A gold crown on a white background

Description automatically generated**Session 8**

***Trustworthy, Video 5***

**Hezekiah**

**22-23 April 2024**

**Hezekiah’s Tunnel: Source of Living Water –** The tunnel that King Hezekiah dug to bring water into the city of Jerusalem emptied into the Pool of Siloam. (Recall that Jesus would later rub mud onto a blind man’s eyes and tell him to wash it off in this pool.) The tunnel was a very important strategic accomplishment for Judah—and it also pictures the people’s desperate need for water. Even if an enemy army surrounded the city and cut them off from wells located outside, they could still get water to survive by means of the tunnel. In other words, *they had access to a source of living water that would never run dry.* What a beautiful picture of Christ this is! Jeremiah describes God as a fountain—literally the “source”—of living water.

**King Hezekiah’s Riches: A Source of Pride –** During his lifetime, Hezekiah amassed great wealth. He became very proud of all his riches and showed them off to a visiting Babylonian envoy, which would lead to great trouble for Judah when the Babylonians later attacked to gain these riches for themselves. God had allowed the envoy to come as a test for Hezekiah, who sadly failed the test. So God sent the prophet Isaiah to warn the king about what would happen in the future. Incredibly, Hezekiah seemed completely unconcerned about the fact that all this wealth would be captured and that his own sons would go into captivity—he was just glad that none of this would happen until after his death! Hezekiah had seen God work remarkably on his behalf, but in his pride he failed to acknowledge God as the true source of all his wealth, his health, the safety of his kingdom, and all the many other blessings he had experienced throughout his reign.

**Hezekiah’s Prayer: A Revelation of His Pride in Himself –** Our response to God’s faithfulness should be to make us pursue holiness all the more. God’s people are to be set apart from the world and to reflect His holiness. This is what He has always desired for all of His people, from the Israelite kings down to the lowliest shepherd. But when Hezekiah prayed toward the end of his life, the main focus of his prayer seemed to be on what he considered to be his *own* faithfulness in following the Lord, not on God’s faithfulness to him. Instead of being increasingly humble, he became more and more proud. What about us? Have our blessings made us press into God more deeply—or have they become a distraction, deterring us from Him? Have our experiences with God made us more humble—or more prideful? More aware of other people’s needs—or more disconnected from being concerned about others? More hungry for God’s Word and His ways—or more resistant to pausing the rush of the day for a few quiet moments with God?

**God’s Test of His People –** God never gives us a test to *enslave* us. Rather, He *entrusts* us with tests to reveal to ourselves and others what is genuinely in our hearts. Hezekiah’s life reveals the progression of falling away from following the Lord wholeheartedly: as the heart goes, the mind goes; and how the mind goes, the mouth will follow.

**Back to the Tunnel –** The tunnel that Hezekiah had constructed during his reign is the only one of his achievements that is still standing to this day. It was almost like a “pre-test”. Would he see this accomplishment as evidence of God’s faithfulness? Or would he see it as evidence of his own strategic and military brilliance? And how trustworthy are *we*, when God showers *us* with blessings? Do we give Him the full credit? Or do we begin to take the blessings for granted and, even worse, begin to take credit for them ourselves? May we set our hearts to humbly worship the One who has shown Himself to be trustworthy over and over and over again!