are the kings of Lair, Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah?" -2 Kings 19:9-13

"Then he (Hezekiah) went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord." -2 Kings 19:14

5. What are you spreading out before God these days? What in your life needs to be spread out before God?

6. Is there any concern in your life intense enough to cause you to do something dramatic like this?

It takes humility and faith to do this kind of thing. You have to believe that God is interested. And you have to believe that He's omnipotent.

"Now, O Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, 'so that' all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O Lord, are God." -2 Kings 19:19

7. Did you think about your "so thats" when you prayed this week? Did you analyze your prayers and see if they're all about you or if there are some "so that God would be made great" in some way?

Remember, God predictably flows His power to those who are jealous to see His Name made great, His purposes prevail on this planet, His kingdom come, His will be done.

God hears Hezekiah's prayer and He's moved. And God answers Hezekiah's prayer, but with a promise that seems outrageous.

"I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant." -2 Kings 19:34

Look At What God Does!

"That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up in the morning—there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and . . . returned to Ninevah and stayed there." -2 Kings 19:35-38

8. Why does God sometimes expect us to fight our own battles; and other times, why does God fight battles for us?

9. Can you describe times when you sacrifice and struggle to see certain things happen?

10. Can you describe a time when God miraculously moved a mountain to provide in a miraculous way?

11. Why sometimes and not other times? And why sometimes and not all the time?

Pastor Monte's answers: 5-word answer: *I don't have a clue.* 4-word answer: *"His greatness is unsearchable."* (Psalm 145:3) 7-word answer: *"The secret things belong to the Lord."* (Deuteronomy 29:29)

"We have to just let God be God! But my not knowing the answer will never dissuade me from spreading out my concerns before God and praying boldly for his assistance. I'm going to keep asking for God's supernatural interventions in my life, and I'm going to keep an eye on my "so thats", hopefully, so that my prayers are in alignment with God's character and will for this world. And I know that even if I have to fight my own battles sometimes, God's going to be with me in the battles that I need to fight. And I'm going to rejoice over the fact that from time to time, God, out of His sheer goodness and grace, fights a battle for me and I don't have to lift a finger. And I'm going to bow to Him whether I'm fighting with His help in a battle or He fights one for me". -Pastor Monte

One More Episode!

"Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, 'This is what the Lord says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.' Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, 'Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.' And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him: 'Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, 'This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the Lord. I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.'"

-2 Kings 20:1-6

This is heartbreaking news. Hezekiah then, after he's heard this direct message from God through Isaiah, prays fervently. He feels he has more work to do yet for God with his life. So he prays for God to heal him. Right after he gets the message, he's like, "but God, please heal me."

You might be thinking "I could list ten people I know who have cancer or some other dreadful disease, and they called out to God and they cried and they didn't get an extension. What's up with that?" My answer: *"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, but his greatness is unsearchable."* -Psalm 145:3

Now look what happens at the very end of Hezekiah's life.

"As for the other events of Hezekiah's reign, all his achievements and how he made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?" -2 Kings 20:20

Most scholars think this undertaking was during that 15-year extension that God gave Hezekiah. Hezekiah vowed that he was going to secure the city of Jerusalem from ever having another enemy king threaten to shut off the water supply to the city. So he commissioned engineers and people, and they dug a 1700-foot long tunnel through solid rock, so that the water from the well could run underground and not be imperiled by foreign kings. That well still exists to this day. And this tunnel is the main legacy from the 29-year reign of Hezekiah.

12. What will people remember about your life 25 or 50 years after you are gone?

13. What are you building each and every day that will secure the Kingdom of God in some way? That will make God's Name great beyond your lifetime?

14. What are you going to leave that will outlast your life?

15. What is something that you can spread out before God and ask God to speak to you about?